ORACLE
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity

SERVANTS of the Lord

2013 ORDINATION ISSUE
CALLED TO BE THE NEW EVANGELIZERS

Three Latin words best describe the experience of seeing 14 new priests ordained to preach, teach, and sanctify: “Gaudium et Spes!” (Joy and Hope!) These are the opening words of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council.

“The Church Today” - that is the place where these new priests go out to announce the Good News.

They begin this mission with our new Holy Father Francis as he begins his. And as our Holy Father told us in his first days in the shoes of the Fisherman: “The Church is awakening in souls - the Church is awakening again . . .” “I would like everyone to feel loved by God. I want everyone to feel the joy of being Christian.”

Paragraph #25 of the Lineamenta of the most recent Synod of Bishops calls the New Evangelization “a way to restore joy and life to situations imprisoned in fear!”

Two great saints of the Church come readily to mind for this call to evangelize: Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Anthony of Padua. The spirit of these men of God can be found in the direction the Bishop of Rome now embarks on as he guides the flock of Christ. It is indeed the Holy Spirit who opens minds and hearts to the beauty and truth of the Gospel.

Saint Augustine in his writing “On Pastors” (Sermon 46) describes the mission of the new evangelization:

“I shall recall the straying; I shall seek the lost. Whether they wish it or not, I shall do it. And should the brambles of the forests tear at me when I seek them, I shall force myself through all straits; I shall pull down all hedges. So far as the God whom I fear grants me the strength, I shall search everywhere.”

And the other great saint whose feast we celebrated the very month our newly consecrated priests were sent for mission is Saint Anthony of Padua. He is called “Doctor Evangelicus,” himself a great expert in Sacred Scripture, credited with introducing the theology of Saint Augustine into the Franciscan Order.

Saint Anthony saw that his true mission lay in the pulpit. He had all the qualities - learning, eloquence, great power of persuasion, and a burning zeal for souls. He literally made the Word come alive!

In living out his call to preach Saint Anthony gives a practical lesson: a preacher should not be tethered with material things, he is to travel light; a preacher is to concentrate on the task before him, a preacher must not labor for his own gain.

For the preacher to have heard God’s Word brings a great responsibility. The preacher must make God’s Word take flesh in those who hear him by offering joy and hope to a hungry, needy world.

As we look to these great evangelizers and rejoice with our new priests called to evangelize, we remember that we too are all called to this great work for the transmission of our Catholic Faith. We now ask their help to witness Jesus, to share our faith, to make our mission a person-to-person ministry, and to challenge our culture. The Gospel has the power to purify culture!

Each year our seminary community has a theme - a slogan. As we close out the Year of Faith we have chosen this one: “Be calm, be of good cheer, and fan the flame.”

My dear friends, let us take this to heart as we go out to bring joy and hope to “The Church Today” - and fan the flame of Christ’s love.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President
A CARDINAL AMONG US

Only six weeks after the conclave that elected Pope Francis, His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke opened the 2013 Canon Law Provincial Meeting at The Saint Paul Seminary.

As Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Cardinal Burke represents the Holy See and the worldwide Church in all matters of canon law. He is also a familiar face at The Saint Paul Seminary, having served on the Board of Trustees for several years. On behalf of Archbishop Nienstedt, Bishop Piché and their fellow priests, Msgr. Callaghan warmly welcomed the cardinal at the conference’s May 6 opening Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel.

Cardinal Burke expressed his gratitude to Msgr. Callaghan and The Saint Paul Seminary, and offered his prayers for the good work of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He acknowledged the important ministry of justice in the Church and reminded those gathered for the three-day conference that only the cross of Christ can help in one’s work and give hope. The cardinal also called upon St. Raymond of Peñafort, the patron saint of canonists, to pray for and guide those who work in the area of canon law.

Susan Mulheron, Interim Chancellor for Canonical Affairs for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, helped organize the annual meeting which gathers canonical staff members from 10 different dioceses throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. “It is a great privilege anytime a cardinal is present,” she said. “We were particularly blessed to have Cardinal Burke because his work is directly related to the work we do in our tribunals.”

After all of the necessary preparations for such an event, Mulheron finally had a moment to reflect on the significance of this gathering during Mass with the cardinal. “I was particularly grateful to The Saint Paul Seminary for co-sponsoring the event with our canonical province for the first time,” she recalled. “This collaboration was the key to a successful event.”

