AND UPON THIS ROCK!

Dear Friends,

All eyes look to Rome. “Sub Umbra Petri,” – under the shadow of Peter.

The Jesuit martyr Edmund Campion in 1573 spoke these words:

“Make the most of Rome. . .Do you see the dead corpse of the Imperial City? What can be glorious in life, if such beauty and wealth has come to nothing? But who has stood firm in these wretched changes – what survives? The relics of the Saints and the Chair of the Fisherman.”

Once again as history reminds us after brief somber weeks – white smoke billows, the signal is given, a Cardinal announces an ancient formula, “Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum,” and the long line of succession continues in the shoes of the fisherman. Pope Francis blessed a waiting world with words of love and compassion. “I would like everyone to feel loved by God. I want everyone to feel the joy of being Christian.”

“Tu es Petrus” – the symbol and the guarantor of the Church’s unity.

Christ’s main concern in His high priestly prayer was the unity of His followers: “That they may be one as your Father and I are one.” To assure this unity He established the Petrine office, occupied by Peter and his successors.

The purpose of this office is to be the rock, the foundation on which the Church is built and against which the gates of hell will not prevail. It is to hold the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is to feed Christ’s lambs and sheep and to comfort the brethren whenever Satan attempts to confuse them and divide them.

“Tu es Petrus” – “You are Peter and upon this Rock.”

Peter the Pope, what must he do? “Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.” He guards the loyal flock of Christ – a watchful sentinel.

Peter the Pope, what must he be? The hand of providence will guide what he must be. To the frail and the strong, to the captive and the free, to the young and old, to Christians and non-Christians, he is father, teacher and shepherd; he is the Rock!

“Tu es Petrus” – a special and unique call to witness “Urbi et Orbi” – “that they all may be one!”

“Tu es Petrus” – we must pray for the Shepherd, the Rock, our Holy Father the Pope that he be always and everywhere a sign of compassion, hope, strength and unity so that the image of Christ will shine forth before our eyes.

Yes, “the world is awakening in souls, the Church is awakening again.” We now pray for a new springtime – “under the shadow of Peter.”

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President
Every year The Saint Paul Seminary honors its patron saint with a St. Paul Day Banquet. The Feb. 11 celebration took on additional meaning while recognizing University of St. Thomas President Fr. Dennis Dease on the occasion of his upcoming retirement in June.

A combined seminary and university community gathered to show their appreciation for Fr. Dease's work and service to the University of St. Thomas and the seminary since 1991. When Msgr. Callaghan was named rector of the seminary in 2005, he noted that Fr. Dease was always available to add clarity and understanding to the unique affiliation between the university and the seminary.

Following evening prayer with the seminarians in St. Mary’s Chapel, St. Paul Day banquet visitors and guests gathered for fellowship and dinner. In Msgr. Callaghan’s remarks, he recalled the qualities of a leader that Archbishop Harry J. Flynn highlighted during his installation as rector of the seminary:

- A leader should have steel-like strength of character and never the slightest trace of harshness.
- The first impulse of any leader should be one of generosity and open heartedness.
- A leader must manifest an active sympathy for human sorrow.
- Towards men and women, his dealings must be characterized by an infinite respect and exquisitely delicate tenderness.
- A good leader embraces all of humanity in a sweep of love.
- In every word and act, a leader is dominating and at times authoritative, but always gentle.

“With courtesy and gentility, Fr. Dease has been this leader for the University of St. Thomas,” said Msgr. Callaghan.

As a sign of the seminary’s gratitude, Msgr. Callaghan presented Fr. Dease with a framed print of artwork commissioned for the seminary. Fr. Dease’s print includes the images of Fides (faith), Spes (hope), and Caritas (love). In the three pieces of art, faith gazes lovingly at the chalice and host; hope looks upward with eyes cast toward the crown of glory; and love embraces the cross.

“With a shepherd’s heart, each priest is called to lead his flock,” Msgr. Callaghan said. “Fr. Dease has been an admirable leader and an exemplary priest with a shepherd’s heart in his years of service at the university.”

