ORACLE
THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

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120 Years
OF FORMATION

ORACLE
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
fall 2014
1894-2014
WE ARE CHURCH, WE ARE FAMILY

My dear friends,

St. John Chrysostom, great Bishop and Doctor of the Church, once said: “What we do in the Church requires a pure heart, not special garments. What we do outside requires great dedication . . . for God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts.”

In a public audience earlier this year, Pope Francis invited us all to “feel the warmth of being the family of God.” Our Holy Father asked what we do to make the Church a community in which everyone feels welcome and understood, in which everyone feels the mercy and love of God who renews life.

Faith is a gift and an act that affects us personally, but God calls us to live our faith together as a family, as the Church. With this in mind, we have chosen a theme and special focus for our community this year: “We are Church, We are Family: Open Minds, Open Hearts!”

What comes from within? What comes from the heart? For all of us who have been baptized, it should be the light of Christ. For our seminary community, I put forward the words of St. Timothy in his first letter:

“Do not let people disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all believers in the way you speak and act, and in your love and your faith, and your purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

That is how we make the light of Christ shine forth! It is by encountering Jesus in prayer and in our neighbor that our hearts will burn with the fire of His love.

As we move forward with Christ this year, I ask that you consider the Gospel scene on that road to Emmaus as two men walked along, discussing, arguing, remembering – and the Lord walked into their lives. They did not recognize Him. They were too caught up in themselves, their thoughts, their worries, their concerns. But when He spoke, they felt it – warmth at His words – God’s words. He taught them. He brought them back to basic truths and teachings.

Then, He came to table with them. He sat down with them. They ate and drank; they shared. And then they knew – they knew Him in the breaking of bread: This is My Body, this is My Blood, for you! One in mind, one in heart, one in love.

It is as Church, as a family, that we know that we are one. Only then will we feel our hearts burning within us. In that encounter with the Eucharistic Lord we will feel the warmth of being the family of God. It is in that encounter with Jesus our Savior that we will find our hope. Then we will realize the words of Isaiah the Prophet:

“They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on eagles’ wings, they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

My dear friends, pray for us as we begin this new year. Pray that with open minds and open hearts, we help our brothers and sisters feel welcome and understood as part of the family of the Church so that they will truly feel the mercy and the love of God.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President
With grateful thanks for our seminarians, priests, graduate students, faculty and staff, The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity began the academic year on September 3, the Feast of St. Gregory, with the Gaudeamus Mass. Archbishop John Nienstedt celebrated the annual Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel that marks the official beginning of the school year. Members of the faculty recited a Profession of Faith and signed an Oath of Fidelity.

Prior to Mass, the archbishop blessed a newly installed statue of St. Padre Pio, crafted by artist Gregor Mussner of Sacred Art Studio in Ortisei, Italy. This lifelike rendering of the holy friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic resides in the alcove to the right of the altar.
Ninety-six seminarians are in formation at the seminary this fall representing 18 dioceses and three institutes of religious life.

### Seminarian Enrollment

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### Francis at the Fair!

Once again, Pope Francis was a hit at the Minnesota State Fair. With a push on social media and local radio stations leading up to the Fair, faculty and staff of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity passed out more than 3,000 “Fans of Francis” to hot and happy fairgoers at the University of St. Thomas booth in the Education Building on Sunday, August 24.

For the second year in a row, these popular fans brought smiles to everyone – Catholic and non-Catholic alike – expressing their love of the Holy Father.

Left: WCCO Radio Host Dave Lee waves his fan of sports broadcaster Sid Hartman, while School of Divinity Admissions Counselor Amy Burbach waves her fan of Pope Francis.

Below: Theology III seminarians Mark Pavlak and Michael Daly wave their Francis Fans at the main entrance of the Fair.
A NEW LOOK ONLINE

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity launched a new and improved website this summer, featuring updated information and user-friendly features. Visit our site to get information on events happening at the seminary, learn more about our seminary and graduate formation programs, watch our most recent video, or catch up on our publications.

Potential seminarians can learn more about priestly formation and our theology and pre-theology programs, while potential graduate students can view current course offerings, request more information or complete an online application. There is also an easy and secure way to give to the seminary online.

