ORACLE
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity

WINTER 2013

The Heart
Jesus

of
My dear people,

As the patron saint of parish priests, the Curé of Ars St. John Vianney so beautifully expressed it: “The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.” Hence the seminary is the place where hearts are formed after the heart of the Shepherd.

Priests are called to be men of prayer and love, and it is before the heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament that they find true love, joy, enthusiasm, a real fire – a gift being given.

Any reflection on the heart of Jesus – Cor Jesu – inevitably brings us back to Christmas when God became like us in all things but sin. And, at Christmas, we sing over and over again the most beautiful Christmas carols. One of the best loved of all is “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” written by Phillip Brooks more than a century ago. The first part of the song is primarily historical. It celebrates the events that surround the birth of Jesus. But the last verse makes Christmas something more personal:

“O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend on us we pray, Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.”

We have never understood Christmas until it goes beyond historical fact and becomes a personal experience.

How do we make it personal? We must personally encounter our Lord in the Eucharist – the heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. God our Father has seen fit to grant us in the heart of His Son infinite treasures of love, mercy and affection. Jesus Christ comes to us with a heart made of flesh, a heart like our own.

In order to appreciate this awesome mystery we must come before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We must stop and look and listen!

Stop In our time spent before the heart of Jesus we must stop all that distracts us from what is important. What is important for us here is to simply put ourselves in the presence of God.

Look We must really look to see the Lord. This means keeping focused. This means setting our sights on all that is good. This means asking Jesus to see God in everyone we meet and everything we do.

Listen And we must listen; listen to the Word as He speaks to us. He speaks to us in the silence of our hearts.

My dear brothers and sisters, in this Year of Faith, try to come often before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In your time of silence there with Him make your prayer the simple words of a child, “Come Lord Jesus, come and be born in our hearts.” And may the heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President

Cor Jesu...MAKE OUR HEARTS LIKE UNTO THINE

Monsignor
Aloysius R. Callaghan
A capacity crowd gathered Oct. 24 at the Town & Country Club in St. Paul for the seventh annual Rector’s Dinner. The event brought together seminary friends, old and new. Seminarians Brian Park, Theology IV, and Jake Anderson, Theology II, shared their unique and inspiring vocation stories. Archbishop John Nienstedt and Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan warmly addressed and welcomed the group. Bishops Lee Piché and John LeVoir, as well as priests from the archdiocese, were in attendance.

No Rector’s Dinner would be complete without a standing sing-along of Msgr. Callaghan’s favorite prayer and song to Our Blessed Mother, “Lady of Knock.” This has become a concluding tradition that unites the prayers of the seminary with its faithful friends.

Top: Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan and Archbishop John Nienstedt celebrate the good work of the seminary.

Top right: Msgr. Callaghan mingles with friends and guests Colleen and Albert Haik.

Bottom right: Deacon John Drees, Theology IV, and guests Terri and John Crudo enjoy the Rector’s Dinner at the Town & Country Club.

Photos by Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit
DRAWING HUNDREDS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TO THE HEART OF JESUS

It is a simple gathering – no pizza, no pop, no budget – but the Holy Spirit shows up every time, and so do hundreds of young adults who choose to kick off their weekend with reconciliation and prayer.

Begun in December 2006, Cor Jesu was a brainstorm of Fr. Andrew Cozzens of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and Mother Mary Clare Roufs, founder of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus, a religious order based in New Ulm, Minnesota. Both sought to tap into the power of the First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart and gather young people at St. Mary’s Chapel for adoration, supplemented by a short reflection, contemporary praise and worship, music and confession.

“I thought, ‘This is so needed for people to know the Lord’s love,’” Mother Mary Clare recalled. “I was inspired to help them be before the Blessed Sacrament and allow Him to speak heart to heart and personally reveal love to them. I realized you can go to any [adoration chapel] and have that happen, but for our culture we need help engaging people, and I found music can assist.”

The first Cor Jesu, which means “heart of Jesus” in Latin, drew a few priests and about 30 young people. Invitations were extended to young adult groups, NET (National Evangelization Teams) and St. Thomas’ Catholic Studies students. In a turning point for the burgeoning event, 75 attended the second gathering, held in February 2007. By the end of the year, 100 young people were routinely attending every first Friday.