Following the Mass, conference attendees and invited guests gathered for a reception, dinner and a keynote address given by Cardinal Burke.
Over 500 friends of Relevant Radio 1330 AM “tuned in” on May 15 at the Golden Valley Country Club to celebrate the gift of hope.

At the Christ Brings Hope Benefit Banquet, Msgr. Callaghan received the 2013 Christ Brings Hope Award. This honor is given annually to an individual who has exhibited extraordinary dedication to bringing the Good News and hope of Christ to all souls, with charity, generosity, hope, apostolic zeal and love for the truth.

Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn presented the award, recalling his first meeting with Msgr. Callaghan in the 1970s during their days as Rector and Vocations Director, respectively, at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Archbishop Flynn knew he had a capable, faithful worker on his hands. “I tried to get things done by forming a committee. Msgr. Callaghan got things done by doing it on his own without telling me,” he said.

From one Irishman to the other, the evening continued with a similar gesture of warmth and humor. Upon receiving the award, Msgr. Callaghan said, “I am at a loss for words...the first time in my life!”

Msgr. Callaghan then recalled the words Our Holy Father Pope Francis said after stepping onto the balcony at St. Peter’s for the first time: fraternity, love and confidence. “These are the same characteristics Archbishop Flynn showed me when he asked me to come to St. Paul and the seminary eight years ago,” Msgr. said.

Msgr. Callaghan also thanked Relevant Radio for this special honor, as well as Archbishop Nienstedt and Bishop Piché for their leadership and support of the work of The Saint Paul Seminary. He acknowledged the priests and seminarians in the room who are living in a challenging and exciting time in the Church: “I am absolutely convinced that together we will experience a new springtime in our faith.”

The Master of Ceremonies was Rich Gannon, former quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings. Relevant Radio hosts, including Fr. Francis “Rocky” Hoffman, Fr. Richard Simon and Drew Mariani, each congratulated and thanked Msgr. Callaghan for bringing the hope of Christ to a spiritually hungry and needy world.
It was not long ago that Kelsa (Howe) Brazell was cheering on her younger brother Spencer at violin concerts and scouting events. He was the type who would practice and practice but somehow trip up during a big performance. And, suddenly, there was Fr. Spencer Howe, stepping into his priestly ministry with confidence and grace, offering eloquent blessings in the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Saint Paul Cathedral following his ordination.

As Brazell sat in the Cathedral during the Ordination Mass on May 25, she was keenly aware of how far her little brother had come. She considered the other routes his life may have taken and the enormous influence he will have as a priest. But her pride was tinged with protectiveness, her joyfulness with wistfulness. “It’s a little bit sad for an older sister,” Brazell confessed. “He belongs to the Church now.”

Brazell and her husband, Mitchell, supported Fr. Howe’s journey to priesthood at every turn, right up to the creation of a “Save-the-Date” ordination card and a website offering information for out-of-town and non-Catholic relatives.

During the Mass, Brazell consulted her cell phone, jotting down the exact minute each of the 10 men received particular blessings during the ordination rite – the first profession, the laying on of the hands, the anointing. This was at the request of her mother, who shared the information in congratulatory cards to the new priests. After Mass, Brazell visited the four side chapels giving prayer books to each of the newly ordained.

Above: Ten men lie prostrate before the altar at The Cathedral of St. Paul on their ordination day.
At right: Fr. Spencer Howe greets Sr. Rose Vu of the Good Shepherd Sisters following ordination.
Fr. John Drees, Fr. James Peterson and Fr. Joah Ellis enjoy the Ordination Mass.
Archbishop Nienstedt receives a blessing from newly ordained Fr. Andrew Brinkman.
“It was surreal,” she said of the Mass. “It’s still hitting me in different ways.” Indeed, the priestly ordination of The Saint Paul Seminary Class of 2013 was a source of inspiration for the many other lay Catholics in attendance as well, from relatives to friends to volunteers.

Fr. Leonard Andrie’s mother, Sandy Werner of Stillwater, was also in awe that day. “This is so big,” she said. “I feel like ever since I put him on the kindergarten bus he’s never stopped studying. It feels like the bus can finally stop for a little bit, where he can finally get off and do what he’s supposed to do. So many things came into his life that I just marvel over. I think, ‘Wow, God did pick the right person!’”

**A GREAT BLESSING**

Kevin Greiner, a grain farmer from Keota, Iowa, expressed a similar sentiment after watching his son, Jake, be ordained at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. “It’s pretty emotional, because it has been a long road for him. He finally found his niche, and I’m sure he will do a great job.”