Don't forget to “like” us on Facebook, too! This is another great way to catch the current events at the seminary. Remember to use our full name when searching for us: The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

VISIT US AT
www.saintpaulseminary.org
Dr. John Froula was hired as a tenure-track faculty member in the area of Systematic Theology effective August 1. Froula earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College in 1999, a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Teresa in 2006, and a Ph.D. in Theology from Ave Maria University in 2012 with a specialization in Systematics and minor in Moral Theology. He has served as a full-time teacher in Catholic high schools; as an adjunct professor at Ave Maria University and Blessed Edmund Rice School of Pastoral Ministry in association with Barry University; and as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

Rev. Kevin Zilverberg, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, began teaching Sacred Scripture and serving as a formation director for seminarians beginning this semester. Fr. Zilverberg earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas and a certificate from the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in 2003. After earning a pontifical S.T.B. and a Master of Divinity degree from St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Zilverberg was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sioux Falls in 2007. He served as Parochial Vicar in Sioux Falls from 2007-2009, and in Aberdeen and Westport from 2009-2011. He completed his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (SSL) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome in June 2014.

Dr. William Stevenson was hired as a tenure-track faculty member in the area of Systematic Theology effective August 1. Stevenson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and History from the College of St. Thomas and a Ph.D. in Theology/Political Philosophy from Boston College. He has served as an adjunct professor at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity; as a writer/consultant for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference; as Director of Theology at Providence Academy; as an Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas; as a Tutor (Professor) at St. John’s College in Annapolis; and as an Adjunct Professor at the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University.

Mr. Tizoc Rosales joined The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Department of Institutional Advancement as the Associate Director of Advancement on September 1. Rosales brings with him a broad range of fundraising experience, including his work as Development Director for Saint Paul’s Outreach for the past three years. He will be working with Vice President for Institutional Advancement Tom Ryan to develop and broaden constituent relations, with a strong focus on Saint John Vianney College Seminary. His role will further enhance the collaborative efforts of both seminaries.
Tucked into the Bryant neighborhood on the south side of Minneapolis is a small parish with a big name - The Church of St. Leonard of Port Maurice. For four weeks this summer, five seminarians were welcomed into this diverse faith community that calls itself the “Best Little Parish this Side of Heaven.”

Theology III seminarians Michael Daly and Charles Mugabi, Theology I seminarians Nic Feddema and Tim Tran, and Saint John Vianney alumni Joe Connelly participated in The Saint Paul Seminary’s Evangelization in Action (EIA) program at St. Leonard’s.

Now in its third year, EIA is a program in which the seminarians are immersed in a parish and neighborhood to bring Christ to the people. This might mean welcoming someone to a parish event or knocking on a stranger’s door to start a conversation. The program can be challenging, even daunting, but the dividends can be great.

“The guys brought with them a lot of energy and enthusiasm,” said Pastor Fr. Steve LaCanne, “and the parishioners responded.”

Seminarians in the EIA program have been immersed in a variety of parishes throughout the metro area. This was a first for St. Leonard’s, a small urban parish which includes approximately 120 households. Except for the pastor and the pianist, the parish is run entirely by volunteers, a testament to those who call St. Leonard’s home.

The seminarians’ arrival coincided perfectly with “Mission Month” at St. Leonard’s. After meeting with EIA program directors, Dr. Charlotte Berres and Fr. Allen Kuss, Fr. LaCanne formed a committee of seven parishioners to work with the seminarians in reaching out to the neighborhood.

“The volunteers were so good to us,” Feddema said. “They helped every day, even going door to door with us to talk to people in the neighborhood.”
Once welcomed into their summer parish home, the seminarians started the business of evangelization. “Naturally, I was nervous,” Feddema admitted, “but that gradually went away when we started interacting with the people.”

On warm summer days, the interactions came easier as the neighbors spent more time outside. With the kids, all they needed was a soccer ball and an effortless evangelization would begin. For the adults, a more coordinated plan was put in place. Daily door knocking gave way to Monday catechesis, Wednesday Rosary and Mass, and Thursday game nights at the parish.

Two weeks into the program, Feddema’s father Tim pulled up in his truck with a trailer full of grills in tow. He fired up the grills and the front lawn of St. Leonard’s was filled with more than 60 parishioners and neighbors enjoying a summer picnic and ice cream social. The fruits of Mission Month were on full display that night.

By the end of the program, the seminarians helped establish a bilingual Rosary procession in the grotto across the street from the parish. This time of prayer, followed by Wednesday evening Mass, was well attended by both English and Spanish-speaking parishioners.

“What an honor to see these men at work in our parish,” said Fr. LaCanne. “The seminarians gave, and we received so much in return.”