Today Cor Jesu draws about 300 people and 15 priests. It is a powerful event where young people deepen or rediscover their faith and, according to Fr. Cozzens, it has led to at least one conversion. The biggest draw is word of mouth, aided by Facebook notifications and simple signs posted around campus. Organizers have resisted the urge to spruce it up with refreshments.

“Finances were always the big question for ministry,” Mother Mary Clare said. “What we really wanted to do was something that would not need a budget. I said, ‘Jesus is here. We don’t need to actually spend money.’ We

Mary Gabriel lifts up her prayer in song during monthly Cor Jesu at the seminary. Photos by Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit
decided we don’t need to provide refreshments or make this a bigger deal. You’re spending time making cookies and treats and you’re actually losing the focus on being with the Lord and fostering that among others. Never have we had an empty chapel since we started. Never had we had any dessert or treats or pizza. It keeps it pure.”

“The secret to Cor Jesu is that we keep it focused on putting young people in the presence of the heart of Jesus and that has its own effect,” Fr. Cozzens said in agreement. “We didn’t need any gimmick.”

The two-hour prayer event begins at 8 p.m. Confession often runs over an hour, with 14 different stations for priests. “When you pray and go to confession, your heart is light and people are enthusiastic,” Fr. Cozzens said. “One of the beauties of the sacrament of reconciliation is that it allows young people to start over; when young people who have made mistakes discover that, they’re so happy.” As a result, Fr. Cozzens often finds himself shooing enthusiastic visitors out the door at 11 p.m.

Among the late-night stragglers is Jillian Wayland, a St. Thomas senior majoring in Catholic Studies and working in the archdiocesan vocation’s office. “Everyone looks radiant and at peace,” she said of the end-of-evening scene. “It’s a little image of what I imagine heaven would be like – that rich community where Christ is at the center.”

REST FOR THE WEARY
Chad VanHoose attended the very first Cor Jesu and found great aid there as he discerned the priesthood. The 29-year-old Ohio native is now a Pre-Theology II seminarian and happy to serve on the Cor Jesu leadership team. “Being able to worship our Eucharistic Lord and pour my heart out to His heart changes my life time and again,” he said. “The fellowship inspires me and makes me want to be holy. It is easier for me to lay down my life when

*Above: Nate Verschaetse plays guitar each month with the Cor Jesu music team.*

*Middle: Fr. Nels Gjengdahl is one of several priests who hears confessions on first Fridays at the seminary.*

*Below: UST student Laura Rosno prays and sings to the heart of Jesus with more than 300 others in St. Mary’s Chapel.*

Photos by Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit
I see others doing the same. *Cor Jesu* gives me a connection with others outside the seminary whom I am able to serve and lead closer to Jesus. This advances my priestly formation by fixing my attention on the service of God and the people of God.”

The fellowship is also vital for Paul Shovelain, Theology III, a fellow member of the leadership team. “It’s so easy to get secularized, to forget our focus, to feel alone, that you’re the only one trying to live the faith,” the 25-year-old from St. Michael, Minnesota, said. “You need fraternity and accountability, and *Cor Jesu* fosters that.”

The music plays a unique role, Shovelain said. “Praise and worship has been a huge part of my spiritual life,” he said, pointing out that daily Mass, by comparison, is made up of chants and traditional hymns.

“My favorite song at *Cor Jesu* is ‘None But Jesus,’” VanHoose added. “As I sing the words of the chorus – ‘There is no one else for me, none but Jesus. Crucified to set me free, now I live to bring Him praise’ – I look at the monstrance and sing directly to Jesus.”

Just as college students lead hectic lives with early starts and late nights, so too do seminarians feel pulled in many directions. In recent months, managing all his schoolwork and preparing for his sister’s wedding kept Shovelain busy. He said, “When I come to *Cor Jesu* and enter into that prayer, that’s where I really find peace.”

Jillian Wayland echoed that sentiment. “You know how university life is – it’s busy and intense, you’re going and you’re going,” she said. “*Cor Jesu* is a place of rest. It’s a place where I’ve been able to hear Christ speak clearly because it’s that time set apart. We all look forward to it. Every month we ask, ‘When is the next *Cor Jesu*?’”
SEMINARIES AND DEACONS JOURNEY TOWARD PRIESTHOOD

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY
Seventeen Theology I seminarians took their first of four formal steps on Sept. 27 on the path toward priestly ordination. In a rite known as Admission to Candidacy, they publicly expressed their intention to receive Holy Orders after living out four more years of formation. On behalf of the Church, Bishop John LeVoir of the Diocese of New Ulm received a declaration from each seminarian during the Mass. Four distinct rites exist leading up to and culminating in ordination to the priesthood. In this first rite, a seminarian is elevated to the role of lector in which he will meditate on and proclaim the Word of God, thereby showing Christ to the world.