The vesting of Fr. Jake Greiner was a highlight of the ordination, his dad said. “I felt overwhelmed. This is what he wanted and it finally got to that point where it was actually happening.”

Among his many emotions, the elder Greiner said he was especially struck by a sense of satisfaction, while also mindful of the challenges awaiting his son. “He’s got a big job ahead. The pay isn’t very good and there’s no lack of work. But he comes from a farm, so he knows that when it has to happen, he’s got to do it.”

The view from an older generation was equally powerful. Witnessing her grandson Fr. John Drees’ ordination meant a great deal to Irene Drees, a 76-year-old grandmother of 26 from Cologne, Minnesota. “I have seven boys myself, so I thought, ‘Oh, maybe the good Lord would grant us one [priest].’ You pray for these things and, well, it came in the next generation! It’s a great blessing for our family.”

The proud grandmother remembered hosting 26 of John’s fellow seminarians a few years ago when they visited the Drees farm during a vacation. She was struck by how prayerful and polite they were. She was happy to recognize several at John’s side at the Cathedral altar. “It was quite an honor to be there and see the young men. I had never been to an ordination. It was long – a good three hours – but it didn’t seem that long because there was so much going on.”

**COLLEGE ROOMMATES**

For others in attendance, the ordination was a unique chance to support a friend. Ted Leonard, a 27-year-old actuary from Maplewood, said he’s learned a lot through his best friend’s journey to priesthood. Leonard and Fr. James

*Above: Archbishop Nienstedt embraces Fr. James Peterson during the Ordination Mass. Below: Bishop Martin Amos of Davenport receives a blessing from newly ordained Fr. Jake Greiner, who studied at The Saint Paul Seminary.*
Peterson were roommates at St. John’s University and fellow hurdlers on the track team. “Fr. James has really blossomed since freshman year of college when he would write papers hours before they were due,” Leonard said.

One of the highlights of the ordination was seeing so many priests in one space. “Everything was amplified,” Leonard said. “It felt very powerful there. I got goose bumps several times. I am incredibly proud.”

Leonard said he now grasps the beauty of priesthood and plans to encourage his 2-year-old son Nathaniel to consider the priesthood as he grows up.

**THE NEXT GENERATION**

Marta Pereira, a St. Paul mother of four, came to the same conclusion. She read the second reading of the ordination Mass in Spanish, a lay role she considered a great privilege. “It gave me a chance to be a little closer to the new priests, which was great,” she said. “I am so thankful to God for so many new priests. I felt really joyful to see how many young men are being ordained and to see the sense of humility and self-sacrifice that these men are giving to God. It inspires me.”

Pereira hopes to apply that inspiration at home. “As a mother, my thoughts were coming back to my own children and how much I want to talk about vocations as a divine call. I kept thinking of the mothers there and what a privilege it is to be the mom of a priest. I asked God, if He ever wanted, to take one of mine.”
One of the first things you notice about newly ordained Deacon Paul Shovelain is his smile. In fact, his entire face lights up when he greets you. That smile shone its brightest on Saturday, May 4, the day Shovelain and six of his seminary classmates were ordained transitional deacons.

“Being surrounded by family, friends and parishioners from my home and teaching parishes, I felt the Holy Spirit at work inside me,” he said.

In an ordination rite that dates back to the early Church, seven Theology III seminarians, five for this archdiocese and two for Kampala, Uganda, were ordained to the diaconate at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Together, these men pledged obedience to their bishops and service to all.

In his homily, Archbishop Nienstedt described the threefold task of diaconal service:

- The **ministry of the Word**, by which the deacon instructs and exhorts believers and nonbelievers alike in holy doctrine.
- The **ministry to the altar**, whereby the deacon presides at public prayer, administers Baptism, assists at and blesses sacramental Marriages, brings Viaticum to the dying and conducts funeral rites.
- The **ministry of charity**, whereby the poor, the sick, the stranger, the marginalized are cared for by the deacon’s apostolic zeal.

**LAYING PROSTRATE BEFORE THE LORD**

As part of the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate, the men who have been summoned lie prostrate before the altar of the Lord. While praying face down, Shovelain remembered those who were gathered on this day. “I was surrounded by those who have supported me at Saint John Vianney College Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary,” he said. “I was humbled and honored.”

He also recalls getting up from the floor and immediately seeing the statues of St. Mary and St. Paul. “That was a powerful moment,” he remembered. “My Blessed Mother and my patron saint are watching over me and protecting me in my ministry in the Church.”