In June The Saint Paul Seminary will join the University of St. Thomas in welcoming Dr. Julie Sullivan as its 15th president. Fr. Dease will pass on a strong and fruitful relationship between the two institutions.
Witnessing the massive defense for life on Jan. 25 at the 40th annual National March for Life, accompanied by hosts of young adults and fellow seminarians, was a thrill for The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity’s 23 Theology I men. They joined hundreds of thousands of bundled-up pro-lifers roughing subfreezing temperatures to march through Washington, D.C., to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, where Roe v. Wade was passed 40 years ago.

“It was great to be with so many other seminarians from all over the country united in true fraternity,” said Michael McClellan, a 23-year-old member of Divine Mercy in Faribault, Minnesota. “The March for Life was a fantastic opportunity to stand up in support of life in a visible way.”

Bonding with teens from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and walking alongside Archbishop John Nienstedt made the trip particularly meaningful, added seminarian Neil Bakker, 34, a member of the Cathedral of St. Paul. “There was definitely a sense of unity. I had an internal awakening to the tremendous amount of love that Christians have for the human person, that these people were willing to go out of their way to be there.”

A highlight of the trip for both seminarians was participating in a packed two-hour vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where they joined hundreds of seminarians, some 50 bishops and several cardinals. “It was very powerful,” Bakker said.

Bakker is still pondering the homily given by Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley of Boston who said it naturally flows that a society that allows parents to kill their children will soon allow their children to kill their parents. “It was so memorable,” Bakker said, “and of course, in his razor-sharp style of delivery.”
THE CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE GROWING IN FAITH AND NUMBERS

The seed for the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute was planted in 2008 and has flourished ever since. Nourished by dynamic instructors, enthusiastic students and a program bathed in prayer, the Catechetical Institute continues to yield a bountiful harvest with over 350 graduates and more than 300 current students. To accommodate this growth and to work more closely with local parishes, the time has come to expand the scope of the institute while remaining firmly planted in its mission.

After much evaluation, prayer and discussion, the strategy will change for the incoming class to meet the growing needs of its students. In the past, the four module experience moved from The Saint Paul Seminary to a suburban satellite location. Beginning this fall, the new class will participate in all four modules at The Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids. Part of the original vision of the Institute was to move locations occasionally so that all Catholics in the archdiocese would have access to the program. Moving to Epiphany allows the Institute to implement this part of the strategy.

The Catechetical Institute is rooted in the seminary, the heart of the archdiocesan center for formation. As such, each year of formation will begin with an opening Mass at the seminary, with the instructors taking an Oath of Fidelity and making a Profession of Faith. At the end of the two-year program, the Institute will continue the tradition of holding the graduation Mass, celebrated by Archbishop John Nienstedt, in St. Mary’s Chapel. In addition, students at all locations have access to the faculty at the seminary, the University of St. Thomas, and various schools throughout the archdiocese.

As Program Manager Kelly Wahlquist said, “This has always been a profound experience for our students to begin and end at the seminary surrounded by seminarians. It illustrates that we are part of something much larger within the Church.”

Catechetical Institute Director and Instructor Jeff Cavins expressed his gratitude to Our Lady of Grace in Edina for hosting the Institute, saying, “Fr. Schwartz and his staff have given the Catechetical Institute an opportunity to flourish in the western suburbs. We are most grateful.”

Just as the worldwide Church is experiencing historic change, so too is the local Church in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Responding to the call for a New Evangelization, the Catechetical Institute is an important example of faith-filled catechesis and formation on a local level.

While enjoying success over the last four years, Cavins asks for continued prayers for the Institute’s continued growth. “Above all,” he said, “please pray for the Catechetical Institute that it will bring glory to God and expand His kingdom in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.”

The Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute is now accepting applications for the 2013-2015 class beginning in September. Enrollment will remain open until June 1.
Deacon Fabian Moncada Benavides, a fourth-year seminarian from Bogotá, Colombia, never imagined the day would come when a Latin American would be pope. “It never crossed my mind,” he said.

The March 13 election of Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio stunned the 41-year-old Colombian.

“I almost died!” said Deacon Fabian, who joined his brother seminarians in the St. Olaf room at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity to watch the announcement live. “I said, ‘Oh, my Lord!’ I’m jumping, I’m crying, full of joy. Everything was completely different.”

Soon he was Skyping his parents and various South American friends to share their joy. “It was candy from the Lord. I use that phrase to describe the sweetness from God in our lives.”