Neil Bakker, a seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, recognized the importance of this rite on his journey toward ordination. “Admission to Candidacy is a major milestone in the life of a seminarian and in his reassurance of God’s will,” he said. “My time for belaboring discernment has passed and now I place myself in the hands of the Church and focus on conforming myself more to Christ every day.”

“\text{In all that we do here at The Saint Paul Seminary, we have confidence that God called us and trust that He will continue to guide us as we pursue a vocation to the diocesan priesthood.}”

\text{Doug Liebsch, Theology I, Diocese of St. Cloud}
Making a similar declaration, nine candidates were admitted to candidacy for the permanent diaconate. After completing two years of study in the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute, in addition to one aspirancy year, these men have three more years of study and formation before ordination as permanent deacons in the Church. During a deacon’s aspirancy year, he focuses on human and spiritual formation, diaconal spirituality and discernment of his vocation.
INSTITUTION OF ACOLYTES
The Institution of Acolytes is the next formal rite in a seminarian’s path toward the priesthood. This year’s ceremony took place on Oct. 16 in St. Mary’s Chapel. Bishop Robert Morlino of the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, presided. Bishop Morlino formally installed 21 Theology II seminarians to the ministry of acolyte, including Tyler Dickinson and Christopher Gernetzke, who are studying for their home diocese of Madison.

Bishop Morlino likened the Institution of Acolyte to a well-aimed arrow. “This arrow’s path cannot be altered easily,” he said, “and it goes straight to the target, which is the priesthood.” He encouraged the seminarians to have a strong and visible habit of reverence toward the Eucharist, to help each of them grow closer to Our Lord and to provide an example of adoration to others.

Chris Gernetzke said he enjoyed having Bishop Morlino as a guest at the seminary. “There is a deep connection between the men from Madison and our bishop. He is a man of prayer who is always concerned with our wellbeing. He inspires us to persevere in our formation.”

As acolytes, the newly appointed men take on greater responsibilities, including caring for the Blessed Sacrament and assisting the celebrating priest or deacon at the altar.
**13th Annual Rectors’ Bowl: Hail Mary Edition**

On the brisk night of Oct. 6, The Saint Paul Seminary “Sons of Thunder” faced off against the Saint John Vianney “Jaxx” under the Saturday night lights of the University of St. Thomas football field. A large crowd of family members and friends, priests, seminary faculty and staff, and even the University of St. Thomas football team showed up to cheer on the intense fraternal competition. Rectors Msgr. Callaghan and Fr. Michael Becker cheered on their teams from the sidelines.

Suspenseful play reached its peak at the end of the fourth quarter as Michael Daly, Theology I, and quarterback for the Thunder, threw a last-second Hail Mary pass to Doug Liebsch. Its reception seemingly tied the game, until the resulting touchdown was overturned; Daly had overstepped the line of scrimmage.

Saint John Vianney took the victory 20-13. Congratulations, prayers and fellowship followed the game. Archbishop John Nienstedt’s blessing punctuated an exciting evening with awareness of the seminaries’ brotherhood in formation for the priesthood, as well as an eagerness for next year’s game.

**Ireland Memorial Lecture Stresses a Priest’s Role in the New Evangelization**

Fr. Andrew Cozzens, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of Liturgy at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, presented the Ireland Memorial lecture on Oct. 15. The lecture, delivered to a full crowd, was entitled “From Crisis to Holiness: Vatican II, Blessed John Paul II and the Renewal of the Ministerial Priesthood.” It addressed the post-conciliar crises in the ministerial priesthood that led to John Paul II’s invitation to more deeply consider the identity of the ministerial priesthood as holy and charitable, rooted in the council’s vision.

“I want the seminarians to fully realize the importance of understanding their priestly identity in the post-Vatican II world as Blessed John Paul II taught so clearly,” Fr. Cozzens said.