In addition to having a large presence of family and friends at the Mass, many of the new deacons were surrounded by priests and permanent deacons who have made a tremendous impact on them as they journey toward priesthood. “As Deacon George Stahl, from my teaching parish, and I exchanged the sign of peace, I was moved by this gesture of common brotherhood,” he said, “as servants of Jesus Christ.”

Deacon Shovelain is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the Archdiocese for the Military Services. His Vocations Directors Fr. Troy Przybilla and Fr. Kerry Abbott, respectively, were both there to witness this great celebration.
BEGINNING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE
Immediately following the Mass, the new deacons were able to give blessings to people for the first time. Family and friends formed lines to receive the prayers and blessings of the Lord’s newest servants. The next morning, the seven men participated in their first Masses as deacons.

For Shovelain, it meant preaching his first homily and baptizing two new babies at St. Michael’s Church in Albertville. In his homily, he drew on the reading from the book of Revelation that described a heavenly Jerusalem, noting, “We are dwelling places for God, just like the heavenly Jerusalem. We are called to bring Him to others.”

Deacon Paul’s parents Marie and Jim Shovelain were there on Sunday morning to hear their son’s first homily. His proud father remarked how far his son has come with his preaching. “He was able to include each of the readings to lift our thoughts toward heaven,” he said. “I’ve always thought if it sounds good, it’s the Holy Spirit speaking. I think the Lord is using my son to speak to people plainly, honestly and clearly.”

ARCHBISHOP NIENSTEDT ORDAINED THE FOLLOWING MEN TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ON SATURDAY, MAY 4:

**Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis**
- Deacon Michael Barsness
- Deacon Kevin Manthey
- Deacon Marcus Mrellas

**Diocese of Kampala, Uganda**
- Deacon Marc Paveglio
- Deacon Paul Shovelain
- Deacon Joseph Kavuma
- Deacon Joseph Kirembwe

**Diocese of Duluth**
- Deacon Timothy Lange
- Deacon Blake Rozier

**Diocese of Rapid City**
- Deacon Grant Gerlach

**Diocese of St. Cloud**
- Deacon Mitchell Bechtold
- Deacon Timothy Gapinski

**Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**
- Deacon Bruce Anderson

**Diocese of New Ulm**
- Deacon Samuel Wagner

EIGHT OF THEIR CLASSMATES FROM THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY WERE ALSO ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE IN THEIR HOME DIOCESES THIS SUMMER:
Summer provides an opportunity for seminary professors to engage in ongoing intellectual and spiritual formation, while also enjoying more socializing. That’s exactly what was achieved in the third conference hosted through the Msgr. Jerome D. Quinn Institute of Biblical Studies, held in June at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. Eighteen leading professors of sacred Scripture from across the country, both lay and ordained, attended the conference.

“Providing a platform for Catholic seminary professors to gather and exchange ideas about teaching courses and matters common to their mission is a niche that the Quinn Institute has found,” said Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture Fr. Scott Carl, who directs the institute. “No one else provides this opportunity for mutual enrichment and focused ongoing formation.”

Inspired by the latest Synod of Bishops in Rome, the theme of the 2013 conference was “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Catholic Faith.” The three-day gathering allowed professors to present scholarly papers followed by in-depth discussions and break-out sessions to examine course syllabi, fostering best practices for content and methodology.

“It’s extraordinarily fruitful,” Fr. Carl said. “The professors talked about how grateful they were to be among peers and get feedback on their teaching. We are all trying to live this together, to be fed by Word and sacrament, to fortify our role in priestly formation.”

Among the participants was Dr. Gregory Glazov, Chair of the Biblical Studies Department at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology in South Orange, New Jersey. This was Dr. Glazov’s second Quinn conference, and both times he returned home with ideas that shaped his entire department. “I plan to foster opportunities for colleagues to spend more time reflecting on each other’s syllabi within and between departments,” Dr. Glazov said.

The camaraderie among participants cannot be underestimated, Dr. Glazov added. “It’s quite crucial. I want to know how to teach Scripture in a way that will make it the soul of theology. Friendship is crucial to fostering honest and open discussion of the challenges facing this goal. Since friends share, the sharing of resources and perspectives which the camaraderie grounds is invaluable.”

The Msgr. Jerome D. Quinn Institute of Biblical Studies, an endowed fund established in 2009 by the generosity of the Quinn family, brings renowned scholars to The Saint Paul Seminary to teach and mentor faculty and produce scholarly work. Msgr. Quinn studied and taught at The Saint Paul Seminary and was acclaimed for his Biblical scholarship. He died in 1988 at age 61.