Deacon Fabian believes the new Holy Father’s outreach to ordinary people will have a profound impact. “To move the Church to the people is a tremendous gesture,” he said. “It’s a gift for our Church in this moment.”

For all the men of The Saint Paul Seminary, the historic election of Pope Francis is now linked in a memorable way to their seminary days. They enjoyed immersing in the process, participating in an “Adopt A Cardinal” online program that randomly assigned a cardinal to pray for during the conclave. And on a lighter note, the seminarians cast their bets on who would be elected, though none predicted Cardinal Bergoglio. Many were together when the white smoke emerged and the seminary bells began to ring. They filed into the chapel and joyfully sang a papal song in Latin.

“I was so grateful to God for the wonderful selection,” said Deacon James Peterson, 27, a member of St. Hubert’s in Chanhassen, Minnesota. He is hopeful about the pontiff’s influence, citing a conversation with his older brother, who has distanced himself from the Catholic Church. “There’s something about this pope,” his brother told Deacon James on March 13. “I was so struck by his humble gestures when he first came out and his emphasis on the poor. I’m going to follow him very closely.”

John Powers, Theology II, a 25-year-old from Minneapolis, is equally heartened by Pope Francis’ election. “I’m excited to see where he’s going to lead the Church. His emphasis on service to the poor being rooted in our Christian identity could challenge everyone. We don’t do nearly as much as we could.”

Tim Lange, Theology III, a 25-year-old from Brainerd, Minnesota, echoed that observation. “Unless we’re serving and loving the poor, we don’t have the ethos, we’re not believable,” he said. “To be credible witnesses, we need to live simply, and Pope Francis shows us that.”

The pope’s early days inspired Deacon Jake Greiner, 31, from Davenport, Iowa, to reflect on the breadth of his message. “I think he’s going to challenge us to look not only at material poverty but also spiritual poverty. I see him saying, ‘Pope Benedict gave us this great legacy, now let’s live it with great hope!’”
Roma: The Heart of the Church, in All Its Glory

Spending a month in Rome is a fitting culmination of the seminarians’ international travel – especially in a season when all eyes have been fixed there.

The transitional deacons from The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity returned from Rome the weekend before the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation. It was a trip that allowed them to witness some of the Holy Father’s final weeks and to draw closer to the heart of the Church.

“My time in Rome really deepened my love and appreciation for just how big the body of Christ is, an extension throughout the world, through time and space and even to heaven,” said Deacon James Peterson.

He cited various occasions when the universal Church was on particularly vibrant display, including the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord at St. Peter’s Basilica, when nearly 90 percent of the world’s religious orders were represented. Seeing seminarians from across the globe provided a special reinforcement, Deacon James said. “It shows that priesthood cuts across all nations and regions of the earth. It’s the one priesthood of Jesus Christ that we’ll all participate in.”

Being in Rome puts everything in perspective, Deacon Jake Greiner added. “It was a very intense time of spiritual renewal because you’re there where not only Peter and Paul were but you’re there with so many saints.”

That adds urgency to Emeritus Pope Benedict’s call for a New Evangelization, said Fr. Scott Carl, who led the Rome pilgrimage and serves as an Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at the seminary. “The saints who have done, in their own time, what
we’re seeking to do – we’re now asking for their help, looking at their guidance and following their example in trying to meet the needs of our current circumstances and challenges.”

“Rome’s status as the Eternal City is an apt one,” Fr. Carl added. “It draws the world into contact with the eternal.”

And what a joy to soak up the sights and sounds of the Eternal City: ancient architecture juxtaposed to modern buildings; the ringing of bells and snapping of pictures and chanting of prayers; half-dozen languages spoken at every corner gelato stand. (The deacons’ favorite place was Old Bridge Gelateria just outside the Vatican – “the most generous portions for the most generous price,” Deacon James said.)

The St. Paul Seminary deacons relished several encounters with Emeritus Pope Benedict, including the chance to serve as ministers of Holy Communion alongside him on the Feast of Epiphany. The pontiff acknowledged them at their first Wednesday audience as he addressed various groups in attendance; switching to English, he said, “And in a special way, I want to thank my brother deacons from The Saint Paul Seminary.”

“IT was so awesome,” Deacon James said.