**SPIRITUAL PASTORAL MINISTRY**

*A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE*

Spiritual Pastoral Ministry (SPM), another highly regarded summer program of The Saint Paul Seminary, brought seminarians to hospitals and health care facilities to meet people in their suffering and comfort them through prayer. Perhaps best described as “the front lines,” SPM is where seminarians put ministry into practice, often when people are at their most vulnerable.

Perhaps no one experienced this more immediately than Chris Weber, a Theology II seminarian from the Diocese of Davenport. Weber was assigned to North Memorial Medical Center, a Level I Trauma Center in Robbinsdale, Minnesota, along with Derek Wiechmann (St. Cloud), Herbert Habumuremyi (Kabale, Uganda), and Crawford Bennett (Venice, Florida).

Within 15 minutes of receiving his hospital clearance badge, Weber found himself working with a family as they made end-of-life decisions for their mother who had suffered a massive stroke.

“At first, her sons were not interested in having a priest visit their mom,” Weber said. “But when I shared with them how much my dad and I had appreciated having a priest present when my own mother was dying, and what a blessing it was to know that she had received the Sacrament of the Sick before her death, they opened up to the idea. In the end they found it very comforting to have the Church there with them in that moment.”

Weber and his classmates were blessed to work with Fr. Jim Livingston, chaplain at North Memorial who has faithfully assisted the SPM program the past four summers. Like all SPM supervisors, Fr. Livingston worked with the
seminarians to process the situations they encountered during their shifts, prayed with them, and answered countless questions that go with the territory.

In addition to spending time with patients and chaplains, an important component of the SPM program is the classroom time known as “verbatims.” This is when seminarians examine Church teaching on suffering and discuss what can be learned in the situations they encounter.

Theology II seminarian Robert Whitney (Anchorage) found this evaluation time with his peers and instructors invaluable. “We learned how unique Catholic spirituality is when it comes to suffering,” he said. “Oftentimes, I could see that our Catholic patients were at peace because their suffering is not meaningless.”

Whitney was assigned to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center with classmates Tim Sandquist, Paul Baker, Benjamin Wittnebel, all from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and Andrew Thuringer (Sioux Falls). They were expertly encouraged and guided by Fr. Damian Schill, chief chaplain at the VA, who has worked with our seminarians since 2011.

“Fr. Damian was very intentional with us,” Whitney described. “He listened; we asked a lot of questions. Nothing was off limits.”

Whitney is grateful for the time spent with patients and their families, even considering it a glimpse of what his life will be like as a priest. “I realized how important it is for a priest to visit a parishioner who is suffering,” he said. “Patients never forget that visit.”

In addition to the seminarians who served at North Memorial and the VA, 11 other seminarians completed their 8-week SPM program at six locations, including Catholic Eldercare, United Hospital, Lyngblomsten Care Center, Presbyterian Homes – Boutwells Landing, Woodbury Health Care Center, and Shalom Homes.

**DEACON SUMMER PLACEMENTS**

**ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

For transitional deacons, the summer before their final year at the seminary means placement in a parish. Essentially, this is “on-the-job training” for those who will be ordained priests next spring.

Deacons John Christianson and Bryan Kujawa of the Diocese of Crookston put on several new hats immediately following their May 31 diaconal ordination (pictured at right). Christianson was placed with Fr. Larry Delaney at St. Joseph’s in Moorhead, the largest parish in the diocese with 1,750 registered families. “The place is hopping!” he explained. “I helped
with everything from preaching to assisting with the sacraments to putting in shifts at the front desk of the parish office.”

Kujawa’s life was also on fast forward this summer at Sacred Heart Parish in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Moving into the parish rectory only a few days after his ordination to the diaconate, he worked in tandem with Msgr. Mike Foltz, serving the parish of 1,200 families which also includes a high school. Like Deacon Christianson, he preached at their daily and Sunday Masses, assisted with two funerals, baptized four babies, celebrated two weddings, and visited the sick. Understandably, it is challenging for him to leave his summer parish to return to class, but he also knows that his final year of seminary is important. “This summer experience in the parish showed me that I am still learning,” Kujawa said.

Deacon TJ McKenzie was placed at Blessed Sacrament and St. Thomas the Apostle on the east side of St. Paul, working with Fr. Donald DeGrood. From the start, McKenzie worked with all ages, from the youngest members of the parish in vacation Bible school, to the teens in youth group, to the seniors during their “Young at Heart” gatherings after daily Mass.