A strong affirmation of the Quinn Institute came last October, when it was mentioned by His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, at the Synod on the New Evangelization in Rome. The Quinn Institute is preparing to release its first formal publication, a volume of articles selected from the first two Quinn conferences. The publication includes contributions from Fr. James Swetnam, S.J., Fr. Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy, O. Cist., and Fr. Francis Martin.
LEARNING CONTINUES FOR MAT GRADUATE

Matt Selby could be described as one who read his way into the Church. He kept on reading through two intensive years in the Master of Arts in Theology program in the School of Divinity, graduating on Saturday, May 25, in the University of St. Thomas’ commencement exercises.

Selby’s road to a MAT degree began as a biblical and theological studies major at Northwestern College in St. Paul. His post-graduate plan was to enter a Protestant seminary to become an ordained pastor. “But by the time I received my undergraduate degree, I was asking the necessary questions that ultimately led me to the Catholic Church,” he said. “I recognized the extreme complexities of the Bible and the difficulties with interpreting it as a Protestant.”

And so his reading continued, including Church history, the Church fathers and tradition v. scripture. His curiosity intensified and the remaining timeline reads like a train schedule: received his undergraduate degree, May 2009; served as a Protestant missionary, June 2009-May 2011; began the RCIA program at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, Sept. 2010; received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass, 2011; married his wife, Anna, in the Catholic Church, July 2011; started his graduate studies at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, Sept. 2011; graduated from the MAT program, May 2013.

At the very beginning of this rapid track, Selby found a home in the School of Divinity. “Being here helped me settle into life as a Catholic,” he said. “The community of seminarians and fellow graduate students, as well as the rigorous academic life I was looking for, provided solid ground to study, research and form lifelong friends.”

While in the program, Selby’s academic focus was Church history, with a healthy dose of philosophy, two areas he felt he lacked in his Protestant background. The week before graduation, he was putting the finishing touches on his 70-page thesis in which he examined the Council of Trent, specifically the relationship between scripture and tradition. This work will be the springboard from which he plans to continue his doctoral work in biblical studies, sometime in the near future.

In the short term, Selby will continue to teach faith formation and Latin, something he did in addition to his graduate work over the past two years. Students in the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute will also have the opportunity to learn from him as he joins the Institute’s team of instructors in the fall.

Once his thesis is approved and oral comprehensive exams are complete this summer, Selby looks forward to a new schedule that will allow additional time with his firstborn son David.
Pope Francis greets Sally and James Ennis and Academic Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson in St. Peter’s Square on April 24.

THE HOLY FATHER AND THE DEAN

When Academic Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson left for the International Catholic Rural Association (ICRA) conference in Rome in April, he had no idea the schedule would include a meeting with Our Holy Father Pope Francis.

As a member of ICRA’s Board of Trustees, Dr. Thompson has an opportunity each year to meet with the international organization that keeps agricultural concerns at the top of the Church’s list. He traveled to Rome this spring with ICRA Director James Ennis and Ennis’ wife Sally.

On April 24, Dr. Thompson and the Ennises attended the Holy Father’s weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square. Joined by 82,500 others, they did not realize that their tickets would give them the opportunity for a personal greeting with Pope Francis after his address.

“It was an unexpected, extraordinary blessing,” Dr. Thompson said. “The Holy Father was completely at peace and was extremely generous with his greeting. He asked for our prayers. It was very brief, but very genuine.”

While in Rome, Thompson and Ennis were also gratified to have meetings with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and with the Office of the Secretary of State. ICRA is a leader on topics of the vocation of the agricultural worker, stewardship and sustainability. Each of these themes was discussed during their meetings at the Vatican.
The year was 1957. The era of the guillotine in France was coming to a close, but not without taking the life of Jacques Fesch, a man convicted of adultery, theft and murder. More than 50 years later Fesch is on his way to canonization, and his unpredictable story was brought to life in three original performances at The Saint Paul Seminary on April 26 - 28.

“I had an instant connection with Fesch,” said Theology II seminarian Kyle Kowalczyk, who wrote, directed and produced Saved by the Guillotine. Kowalczyk first heard Fesch’s inspiring story at a monastery and desired to bring it to life. “I wanted to use this play as an evangelization tool,” he said. And so he went about recruiting fellow seminarians to act, build sets, advertise, sew costumes and run the sound and lights.