So is the entire month for a soon-to-be priest, Fr. Carl said. “Watching deacons preparing for ordination in Rome is like watching kids in a toy store around Christmas. Rome has all the clerical toy stores, so they’re excited to see what’s available. Should I get a Mass kit or a stole? What kind of vestments should I get? They’re shopping around and looking for the best price. It’s always fun to see – and it helps you remember your own excitement about being a priest.”
MEETING CARDINAL NEWMAN IN ENGLAND

“Walking in the footsteps of Blessed John Henry Newman in England is a powerful experience for seminarians,” said John Powers, 25, a native of Northeast Minneapolis. Fr. Tom Margevicius, an Instructor of Liturgical Theology and Homiletics, led 21 Theology II seminarians on the two-and-a-half-week excursion in January. This trip is made possible each year through the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Institute in Homiletics.

“We got a good sense of Newman as a scholar and also as a pastor,” said Powers. The experience intensified his goal to have a pastoral heart, he added.

New this year to the England experience: the chance to visit Maryvale Institute, the British equivalent of the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute. There the seminarians heard a lecture by Dr. Petroc Willey – the “British Jeff Cavins,” as Powers humorously put it – and learned what is working at the Catholic hub. Powers said he appreciates the close relationship between the two institutes and described the visit as a good learning experience.

WORSHIPPING IN THE HOLY LAND

For years Tim Lange dreamed of staying overnight at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the site of Jesus’ crucifixion, burial and resurrection. “To actually be given the opportunity as a third-year seminarian was an incredible blessing,” said Lange, a 25-year-old from Brainerd, Minnesota. He spent nearly an hour praying inside the tomb.

“It was a remarkable experience,” he said. “The emotion of the tomb is not sadness but joy that He can be with us forever.”

The four-week trip brought Scripture alive for 17 Theology III men from The Saint Paul Seminary. Lange said he felt overwhelmingly grateful for the chance to be in the Holy Land. “We were praying for our benefactors every day.”

Led by Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, the Israel trip 2013 featured a greater emphasis on archeological sites. Fr. Betancourt was joined by St. Thomas Adjunct Professor of Theology Isaac Alderman, who collaborated with the priest last summer on theological digs in the Holy Land. Together they shared their practical and biblical insights with the seminarians.
A boyhood friendship resulted in an archbishop commissioning an artist whose mural graces St. Mary’s chapel at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. It was the pinnacle of Bancel La Farge’s painting career and contained a pointed message to seminarians, as called for by his childhood neighbor, Archbishop Austin Dowling, the second archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

La Farge painted the elaborate apse-dome mural – an image of Christ’s post-resurrection appearance to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius and Peter’s confession of love, as chronicled in John 21 – behind the arch. It originally was located above the altar and is now in the back of the chapel, above the doors due to a renovation and reorientation. Little was known of the mural’s history until recently, when Vice Rector Fr. Robert Pish asked Cameron Thompson to look into it. The 28-year-old Minnesota native is a graduate of the Catholic Studies Masters degree program and a research assistant to Fr. Pish. After studying art history in Rome Thompson happily delved into the exploration, quickly realizing that “next to nothing” existed on Bancel La Farge.

Thompson spent a year researching the mural, poring over microfilm, reading yellowed letters in the Chancery’s basement archives and deciphering unclear handwriting. He amassed a paper trail that would fill a four-foot-long shelf, relishing the thrill of discovery. “It’s very exciting to be able to tread this ground,” he said. “I felt the gears always turning and something would come into clarity and I’d have a realization.”

The result: an 11-page report published in the winter issue of American Catholic Studies (Volume 123, Number 4), a Catholic scholarly journal distributed by Villanova University. It sheds light on La Farge’s early artistic influences and sets the stage for this mural, “his most theologically significant work.”