A highlight of McKenzie’s summer was the trip he took with the parish youth group to Catholic Heart Work Camp in Detroit Lakes. The contingency of eight teens and three adults joined more than 300 others for a week of work and immersion into the Catholic faith.

“Surrounded by their peers, these kids were excited about the projects and their faith,” McKenzie explained. They spent their days painting homes, weeding gardens and helping with household projects for people in need throughout the area. All of this, in addition to daily Mass, small group discussions, confession, adoration, and praying the Rosary made for jam-packed days. “I really had to switch gears when I came back to the parishes,” McKenzie said. “But it was all worth it to see the kids come alive with their faith.”

Julie Taylor, the faith formation director at Blessed Sacrament, agreed. “Deacon TJ had an enthusiasm and joy for everything he did,” she said. “It was contagious.”

On Deacon TJ McKenzie’s last day at Blessed Sacrament and St. Thomas the Apostle, Fr. Don DeGrood presented him with a chalice which he plans to use once ordained. Deacon TJ is shown here with Deacon Jerry Saladin and members of the parishes.
Taylor also noticed how profoundly McKenzie affected everyone in the parish. “We even had people praying that he wouldn’t leave at the end of the summer,” she said.

A farewell reception was held for McKenzie during which several parishioners commented that the only downside to the summer deacon placement program was having to say goodbye.

Deacon TJ felt the same, saying, “It was so great to be with the people of God in the parish.”

On August 3, Deacon Bruno Nwachukwu celebrated his first baptisms at St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony, exactly three months after his ordination to the diaconate. Here he is shown baptizing one of Felix and Lindsay Vigeant’s twin daughters.

Deacon TJ and Fr. DeGrood celebrate Shelly and Matt Johnson’s wedding at Blessed Sacrament this summer.

**SPANISH AND SERVICE IN THE SUMMER**

Meanwhile, eight Theology III seminarians were immersed in Spanish and service this summer in Mexico and Venezuela. While in Mexico, the men devoted themselves to one-on-one tutoring for six hours each day for eight weeks to sharpen their Spanish skills. Then it was on to Venezuela for two weeks of service and sightseeing. The seminarians’ newly refined language skills were put into practice at the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis’ mission parish Jesucristo Resucitado. They considered it a blessing to make pastoral visits in addition to witnessing Fr. Greg Schaffer minister to his parishioners and neighbors, many of whom have few worldly goods but possess an abundance of joy.

Lower left: The Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis’ mission parish Jesucristo Resucitado in Venezuela. Lower right: Dean of Men Fr. John Floeder and the seminarians are pictured with members of the parish. Upper right: Doug Liebsch, Diocese of St. Cloud, samples the local fare in Mexico.
Today, more than ever, we need good and holy priests. In 1894, Archbishop John Ireland answered the cry from the people of The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to send more men who would be shepherds for our churches, leaders in the community, men who people could turn to in times of joy and hardship, and men who would celebrate the sacraments at pivotal moments in their lives.

As a result, hundreds of faithful priest alumni of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity have served the local and worldwide Church with great love and fidelity. They have enriched our faith and blessed our lives.

Times have certainly changed since the late 1800’s, but the desire and need for God’s love never changes. That is why men still answer God’s call to “cast out into the deep” and follow Christ as their model daily. That is why faithful lay men and women serve the Church in ecclesial roles of service. This is what the people of God long for and deserve.

Pope Francis said that seminary formation must be “a work of art.” He went on to emphasize that priestly formation “must form men after the heart of the Shepherd.”

The USCCB’s Program of Priestly Formation (PPF) has four essential pillars of formation: human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral. The important work of priestly formation always begins with human formation.

The Saint Paul Seminary’s priestly formation program is designed to develop the gifts of each seminarian, as well as to affirm a seminarian’s call to and suitability for priestly ministry. Throughout the formation process the seminary looks to priest formators, faculty and external professionals to help each seminarian develop himself in areas critical to the life of a priest. A seminarian’s progress is rigorously assessed by all those involved in his formation on a regular basis.

In 2006, in response to the sexual abuse crisis in the United States, the Holy See conducted an apostolic visitation of all seminaries to ensure that seminary formation programs properly follow Church teaching and the PPF. The Holy See report found The Saint Paul Seminary’s admissions process strong, noting its collaboration with psychological experts to help discern if men are fit for priestly ministry. Additionally, the apostolic visitation reinforced the need for strong formation in the areas of celibacy and priestly identity.