The show also brought in the talent of graduate lay students, including Erika Zabinski, a Master of Arts in Theology student who worked as the production manager for the show. “I had no idea how professional the show would turn out to be,” she said. “It was amazing to see the story come to life on stage.”

After accepting the lead role of Jacques Fesch, Tyler Dickinson, Theology III seminarian from Madison, told his spiritual director, “I don’t want this to be just another role. I want to learn about being a saint from Jacques.”

Not only did the play deepen the faith of the seminarians and audience members, it also brought about a sense of community. Similar to the Rectors’ Bowl or the Priest vs. Seminarian basketball game, the performance of a play showed the community that seminarians have a wide variety of interests and talents. “I want to see this happen more,” said Tim Tran, a Pre-Theology II seminarian. “It’s good to show people that we do more than just eat, sleep and pray.”

Msgr. Callaghan praised the show by saying, “These men not only exemplified their own talents, but they also exemplified the themes of the seminary: fraternity, community and joy of diocesan priesthood.” Archbishop Nienstedt also attended a performance and said, “I was immensely proud of our seminarians and the others who performed in Saved by the Guillotine. It showed us that conversion is always a real option for the human heart.”

The spring production was a great success. Many are hopeful that a Saint Paul Seminary production will become an annual event.
FRIENDS GATHER AT THE SEMINARY

Friends of The Saint Paul Seminary gathered for Mass and brunch on April 7 and May 5. Always held after Easter, the Friends’ Mass and Breakfast is the seminary’s way of saying “thank you” to those who share their time, talent and treasure with the seminary, to build up the Kingdom of God. It is also a time for supporters of the seminary to get to know their future priests, as the seminarians pray and socialize with people from all over the archdiocese.

FOURTH CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE CLASS GRADUATES

On May 14, 150 members of the Class of Blessed John Paul II of the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute were recognized with a Mass and graduation ceremony, in honor of the completion of their two-year program. This class joins the Institute’s growing alumni, now totaling more than 500.

In his annual address, Catechetical Institute Director Jeff Cavins reminded the graduates that Jesus is challenging us to go beyond being enthusiastic admirers and to become disciples, saying, “True disciples of Jesus are those who are willing to lay down their life for His mission.”

The graduating class had members from 64 parishes throughout the archdiocese. Barbara Lanzdorf, from the Cathedral of St. Paul, was one of two class members who gave a personal testimony during the ceremony. Originally a Protestant pastor, Barbara entered the Institute having been intrigued by the Catholic faith and its theology for over 10 years. As she searched for a class that might offer thorough history and teachings on the Church fathers, she “stumbled” across the Catechetical Institute. “The Holy Spirit led me to that class,” she said.

“After a year in the Institute, I realized I had no more objections to the Catholic faith,” she said. “It became less about taking this big step into the Church and more about surrendering to what had already happened.”

While completing her final year in the Institute, Barbara joined an RCIA class and continued her journey into the Church. A variety of circumstances led her to Rome where she received her first communion from Pope Francis at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Archbishop Nienstedt presents Barbara Lanzdorf with a certificate of completion from the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute.

Another meaningful part of the ceremony was a tribute to former classmate Raymond “Butch” Schmidtbauer. Butch, who entered the Catechetical Institute with his wife Maripat in 2011, passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of their final year. To honor his example of discipleship, the Class of John Paul II established the Butch Schmidtbauer “Fishers of Men” Scholarship, which will be awarded to two incoming students each fall.

This fall, the Catechetical Institute will begin the Class of St. Francis at The Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids.
ANOTHER YEAR CELEBRATED AT RECTOR’S COUNCIL DINNER

Following the final board meeting of Academic Year 2012-2013, Archbishop Nienstedt, Msgr. Callaghan and The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Board of Trustees gathered for prayer and celebration on May 2.

At the annual event, the seminary recognized Fr. Dennis Dease and Tom Holloran for their exceptional service and leadership. Fr. Dease, who officially retired on June 30 after 22 years as President of the University of St. Thomas, was honored for navigating the unique partnership between the seminary and university.

Tom Holloran served on the joint Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary board since 2006. Archbishop Nienstedt noted Tom’s significant contributions to both seminaries. “You brought your strong, active Catholic faith and your concern that the education and formation offered in these seminaries be always the best for the good of the Church,” he said. “You were well able to provide that ‘wise counsel’ the bishops of the United States expect boards of seminaries to provide.”

Both men were given a framed print of St. Paul’s conversion in gratitude for forwarding the mission of forming priests and lay graduate students for a lifetime of service in the Church.