In September 1928, the report notes, Archbishop Dowling sent his request for the mural, writing about John 21, when Jesus fills the disciples’ empty nets:

“They come to shore, Peter the first, half clad, and Christ feeds them – the glowing embers, the fish, the bread and when they are fed, they remembered the words he spoke. No vengeance for His death, no reproach for Peter’s treason, the only echo of the trial room is the thrice repeated question, Lovest thou me? Thrice he confessed and this time did not deny that he loved Christ and thus received his charge to feed the lambs, to feed the sheep. So priests become Christ’s men not because they are stainless, not because they are wise but because they have grace to love Christ and in the love of Christ they feed – not shear – the sheep.”
In his 1988 encyclical “On the Mission and Vocation of the Lay Faithful,” Blessed John Paul II points to Jesus’ instruction to the faithful, “You go into the vineyard too” (Mt. 20:3-4), to live out their baptismal call in service to the Church. Since that distant time, lay men and women have served in a variety of roles that both complement and support the priesthood. Though this commission belongs to all the lay faithful, many feel called in a particular way to serve God’s people, requiring more formal training and formation. In response, the Masters in Pastoral Ministry Program (MAPM) at The St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity has been forming not only men for the priesthood, but preparing lay men and women to take on various pastoral ministry roles in the Church.

In 2008, the School of Divinity began accepting students into a newly designed MAPM program. Now in its sixth year, the program is fulfilling its mission through a curriculum that integrates the intellectual, human, pastoral, and spiritual pillars of formation. Program Director Dr. Deborah Savage believes the richness of this program lies in its comprehensive formation process. “The lay person who discerns a vocation to a more formal ministerial role within the Church needs special training and formation,” she said. “The pastoral minister has a responsibility to form themselves as an effective witness for the Church. The MAPM formation process is designed to help each graduate student integrate their prayer and spiritual lives with who they are and what they do.”

“After choosing the MAPM program I came alive with a deeper desire to serve others and to understand and practice my faith more deeply,” said first-year MAPM student Peter Young. “This is a wonderful degree program that will allow me to provide much needed ministry within the Catholic Church and the world.”

A recent addition to the MAPM program includes periodic days of recollections offered at the seminary. Dr. Savage believes these on-site retreats are an ideal way to effect this integration. Though designed for MAPM students in particular, the retreats are open to all lay graduate students enrolled in the School of Divinity.

The spring day of recollection was held on April 20th when Deacon Joe Michalak, Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation, led a reflection entitled “Living an Integrated Life in Prayer and Action.” In addition to Mass, exposition, benediction and time for reflection, students considered how to maintain an active prayer life during the busy summer months. This time of prayer, community and spiritual formation is just one element in a robust graduate program for the laity poised to serve the Church.
**INSTALLATION OF LECTORS**

“The Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” – Psalm 119:105

The seminarians who were admitted to candidacy in September have now been installed as lectors in the Church. On Feb. 15, 17 Theology I seminarians symbolically received the Lectionary to proclaim the Word in liturgical assemblies and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments.

Believing that when the Scriptures are read God himself is speaking to His people, the role of Lector carries a special importance in the life of a seminarian.

Rockford seminarian Chuck Fitzpatrick said, “I am now more conscious that I am reading the Word of God at Mass. When I do the reading I concentrate more on the meaning and I am much less concerned about making a mistake.”

Bishop Lee Piché celebrated the Mass and proclaimed to each seminarian, “Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His people.”

“It was a joyful evening in which my brother seminarians and I shared another step towards priesthood,” said seminarian Michael Daly. “As lectors, we are simply the Father’s workers who proclaim His Word for His greater glory!”

Photo Credit: Dianne Towalski/The Catholic Spirit

**BISHOP ARTHUR KENNEDY RETURNS TO DELIVER SPRING IRELAND LECTURE**

On April 11, Bishop Arthur Kennedy returned to the University of St. Thomas for a homecoming of sorts. After teaching in the Theology Department at the university for 30 years and serving as director of the Master of Art in Theology program at the seminary, Bishop Kennedy is now the Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.

Bishop Kennedy delivered the spring Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library Lecture to a standing-room only audience in Owens Science Hall. His talk entitled “The New Evangelization: Emergence and Conversion in the Lord” was co-sponsored by Ireland Library and The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Appointed Bishop in 2010, Bishop Kennedy was named Boston’s episcopal vicar for the new evangelization last year. He has also served as the executive director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and was rector of St. John Seminary in Boston.

Photo Credit: Mike Ekern/University of St. Thomas
APRIL MADNESS: ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOURNEY

In 2007, then-seminarian Nick VanDenBroeke ('12) played in the first Priests vs. Seminarians’ basketball game. This year, Fr. Nick, the newly ordained parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist in New Brighton, Minnesota, played in the sixth annual game on the other side of the court for the first time.