The next Ireland Memorial Lecture will be held on Thursday, April 11. Auxiliary Bishop Arthur Kennedy of Boston will be delivering a keynote address titled “The New Evangelization: Emergence and Conversion in the Lord.”
A TRIBUTE OF ‘EXCELLENCE’ FOR FR. MICHAEL BYRON

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” – Romans 8:28

After 17 years of faithful service to The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, Fr. Michael Byron retired from the classroom and moved into the next phase of his priestly ministry as a full-time pastor. The seminary community gathered on Oct. 22 to thank Fr. Byron for his many contributions during years of dedication to his vocation. These contributions left an indelible impression on faculty, staff and seminarians alike.

Reflecting on Fr. Byron’s commitment to the seminary, Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, aptly chose the word “excellence” to describe his career and ministry. “This mark of excellence was brought to life by three qualities,” she explained, “dedication, giftedness and prayerfulness.”

At The Saint Paul Seminary, his dedication was most evident in his preparation for and teaching of the major courses in systematic theology, for which he was so capably educated. “Obvious was the effectiveness of the approach Fr. Mike used in relating pastoral practice to his course content, bringing alive for a generation of seminarians concrete ways of meeting the spiritual needs of parishioners,” Sr. Katarina said.

She fondly recalled Fr. Byron’s giftedness. “His outstanding academic achievements are well known; however, another measure of his giftedness is found in his exceptional singing voice, a gift that enhanced the liturgical and spiritual life of the seminary.”

Finally, Sr. Katarina recognized Fr. Byron as a faithful man of prayer, recalling, “His reflective, prayerful way sustained him through difficult times and has nourished him during his years at the seminary, as it will in his new parish assignment.”

The evening concluded with a gift on behalf of The Saint Paul Seminary. Rector Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan presented Fr. Byron with a desk clock, a gift from a grateful community who wishes him the best in his continuing service as a priest – teacher, pastor and inspirational leader.

Fr. Michael Byron delivers a thoughtful homily engaging students and faculty.

Photos by Tony Bombardo/University of St. Thomas
As the Church marked All Saints Day, supporters of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity gathered Nov. 1 for Mass and an awards luncheon honoring distinguished alumni. It was a welcome opportunity for members of The Hill Society to unite in prayer and affirm the seminary’s powerful impact.

The Hill Society is a community of Saint Paul Seminary donors who have chosen to give a deferred gift or bequest, advancing the work of James J. and Mary Hill, who established the seminary in 1894.

During the Nov. 1 luncheon, Vice Rector Fr. Robert Pish reflected on the Hill’s and the seminary’s early influence. “It’s a partnership that produced a wonderful effect in settling a lot of Catholics in Minnesota, and now we hope and pray it continues to have wonderful effects in advancing the New Evangelization,” he said. “There is always work to be done.”

The Hill Society raises $800,000 a year for the seminary, sustaining the Msgr. Jerome D. Quinn Institute of Biblical Studies and enabling the seminarians to take life-changing trips to Rome and Jerusalem.

Members of the Hill Society believe that supporting the future Church and its priests is the most significant legacy gift they could offer.

“The thing I want most is to have good priests,” said Harold Mullen from the Church of St. Joseph in West St. Paul. He and his wife, Bernice, have been part of The Hill Society for five years. Witnessing the good work of the seminary and meeting its fine young men gives them hope.

Meanwhile, St. Mark’s parishioner Edith Nowicki has belonged to The Hill Society for decades. “I think it’s important that our seminarians are supported,” said the St. Paul resident. Donating to The Saint Paul Seminary on an ongoing basis is also important to her. “I think it’s the first donation I make after the first of the year.”

Virginia Schubert, a member of Nativity and St. Agnes in St. Paul and former board member of The Saint Paul Seminary, said she’s grateful for her role in The Hill Society. “It’s rewarding,” she stated. “We need to have holy priests, faithfully Catholic priests.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI: A BISHOP & AN ADORER

The Saint Paul Seminary recognized two distinguished alumni at its annual Hill Society gathering. The Distinguished Alumni Award was first implemented in 1994 to recognize those alumni, both ordained and lay, who have lived their vocation in extraordinary ways.
Rector Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan lauded the 2012 honorees at the Nov. 1 luncheon, describing them as “two people who tirelessly express their deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ in their daily lives.” He added, “They are both exceptional friends of the seminary.”

MARY HART
The first to be recognized was Mary Hart, an unceasing volunteer and ardent advocate of Eucharistic Adoration who was responsible for the archdiocese’s first 24-hour adoration chapel, established in the mid 1980s at St. Mary’s in Shakopee.