Music of the resurrection filled St. Mary’s Chapel on Sunday, April 21, the third Sunday of Easter. “The Easter Procession: Encounters of the Risen Christ” was presented by The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale, under the direction of Dr. David Jenkins, Director of Liturgical Music, with organist Michelle Plombon.

During this devotion of Paschaltide, the Chorale presented music by J. Michael Thompson and James E. Clemens from Byzantine sources. Musicians and concertgoers enjoyed fellowship and refreshments immediately following. As always, this community event was free and open to the public.


**Dedicated Staff Member Retires from Vocations Office**

After 10 years as the Administrative Assistant for the Vocations Office and Ongoing Clergy Formation Program, Susan Pitman retired this summer. With a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pitman finished her last day on June 7, the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

It was with a heart like Jesus and His Blessed Mother that Pitman served the Vocations Office. With quiet dedication, she worked for former Vocations Directors Fr. Tom Wilson and Fr. Peter Williams, and, most recently, current Vocations Director Fr. Troy Przybilla.

During her tenure, Pitman was the welcoming face and gentle voice of the Vocations Office. Since 2003, Pitman witnessed the ordination of 76 men to the priesthood, men who first came through her door or called her office to meet with the vocations director.

“No matter the situation, Susan always maintained her gentle, steady, reliable disposition every day,” Fr. Przybilla said. “She put a nice touch on everything she did.”

On her last day at the seminary, Pitman was presented with a book that included photos of each ordination class since 2003 and a quote from St. John Vianney, the patron saint of seminarians: “The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus.”

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity is profoundly grateful for Susan’s service to the Church and wishes her well in retirement.

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**Annual Golf Outing a Success**

After a cool and rainy spring, the sun came out to shine on The Saint Paul Seminary’s 30th Annual Golf Tournament on June 10th at Town & Country Club in St. Paul.

More than 100 golfers enjoyed a day of competition and camaraderie on the course with Msgr. Callaghan and priests of the seminary. The first place men’s foursome with the lowest net score included Mark Arend, Tom McCarr, Dan Gleason and Tim Murphy. Michelle Pulles, Sue Schwalbach, Ruth Haggerty and Cathy Pohlad earned The Best Women’s Foursome title this year. Each winning foursome is pictured on Hole #1 with Msgr. Callaghan and Fr. John Klockeman, Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation.

The event raised more than $145,000 for the seminary. This year’s outing also put total funds raised over the $1 million mark since moving the tournament to Town & Country in 2006!
SEMINARIANS VENTURE INTO BWCA WITH HANDMADE PADDLES

It is not unusual for a group of seminarians to go to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) during a summer break. It is unusual to go with a new set of custom-made paddles for each traveler.

Dan Purkapile, a Theology II seminarian from the Diocese of La Crosse, is a man of many hobbies, including woodworking. When a parishioner from his hometown of Marshfield, Wisconsin, donated enough cedar logs to make 10 paddles, Purkapile got to work. With some research on the Internet and a lot of experience working with wood, he was excited to embark on a new project.

Between a friend’s wood shop in Eagan and the seminary basement, Purkapile put in approximately four hours on each paddle to prepare for the trip.

He and his fellow paddlers were pleased with the final product. Vice Rector Fr. Robert Pish, Purkapile and four additional seminarians set out after finals for five nights in the wilderness, paddles in hand. The others included fellow Theology II seminarian Matthew Northenscold, Theology I seminarian Tim Sandquist, and Saint John Vianney seminarians James Smyth and Tyler Riese.

This was the largest group Purkapile has led into the BWCA, and it was his first trip with a priest. “It was beautiful to have Mass in such a peaceful place,” he said. “It was very prayerful, almost like a retreat.”

The weather and fish cooperated most of the time, so they enjoyed two meals of fresh Walleye, Northern Pike and Bass in the great outdoors.

Purkapile hopes to lead another group in August, this time with fathers and sons from St. Mary’s Catholic Church, his teaching parish in Altoona, Wisconsin. The paddles and the paddlers will be ready to go for another journey into God’s country.
MORE THAN NUMBERS

If you were able to attend the ordination Mass in May, or if you have seen any recent promotional ads from the seminary, you will most likely get the sense we are proud of the increased number of men studying for the priesthood. “Strength in numbers” is often our message. Truth be told, we are both a bit proud and grateful.

But, as a good friend reminded me in a recent conversation, we need to be cautious about focusing too much on numbers. The work of priestly discernment and formation is a very serious undertaking. Ultimately, our task is to help a man answer a call from God to give himself completely to Christ and His Church. Each man being called is more than a number. The motivation behind helping answer that “yes” should be about more than statistics.