Fr. Nick brought his love of the game with him to the seminary. That is where he and others came up with the idea of a tournament to promote vocations. “We wanted to show that priests and seminarians are regular guys who enjoy playing sports,” VanDenBroeke said.

It is an idea that worked. Six years later, more than 300 people attended the game that was held at DeLaSalle High School on April 12. The crowd grew this year, perhaps because of the addition of the Archdiocesan Catholic High School Dunk Contest.

The night started with a barbeque, followed by a game between Saint John Vianney and The Saint Paul Seminary. The tournament ended with a championship game between the Saint John Vianney seminarians and the priests of the archdiocese.

Although the game took place after the NCAA college tournament known as “March Madness,” there were plenty of holy madmen out on the court that night. Ultimately Saint John Vianney proclaimed victory over the priests in an exciting game in front of faithful fans and parishioners who came out to cheer on their favorite seminarians and priests.

Photo Credit: Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit

“TIRELESS ADVOCATE” AWARDED HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Professor. Attorney. Scholar. Author. This is only a partial list of titles associated with Associate Law Professor Helen Alvaré who spoke before a group of more than 200 at the University of St. Thomas on Feb. 7. Founder of the national women’s organization “Women Speak for Themselves” and author of Breaking Through: Catholic Women Speak for Themselves, Alvaré is an internationally noted scholar on issues concerning women, the family and protection of human life.

Co-sponsored by the Siena Symposium for Women, Family and Culture and the University of St. Thomas School of Law’s Pro-Life Center, Alvaré’s talk was entitled “The Politics of Freedom.” Covering topics such as human sexuality, contraception, and the role of women and religious freedom, Alvaré captivated an academic and lay audience alike.

Alvaré was also awarded the Siena Symposium’s 2013 Humanitarian Leadership Award. According to Siena Symposium co-director and UST Law Professor Teresa Collett, Professor Alvaré is a “tireless advocate for the unique gifts of women and for the natural family.”

The Symposium’s Humanitarian Leadership Award is presented annually to honor those who, like St. Catherine of Siena, put their gifts at the service of others to bring to light the nobility of being human and the joy of being a child of God.
Just before Easter, I was listening to a Relevant Radio caller who was describing her anticipation of coming into the Church. She described her profound appreciation for the seasons of the Church. Her Easter used to be a one-day event; now it was the culmination of a 40-day preparation and a kick-off to a 50-day celebration.

Her comments got me thinking about the importance of preparation. What would a national championship look like if a team didn’t practice? What would a musical production be like without rehearsals? How would marriage turn out without courtship? In a sense our entire life here on earth is one big journey of preparation for an endeavor that has eternal consequences.

It struck me that there are two important principles behind the need for preparation. First, that good preparation produces good results and poor preparation produces poor results. Second the more important the endeavor, the more important the need for preparation. The end of our “life of preparation” entails some pretty high stakes.

The work of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity is precisely about preparation. Our mission is to form good and holy priests and lay ministry leaders today for the Church tomorrow. And because their ministry is so important to the life of the Church and broader society it is essential that we invest the best for their preparation. Just think about how many lives a priest or lay leader will impact.

As you can imagine, a great deal of temporal resources go into forming future priests and training lay leaders. Administering programs, hiring top-notch faculty, and maintaining facilities requires significant effort and financial resources. The work of the seminary wouldn’t go forward without the time, talent and treasure of thousands of people.

But the work of the seminary is more than a temporal effort. It is a spiritual one as well. As the Psalmist says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain.” (127:1)

This is why, along with your financial support, we implore your prayers as well. As you make your holy hour, pray your rosary, and intercede at Mass, pray for the work of the seminary. Pray for the seminarians and lay students, the faculty, the administration and staff, that together we might cooperate with grace to form good, holy priests and lay leaders for the Church today and generations to come.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Dr. David Jenkins, Director of Liturgical Music, recently began a three-year term as chairman of the University of St. Thomas Sacred Arts Festival. The festival concluded with a concert in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on April 28 celebrating the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Gabriel Kney pipe organ. At this concert Dr. Jenkins performed the Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani by Francis Poulenc.