The goal of the formation program at The Saint Paul Seminary is to help seminarians be holy and compassionate men – ardent, but gentle ministers of the Gospel. They are preparing to be men of the Eucharist, Marian men, men of communion, authentic “bridge builders,” who will heal wounds and warm hearts. As priests they must be witnesses and apostles of the love of the heart of Jesus and His Mother Mary.
A comprehensive process of formation begins even before a man is admitted to the seminary. Prior to acceptance, he undergoes a thorough psychological screening process within his own diocese:

- Candidates are fully screened by a reputable psychologist.
- A candidate’s pastor and others who know him attest to his viability.
- Each Vocation Office completes a thorough review of the candidate, after which the candidate is accepted or denied by the sponsoring diocese.
- A Seminary Admission Committee reviews application materials and interviews candidates, including a psychological screening with a personal, historical inventory of each candidate.
- The results of the Admission Committee review, including their recommendation, is presented to the Rector who makes a final decision about acceptance.

Once enrolled in the seminary, all aspects of living a celibate life are given high priority and are present throughout the entire formation program. It is woven into class work and weekly formation conferences, as well as into formation and spiritual direction. The seminarian is expected to speak about his understanding of celibate chastity and his readiness for the celibate commitment in this process. The seminarian’s annual evaluation judges his aptitude for priestly life and ministry, as well as his capacity to lead a chaste and celibate life.

While in seminary, the formation regarding celibacy deepens as men move toward ordination. In particular, men in Theology III and IV focus on the human, psychological and legal dimensions of sexual issues in ministry, including appropriate boundaries in pastoral relationships as established in the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”
Additionally:

- Every seminarian is required to complete VIRTUS, a safe environment training program for adults.
- Each seminarian has a priest formation director and a priest spiritual director with whom he meets five times per semester.
- Our formation faculty meets twice a month to discuss each class and particular concerns that may have surfaced.
- Every Wednesday morning is devoted to human and spiritual formation topics, with many relating to the protection of children and building a healthy, integrated life as a priest. Topics include celibacy, technology, psychosexual development, mental health issues, and living a virtuous life. These weekly seminars are presented by members of our faculty as well as certified professionals from the community at large.
- Upon admission to candidacy (Theology I), each seminarian is assigned to a teaching parish where a senior pastor and a lay committee provide additional feedback and monitoring. The seminarian remains with this parish throughout their four years of seminary training.
- Opportunities for psychological consultation are open to any seminarian. Some seminarians may be required to consult a psychologist if the Rector deems necessary.

The above account outlines in particular human formation at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity which deals with only one (though very critical) aspect of priestly formation. The goal of priestly formation is to mold the entire person so that the priest can live a fully integrated, happy, holy and fruitful vocation. Hence, the spiritual, pastoral and intellectual formation seminarians receive complements the human dimension as they prepare for the challenges of the day as men of service.

The Vatican Decree “Optatum Totius,” in speaking of human formation, states:

_The students should be accustomed to work properly at their own development. They are to be formed in strength of character, and, in general, they are to learn to esteem those virtues which are held in high regard by men and which recommend a minister of Christ. Such virtues are sincerity of mind, a constant concern for justice, fidelity to one’s promises, refinement in manners, modesty in speech coupled with charity._ (OT, 11)

Further, the Apostolic Exhortation “Pastores Dabo Vobis” ( _I Will Give You Shepherds_) underscores the absolute necessity for authentic human formation in the work of priestly formation:

_The priest, who is called to be a “living image” of Jesus Christ, head and Shepherd of the Church, should seek to reflect in himself, as much as possible, the human perfection which shines forth in the Incarnate Son of God . . . In order that his ministry may be humanly as credible and acceptable as possible, it is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity._ (PDV, 43)

It should always be kept in mind that the program of priestly formation is more than human formation. Even though we devote the best resources, wisdom, and knowledge to the effort, ultimately we need grace for it all to work. Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers labor in vain.

We are humbled and encouraged every day by those who hear and respond to God’s call to live as priests. We are grateful for those who live their priestly vocation with love, joy and fidelity. So often they are the unsung heroes who live with great love knowing that their reward is not of this earth. It awaits them.
Before fall classes began, new and returning graduate students of the School of Divinity were invited to campus for a day of orientation geared specifically to their unique programs. In addition to the “housekeeping” items always necessary at the outset, this was an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the role of the lay graduate programs and to grow in fellowship as a community.