My friend also pointed out that the Kingdom of God isn’t always about bigger and more. The Kingdom of God is hidden and often takes shape from small and humble beginnings – like the “yes” from Mary more than 2,000 years ago. A few good men, he said, would be better than many average men.

My friend’s point of view is spot on. It is true – the priesthood, our faith, and the Kingdom of God are more than numbers. Our God is able to take the smallest seed of faith and make it into a great and fruitful tree.

At the same time, I have gotten to know each of the men being ordained this year and can attest that each one of them is a good man. They come from different backgrounds, have different personalities, possess different skill sets and ecclesial emphasis, but each have one thing in common: they are good, holy men who love God with their whole lives and are glad to spend their entire lives to serve His Church and to make Him known and loved.

Priestly formation is more than numbers. It is about quality more than quantity. We have been blessed with both. That is why we should be doubly grateful and humbly give thanks to God for the blessing He has bestowed upon us.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement
FACULTY NOTES

Dr. Stephen Hipp, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, recently published a book entitled *The Doctrine of Personal Subsistence: Historical and Systematic Synthesis*, in the series Studia Friburgensia, Academic Press Fribourg, Fribourg (Switzerland) 2012.


Sister M. Christine Athans, BVM, Ph.D., professor emerita, is the author of *In Quest of the Jewish Mary: The Mother of Jesus in History, Theology and Spirituality* published this spring by Orbis Books. It is listed among a select group of volumes in Theological BEST BOOKS (Spring/Summer 2013) by the Association of Theological Booksellers. She has recently lectured on her book at Maryknoll in New York and Loyola University Chicago.

Last fall Sr. Athans delivered the Driscoll Lecture at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, on “Thomas Merton and Abraham Joshua Heschel: Partners in Peace, Prayer and the Interfaith Dialogue.” She continues as adjunct faculty at Catholic Theological Union and Loyola University Chicago.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. John J. Spanjers, ‘59
Fr. Eugene J. Abbott, ‘57

One of the greatest legacies of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity is that of the ordained and lay alumni who serve in parishes, schools and various ministries throughout the Church and the world. From the priest who offers forgiveness in the confessional to the lay person serving the poor in Haiti, alumni are doing hidden and heroic service in countless ways.

The alumni section provides event information, celebrates achievements, and brings our history to life. Do you know an alumnus with a notable personal or professional story? We would love to hear about them. The following are some points of interest for and about our alumni community:

- Alexandra Theis, Master of Arts in Theology ’12, teaches religious education to third- and fourth-grade students at Holy Rosary Academy in Anchorage, Alaska.

- Last February, Phoenix-area alumni gathered for lunch to share stories about life since their seminary days, as well as retelling stories of creative pranks played on their classmates while studying at the seminary.

- The Archdiocesan Annual Priests Golf Outing sponsored by The Saint Paul Seminary and Premier Banks was held at Indian Hills Golf Club in May. Forty eight golfers of all abilities participated in the outing, with the grand prize going to Fr. Patrick Barnes ’10. The Most Improved Award was graciously received by Fr. Mark Moriarty ’99.

- Mr. and Mrs. Carol Bly, longtime friends of the seminary, submitted a copy of the first Christmas homily given in the Cathedral dated Saturday, Dec. 25, 1915, and preached by Msgr. John Cullinan, class of 1912.

To share an alumni story, for information regarding alumni, or to submit a nomination for the Distinguished Alumni Award, contact Alumni Coordinator Joe Lichty at 651-962-5055 or joelichty@stthomas.edu.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Opening Mass</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Chapel</td>
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<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Archbishop’s Mass for Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Chapel</td>
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<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Opening Mass for Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute</td>
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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Admission to Candidacy</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Chapel</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>14th Annual Rectors’ Bowl</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Rediscover: Catholic Celebration</td>
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<td>Saint Paul RiverCentre</td>
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<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library Lecture Series</td>
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<td>3M Auditorium, Owens Science Hall</td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Institution of Acolytes</td>
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<td>Oct. 29</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. 1-3</td>
<td>40 Hours Adoration</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Hill Society and Distinguished Alumni</td>
<td>11:35 a.m.</td>
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<td>Awards Mass &amp; Luncheon</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Chapel (by invitation only)</td>
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<td>Nov. 11-13</td>
<td>Seminarian Phone-a-thon</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Lessons &amp; Carols</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
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