“It has been said that it would take 20 people to do what Mary does,” Msgr. Callaghan said in his introduction of her. Mary gave a warm and animated address, full of humor and heart. “The responsorial today said, ‘Seek the face of the Lord,’” Hart said in her opening comments. “I see his face all the time: We have Eucharistic Adoration in Shakopee! That’s what it’s all about – prayer, just being with the Lord. …And that’s what we need in this age, to have the church open 24/7 for prayer.”

Having adoration at St. Mary’s has been a tremendous blessing, Hart said. “We are truly blessed. We have seen miracles!”

One young man said his embrace of Catholicism and call to priesthood began in St. Mary’s adoration chapel, Hart said. She made a point to credit others at her parish and in her community who have helped her promote adoration and share the faith. “I love belonging to The Hill Society. You can’t outdo the Lord in generosity.”

BISHOP JOHN LEVOIR
The second honored alumnus was New Ulm Bishop John M. LeVoir, whose catechetical outreach – including a book on Theology of the Body and a pastoral letter on marriage – was saluted.

“Bishop LeVoir is a patient and loving sponsor of the truth and of the faith,” Msgr. Callaghan said, crediting him for “innovation in exceptional catechesis.”

Bishop LeVoir thanked The Saint Paul Seminary for the tremendous honor and expressed his appreciation of the seminary’s good work. “When young men come to The Saint Paul Seminary they meet Jesus Christ,” he said. “I think that’s the highest compliment you can give a seminary.”

In a short address, Bishop LeVoir shared three lessons he has learned over the years:

- “Never take our Catholic faith for granted. …It’s a pearl of great price.”
- “Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- “Always stay close to the Blessed Sacrament and always go to Mary. Mary will take care of you.”

Elaborating on his third point, Bishop LeVoir said that life brings many challenges. “But I pray the rosary every day and I say, ‘Mary, you have to see me through.’ And she does.”
Working around a hectic election week, the seminarians picked up the phones for their annual Phone-A-Thon to thank seminary donors and ask for their continued support. Working in teams on Nov. 5, 7 and 8, the seminarians raised more than $32,000. A sincere thanks goes out to the callers and those who pledged their generous support over the phone!

The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary joined the University of St. Thomas community in worship and fellowship during the annual Borromeo Weekend, held Nov. 2-4. With a combined total of 237 seminarians, Rector Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan noted the strong number of both graduate and undergraduate men as “a great blessing for our seminaries and for the entire Church.” To foster fraternity between the two seminaries and devotion to St. Charles Borromeo, patron saint of seminarians, the men led a candlelit Eucharistic procession from the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel to St. Mary’s Chapel beginning 40 hours of adoration and fellowship.

Seminarians from The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary walk by candlelight from St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel to St. Mary’s Chapel to begin 40 hours of prayer during Borromeo Weekend, Nov. 2-4. Photo by Ted Brakob/University of St. Thomas.

237 Seminarians Witness to Faith During Eighth Annual Borromeo Weekend

Seminarian Phone-A-Thon Another Success
In its seventh year, The Saint Paul Seminary continued its tradition of inviting women for an Advent morning of reflection as a prayerful Christmas gift. Sponsored by the Women’s Auxiliary, friends of the seminary gathered on Dec. 8 for a time of faith and fellowship at the beginning of the Christmas season. Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan began the morning by celebrating Mass, followed by two reflections directed by Fr. Jeffrey Huard, Director of Spiritual Formation at the seminary.

The theme of the retreat was entitled “The Life of Prayer and the Love That Suffers.” Msgr. Callaghan acknowledged the gifts that women give freely to family and friends. He also thanked them for the prayers and support they have shared with those men preparing for the priesthood.

St. Mary’s Chapel was filled with people, beautiful prayer and music on Dec. 2 for Lessons and Carols, an annual celebration of Advent. Two seminary groups led the songs: Dr. David Jenkins directed The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale, and seminarian Kyle Kowalczyk, Theology I, directed The Saint Paul Seminary Schola. Organist Michelle Plombon, guitarist Chris Kachian and flutist Wendy Barton-Silhavy provided musical accompaniment. The gathering served as a festive and joyful opportunity for the seminary and surrounding community to unite in song and fellowship.
The final ordination for The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity’s Class of 2012 took place Dec. 1 in Ghana, Africa. Four young men were ordained during a five-hour Mass overflowing with vitality.