Fr. Andrew Cozzens, Assistant Professor of Sacramental Theology, gave the “Rediscover: Strength” talks on March 4, 5 and 7, part of the “Rediscover” evangelization initiative in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Fr. Cozzens also presented a one-day seminar on priestly celibacy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, on Feb. 23. His talks focused on the history of celibacy as well as the spiritual and theological motivation for celibacy flowing from Pope John Paul II’s teaching on the Theology of the Body. On April 8, Fr. Cozzens participated in a consultation with seminary personnel from around the country and officials from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops committee on priestly formation. The consultation discussed the interplay of human and spiritual formation in the seminary and the importance of preparing formation directors in seminaries. This consultation is sponsored by the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska, of which Fr. Cozzens is a board member.

Dr. John Martens, Director of the Master of Arts in Theology program, recently was appointed columnist of The Word for America magazine. America is a national Catholic weekly magazine that has been in continuous publication since 1909. Columnists for The Word examine Sunday Scripture readings throughout the liturgical year. The Word is a forum in which biblical scholars provide readers with practical, biblical interpretation.

Dr. Christian D. Washburn, Associate Professor of Theology, attended “Islam, Christianity, and the Other” on Feb. 1-2 at the University of St. Thomas. This conference included theologians from Dokuz Eylul University and the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Washburn also participated in an annual Christian unity lecture entitled “Why Ecumenism Matters?” on Jan. 23 at the University of St. Thomas. This event was co-sponsored by the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. In addition, Dr. Washburn recently published two articles entitled “The Value of Offering Sacrifice for the Dead in the Thought of the Fathers of the Church” in the journal Antiphon and “St. Robert Bellarmine on the Authoritative Interpretation of Sacred Scripture” in the journal Gregorianum.

Sister Katarina Schuth, O.S.F., Endowed Chair for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, is the author of “Of Safety and Assessment,” which was published in America magazine on March 18. She also recently published: “Lay Ecclesial Ministry in Parishes: Diverse Services in Varied Settings and Circumstances” in the Canon Law Society of America and “Liturgical Formation with Zeal and Patience” in Seminary Journal. On Jan. 29-30, Sister Katarina addressed the annual national meeting of U.S. Seminary Rectors in St. Louis, Missouri, on the topics of “Teaching Vatican II in Theological Schools: Implications for Pastoral Ministry” and “Background on Sexual Abuse and Changes in Formation Related to Celibacy and Sexuality.”

Dr. Deborah Savage, PhD, Professor of Philosophy and Pastoral Ministry, gave a talk at St. Michael’s in Stillwater on Feb. 27 entitled “Male and Female He Created Them: the Beauty of Complementarity at Home and in the World.”

N. Curtis Le May, Director of the Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library, was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the Academic Libraries Section of the Catholic Library Association on April 2 in Houston, Texas, at the association’s annual conference.

Fr. Scott Carl, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, will lead the third Monsignor Jerome D. Quinn Institute of Biblical Studies, June 12-14, at The Saint Paul Seminary. This biennial gathering of biblical scholars will be entitled “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Catholic Faith: The Role of the Seminary Professor of Sacred Scripture.”
-For more information on any of these events, please call 651-962-5050

CALENDAR SPRING 2013

MAY 14
MASS AND GRADUATION FOR ARCHBISHOP HARRY J. FLYNN CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE
6 P.M.
St. Mary's Chapel

JUNE 10
THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Town and Country Club in St. Paul (by invitation only)

PRIESTHOOD ORDINATIONS 2013
ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS
Saturday, May 25
10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of Saint Paul

DIACONAL ORDINATIONS 2013
ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS
AND KAMPALA, UGANDA
Saturday, May 4
10:00 a.m.
Basilica of Saint Mary

IN MEMORIAM
Fr. Bert Iffert '52
Fr. Stanley Malinowski '54
Msgr. Paul C. Evers '54
Fr. Michael J. Rogers '54
Msgr. J. Jerome Boxleitner '56
Fr. Richard J. Wolter '59
Fr. Roger P. Pierre '63
Msgr. Donnelly J. Fitzpatrick '63

CORRECTION: An article in the Fall 2012 issue of the Oracle incorrectly stated that this is the first time Fargo seminarians have studied at The Saint Paul Seminary. In fact, the Diocese of Fargo and The Saint Paul Seminary have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship for many years. Several of our alumni have faithfully served the Church and the Fargo diocese for years. We apologize for the error.