“It is always a privilege to welcome the next generation of theologians,” Academic Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson remarked. “The caliber and commitment of our incoming class is edifying.”

**LAY ENROLLMENT**

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<td>Master of Arts in Religious Education (MARE)</td>
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Additionally, there are 15 non-degree seeking students.

More than 70 lay students are currently enrolled in one of the School of Divinity’s three graduate-level programs.
The Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute began a new year with the opening Mass on September 15 in St. Mary’s Chapel, celebrated by Bishop Lee Piché. Members of the returning Class of St. Francis, along with the new Class of St. Gianna, gathered to pray and celebrate as their walk through the Catechism continues. Current enrollment in the institute is more than 430.

Celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Bishop Piché encouraged both the new and returning students to consider the word “behold,” a term heard often in Scripture. He asked all to look, see and listen with a special attention or purpose. For the Christian, it is to look to God, to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit; to see, observe and understand His will through His Word.

The Catechetical Institute is an incredible opportunity to “behold” God and His Word, to keep our eyes open so that we can see and hear the Word of the Lord more clearly.

A member of the Class of St. Gianna (left) and Catechetical Institute Assistant Director Kelly Wahlquist (right) participate in the opening session and Mass in September.

Below: Fr. John Klockeman, Fr. Peter Williams and Deacon Joe Michalak make an Oath of Fidelity during the opening Mass. Vice Rector Fr. Williams is Co-Director of the institute along with Jeff Cavins. Fr. Klockeman and Deacon Michalak are institute instructors.
**SPO COMES TO THE SEMINARY**

Nearly 300 young adults from across the country gathered at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and Saint John Vianney College Seminary, August 2-9, for Saint Paul’s Outreach School of the New Evangelization.

The yearly event for college students was inspired by St. Pope John Paul II’s call to a New Evangelization and is sponsored by Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO), an organization dedicated to bringing the Catholic faith to college campuses.

Each day of the weeklong event includes praise and worship, breakout sessions, personal prayer, Mass and plenty of time for fun.

“We are real people simply living a life of discipleship to the full,” says Cameron O’Hearn, SPO videographer.

The Saint Paul Seminary has welcomed the School of the New Evangelization to campus since 2006.

**Vocations Day: Part Two**

There was no shortage of fun when teens from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis gathered at The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary on August 16 to play, pray and discern God’s will. Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Vocations Office, this was the second annual event designed to bring teens together to hear dynamic testimonies from seminarians, attend Mass and compete in ultimate Frisbee.

“One of the main fruits of Vocation Day is that it allows for young men to come and see what a seminary looks like,” said Vocations Director Fr. Troy Przybilla. “They are able to meet, pray, play and eat with seminarians who they learn are not much different than themselves. Once this fear of the unknown is removed, a young man can more easily see himself as a seminarian, discerning the priesthood in a seminary.”

In addition to the 74 young men, ages 12 – 17, who attended the Vocations Day at Saint John Vianney, 63 young women of the same age group attended the Daughters of God retreat at The Saint Paul Seminary to explore religious life.
On Saturday, August 30, Fr. John Klockeman, Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation, led a group of seminarians on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. In what has become a standard component of orientation, this pilgrimage provides new seminarians the opportunity to enter deeply into prayer before the beginning of the academic year.

Seminarians travel to the shrine each year to request the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to dedicate their studies and formation to her.

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“Jesus wants you to lift up the cross and let Him speak to your heart,” Bishop Lee Piché told attendees of the annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities in St. Mary’s Chapel on September 14. “Let Him remind you that you are not alone, you are loved, and you have something very, very wonderful to offer through your suffering.”

Seven young people received the sacrament of confirmation and others received their First Communion during the annual Mass that is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life. Families of the confirmands and communicants gathered for a sing-a-long before Mass and enjoyed an outdoor reception following the celebration.
SEMINARIANS FORMALLY ADMITTED TO CANDIDACY

On September 25, Bishop Arthur Kennedy, Archdiocese of Boston, admitted nine Theology I seminarians as candidates for Holy Orders during a Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel.

Admission to Candidacy marks the beginning of a seminarian’s major seminary enrollment. The presiding bishop hears each seminarian state his willingness to be ordained and accept the obligations that follow from that declaration. During the upcoming years of formation, each seminarian will go through four distinctive rites culminating in his ordination to the priesthood.

Eleven candidates for the permanent diaconate also participated as a formal step toward their ordination.