Deacons Peter Akudugu, Albert Wugaa, Robert Abotzabire and Kevin Abakisi were ordained to the priesthood at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bawku, Ghana, for the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga. Among more than 3,000 people witnessing the special occasion – many of whom gathered under tents lining the open church – were nine priests from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Vicar General Fr. Peter Laird and Sr. Katarina Schuth, The Saint Paul Seminary’s Endowed Chair for the Social Scientific Study of Religion. They described the hot day as an unforgettable experience touched by the Holy Spirit and filled with joy and gratitude, singing, drumming and dancing. Ghanaian women carried the offertory gifts in baskets on their heads en route to the altar, including handicrafts and produce provided by the local Christian community.

The ordination marked the culmination of an incredible journey for the four young men who lived and studied at The Saint Paul Seminary the past four years. Fr. Peter Akudugu, 35, is a Catholic convert who grew up in a family that practiced the traditional, native Ghanaian religion and worked as a state registered nurse before joining the major seminary. Fr. Albert Wugaa, 32, the youngest of nine, lost his father early in life. He worked as a shepherd until the age of 10 before attending elementary school. Fr. Robert Abotzabire, 28, is a cradle Catholic who began preaching to his classmates in fifth grade. And Fr. Kevin Abakisi, 27, first felt drawn to priesthood as an altar boy.

“Witnessing their ordination was a joyous occasion,” Sr. Katarina said. “The four men were tremendously grace-filled. Their joy in reaching this important moment was evident, and they anticipate serving the people of their diocese with great enthusiasm.”
Recently, while visiting with a good friend of the seminary, I learned about a proposal to help the nation’s debt crisis by limiting tax deductible donations to $25,000 per household. For the sake of institutions that rely on charitable giving, I hope this doesn’t come to pass. Contributions from individuals, especially those of means, play an essential role in the life of the non-profit. Of the $300 billion that was given to charitable institutions in 2011, 70 percent was given by individuals. And half of what was given came from the top 3 percent of American households.

Regardless of what the government decides to do, the conversation got me thinking about whether or not generosity can be mandated – from the government, from the pulpit or from an advancement office. Certainly there are a number of motivations for giving: habit, guilt, peer pressure, membership benefits. Ultimately, generosity is a free act of the will. Freedom is at the heart of every good gift – like the widow’s mite, the “yes” of a seminarian, the call of the disciple, or the financial support from a benefactor.

Some time ago, we received a note with a very substantial pledge to the seminary. It read as follows:

“I would like to make a commitment to The Saint Paul Seminary Endowment efforts and enclosed is a first installment. I have faith I will be able to exceed twice that level or more…we will have to see, as it is for everything, it remains in His hands.”

Many times I have gone back to the truth of that note. Ultimately, all that we have is a gift from above. Everything remains in His hands. Our God is very generous. He has no limits, provides with joy all that is needed and gives Himself completely to us. He invites us to do the same – with our time, with our affections and with our practical goods.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Dr. Christopher Thompson, Academic Dean, gave an address entitled “The Work of Man as Instrument of a Just Society,” at the European Study Meeting of International Catholic Rural Life in collaboration with Europäische Zentrum für Arbeiternehmerfragen (EZA) in Crete, Greece on Dec. 1. Dr. Thompson chairs the audit committee for the Board of the International Catholic Rural Association.

Fr. Andrew Cozzens, Assistant Professor of Sacramental Theology, gave a day of recollection for the seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis on Oct. 9 on the topic of the priest as a chaste spouse. Fr. Cozzens also presented “From Crisis to Holiness: Vatican II, Blessed John Paul II and the Renewal of the Ministerial Priesthood” at the Ireland Memorial Lecture Series on Oct. 15 (see Seminary News on pg.10). At a symposium for the Year of Faith on Nov. 10 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Fr. Cozzens led a conference entitled “Presbyterorum Ordinis: The Call of the Priest to Live the Total Self-Gift of Christ’s Pastoral Charity.” Additionally, Fr. Cozzens led a day of recollection for the priests of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at Holy Hill Monastery in Wisconsin on Dec. 11. His talk was entitled “Living by Faith and Not by Sight.”


Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, spent four weeks during the summer in Israel. He assisted in the archaeological excavation of Tel-Megiddo, the Biblical site known in the New Testament as Armageddon. During the excavation, which was led by Tel Aviv University, he made contacts at the university which were renewed in January when TAU welcomed Fr. Betancourt and 20 Theology III students for lectures and archaeological tours of the Holy Land during a scriptural preaching course in Israel. Fr. Betancourt also attended two international conferences: the Society for Old Testament Study in Manchester, England, on July 16-19 and the Society of Biblical Literature International Conference in Amsterdam on July 22-26. This fall he attended the national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Chicago on Nov. 16-20.

Dr. Deborah Savage, Professor of Philosophy and Pastoral Ministry, presented “Views from the Real World: Separating Fact from Fiction in the Marriage Debate,” part of an extensive series on marriage prior to the November election, at Epiphany Catholic Church in Coon Rapids on Oct. 24. Additionally, Dr. Savage presented a talk entitled “Religious Liberty and the Equality of Women” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Stillwater on Nov. 7.

THE SEMINARY HOSTS ANNUAL COLLEGIALITY DAY
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity hosted the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools Collegiality Day on Oct. 10. Attended by more than 45 faculty members from their respective schools, this is an annual event where the theological institutions gather for ecumenical fellowship and collaboration. The consortium is comprised of five local seminaries: Bethel University, St. John’s University, Lutheran Seminary, United Theological Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary. After dinner in the Anderson Student Center, Rev. Steven Newcom, Director of the Center for Public Ministry at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, delivered a presentation entitled “Training Leaders to do Ministry in the Public Sphere.” The entire group enjoyed a lively discussion following the presentation.
Deacon Andrew Jaspers was older than many of his brother seminarians when he entered The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, but the 34-year-old from Lake Crystal, Minnesota, has been preparing for priesthood for many years, through missionary work, through teaching and most notably through his acclaimed scholarship.

A prolific writer, Deacon Jaspers keeps a pad of paper near his bed, prepared for bursts of inspiration arriving at late or early hours. “It’s really exhilarating! You’ll write a few paragraphs and it’ll get slower and slower and you’re trying to make a breakthrough and all of a sudden you wake up the next morning and it’s crystal clear and you can just write. There’s so much to just letting a little bit of time pass so your mind can work it out and then you return to the problem and it’s already solved.”

Deacon Jaspers, a former philosophy instructor at Creighton University in Omaha, was honored with a prestigious philosophy award Oct. 13 at the 36th Annual American Maritain Association meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended by several world-class philosophers. There, Deacon Jaspers delivered his essay “Artistic and Spiritual Inspiration: Maritain’s Augustinian Thomism.”

Professors and advisors at The Saint Paul Seminary have provided generous support of his work, Deacon Jaspers said, enabling him to continue his scholarship as he manages all the duties of seminary life. Jumping back and forth from class work and philosophical study has been enriching, with one informing the other and vice versa. “I’m constantly getting fruits that I can put into all those areas,” said Deacon Jaspers, who is preparing for priesthood in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis this spring.

Academic Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson commended the seminarian. “Deacon Jaspers is one of our stronger students academically,” he said. “None of us is entirely surprised that his talent is recognized by others. We are very proud of him and his hard work.”

Nativity scene graces seminary grounds

The look and feel of the Advent season took on new meaning this year when an anonymous family generously donated a hand-crafted stable to be placed in the seminary courtyard. Members of this extended family delivered and set up the new stable. They also donated the statues of the Holy Family, angel, wise men and sheep to fill the structure. The new crèche was blessed by Msgr. Callaghan on Dec. 16, the third Sunday of Advent. Nestled in the snow throughout the season, visitors and residents of the seminary enjoyed the peaceful presence of Bethlehem right on seminary ground.

In Memoriam

Rev. Richard V. Berg ’52
Dr. Gordon Chatterton ’55
Mr. Henry Christenson ’65
Rev. James E. Dandelet ’54
Rev. James E. Holl ’48

Rev. Bernard Kerrigan ’48
Msgr. Peter Klauck ’55
Rev. Robert Kulas ’54
Rev. Martin Manning ’43
Rev. John Mika ’72
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Graduate Studies Information Night</td>
<td>5:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Administration Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>Chrism Mass</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Cathedral of Saint Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>Friends Mass and Breakfast</td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Chapel (by invitation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>Priests V. Seminarians Basketball Tournament</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
<td>DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Ordination to the Diaconate, Theology III</td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Friends Mass and Breakfast</td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Chapel (by invitation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute Graduation</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Ordination to the Priesthood</td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Cathedral of Saint Paul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>