SPS VICTORIOUS IN ANNUAL RECTORS’ BOWL

On October 4, The Saint Paul Seminary “Sons of Thunder” took the field at O’Shaughnessy Stadium to face the Saint John Vianney “JAXX” in the 15th Annual Rectors’ Bowl. The Saturday night match-up pitted graduate seminarians against undergraduate seminarians in a battle for the coveted Rector’s trophy.

Friends, family and fans were welcomed to the game with cookies, hot chocolate and cider. With play-by-play announcements from the booth and an energetic pep band, there was something for everyone in attendance.

The Sons of Thunder took the lead early in the game and had 19 unanswered points before Fr. Michael Becker’s JAXX scored a touchdown in the third quarter. With a final score of 25-6, the trophy went home with Msgr. Callaghan and his Sons of Thunder.

Msgr. Callaghan is pictured below with the “Sons of Thunder” in 2005, his first winning team as Rector of the seminary. Do you recognize any of these men today?
In September, I traveled to Ontario, Canada, for a fishing trip. It was a “bucket list” trip with my younger brother, who is currently battling cancer, and two of our lifelong friends, one of whom has also dealt with cancer. During the trip, I had two particularly meaningful conversations that were very similar, one with my brother, the other with the cancer survivor.

During a slower time on the lake, I was talking to my friend, Chris, about his ordeal of going through chemotherapy, followed by a stem cell transplant. “My year of cancer was the best year of my life,” he said. When I inquired why, he spoke about how focused and simplified life became. At certain points, he explained, the entirety of his life came down to getting through the next half hour of treatment.

While driving back through northern Michigan ablaze with fall colors, I had a long, heart-to-heart with my brother, Tim. “A great gift has been given to me as a result of cancer,” he said. “It has forced me to surrender everything completely into God’s hands.” He went on to tell me that he has never felt stronger in his life, even though physically he has been put “through the wringer.” It reminded me of passages from the Bible that encourage us: “when I am weak, then I am strong,” (2 Corinthians 12:10) and “I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

From both conversations, the lesson was clear: when one goes through a trial, even though suffering might be great, it can bring about real good if approached in the right manner. The same can be said for institutions. Every institution, at some point, goes through a difficult season. Those who are part of the institution would never wish for the trial, but good can come. First, the difficulty cannot be ignored. The only way past suffering is through it. Second, the appropriate steps need to be taken to get help and healing. Oftentimes, this requires getting help from outside. Third, a deeper surrender, or “institutional conversion,” needs to be made.

The difficulties in our local church are well known; however, we have been given an opportunity to help with the healing. While we believe very strongly in the formation taking place at the seminary, we want to make sure that we are doing the best possible job to form good, holy priests and faith-filled lay leaders. Specifically, the Board of Trustees has recommended an independent, outside review of our admissions and ongoing discernment policies. This has been an opportunity for good.

Pain will eventually give way to healing, only if we believe we can do all things through our God who gives us strength.
Kelly Rowe is the owner of Rowe & Kelly, P.L.L.C., in the Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area. He and his wife Jean are faithful supporters of The Saint Paul Seminary. Recently, Kelly shared the following information for people who are considering planned giving.

Why do you and Jean support the work of The Saint Paul Seminary?

We believe the seminary does an excellent job in preparing men for the priesthood, so we feel that giving to the seminary helps the Church form the priests she needs to bring Christ to the world. It is a gift that will bear fruit for generations to come. A question we ask ourselves is, “How important are priests?” What they mean to us, the Church, and our culture is immeasurable.

What is the biggest mistake people make when considering estate planning?

People think they do not need an estate plan. Many believe an “estate” is a big home and huge amounts of money. In actuality, anyone who owns any property has an estate, no matter what the dollar value is. Also, if you do not direct, or plan, where your estate goes in a will, trust, or other instrument, then the state in which you live has the ability to make decisions regarding your estate.

What are the top three things someone should consider when thinking about planned giving?

First, you should ask yourself, “What are my values or what is important to me?” Second, keeping your values in mind, ask yourself, “What are my goals and how do I achieve them?” Finally, find out which organizations match your values and name them in your will, trust or other directives and agreements as a beneficiary.

What is unique about planned giving from a Catholic perspective?

The Church specifically asks us to acknowledge her important role in our duty to share our goods with those in need so that we can authentically live our faith. Where and how we distribute our estate may be the last statement we make on earth. Planned giving is a way to share what we have with those in need who will further the Church’s mission in this world.

If you would like more information about planned giving, or if you have already included The Saint Paul Seminary in your estate plans, please contact Tom Ryan (trryan@stthomas.edu or 651-962-5054). Knowledge of your future gift helps us in our financial planning and ensures that your gift is properly designated when it is received.
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity congratulates Bishop Blase Cupich who was recently named Archbishop of Chicago by Pope Francis. Bishop Cupich served three terms on our Board of Trustees, from 2000-2009. He is a 1971 graduate of the University of St. Thomas and spent his junior and senior years in residence at Saint John Vianney College Seminary. We wish him all the best and offer our continued prayers as he assumes his new position as the ninth archbishop of Chicago on November 18.

Rev. Juan Miguel Betancourt, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, was granted tenure at the University of St. Thomas, given in recognition of his record of teaching, scholarship and service. “I am grateful to President Julie Sullivan for this,” says Msgr. Callaghan. “I know Fr. Betancourt will continue to contribute to the mission of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity with the great energy and enthusiasm that we have experienced since he joined our faculty.”

Dr. William Stevenson, Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology, will be presenting a paper entitled “Suffering and Spiritedness: The Doctrine of Comfort and the Drama of Thumos in More’s Dialogue” at the Institute for Thomas More Studies at the University of Dallas. The “Theology of More’s Tower Works” Conference will take place November 7-8.

Dr. Deborah Savage, Clinical Faculty and Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program, gave the opening keynote address at the International Theology of the Body Congress in Philadelphia, July 9, 2014, entitled “Complementarity as Mission: Man, Woman, and the Culture of Life.” Dr. Savage also presented “Woman as Prophet: a Feminism for the 21st Century” at the Congress. In addition, Dr. Savage presented “The Nature of Woman in Relation to Man” to the faculty at the University of Lubljana, Slovenia, in June. Most recently, Dr. Savage published a paper entitled “The Centrality of Lived Experience in Wojtyla’s Account of the Person” in the journal *Annals of Philosophy*, Volume LXI, No. 4, 2013, at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland.

Rev. Kevin Zilverberg, Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, gave a series of four biblical lectures in Latin at the annual conference of the Family of St. Jerome. It was held at Visitation Monastery in Mobile, Alabama, August 1-4. The presentations treated the Latin Bible as translation from Hebrew, with special attention given to Hebrew verbal forms, and to Genesis 37:1-11 and First Samuel 1:7-11.
Rev. John Klockeman, Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation, traveled to Kabale, Uganda, this summer to witness and celebrate the ordination of Fr. Joseph Kavuma on August 9. Fr. Joseph was in formation at The Saint Paul Seminary for the last four years before returning to his native Uganda to be ordained with 11 others, including his brother Fr. Lawrence Lugoloobi.

The seven-hour ordination Mass at the cathedral in Kabale, which also included the ordination of 10 transitional deacons, was filled with music, praise, reverence and a joyful display of Ugandan culture.

For more information or to share alumni news, please contact Leah Santer: (651) 962-5791 or leah.santer@stthomas.edu

Correction
Please accept our sincere apology for an error in the 2014 Ordination issue of the Oracle in which we misidentified one of our newly ordained priests. Fr. Michael Barsness is pictured receiving the Kiss of Peace from Archbishop John Nienstedt during the Ordination Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul on May 31. He was incorrectly identified as Fr. Marc Paveglio in the summer issue. God bless Fr. Barsness, Fr. Paveglio and all of their newly ordained brothers!

Photo credit: Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit
For more information on any of these events, please call 651-962-5050

CALENDAR FALL 2014

NOV. 5-7 FOOD, FAITH AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 7:30 P.M.
Lecture with Cardinal Turkson on Wednesday, Nov. 5
O'Shaughnessy Educational Center

NOV. 17-19 SEMINARIAN PHONE-A-THON

DEC. 7 LESSONS AND CAROLS 4:00 P.M.
St. Mary’s Chapel

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 IS GIVE TO THE MAX DAY.
Please support The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity on this day.
Visit www.saintpaulseminary.org for more information.

IN MEMORIAM
Rev. Kevin Abakisi, 2012
Rev. Joseph Bestler, 1957
Rev. Milo Ernster, 1955
Rev. Leonard Jenniges, 1948

Rev. Frank Melchior, 1959
Rev. Ralph Mercatoris, 1958
Rev. Thomas Radaich, 1970

HAS YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED?
Please send your current information to Veronica Putzier:
putz6298@stthomas.edu or (651) 962-5795