Cardinal George to Receive Honorary Degree at Commencement

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, will receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary at its 155th annual commencement ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

Cardinal George is a member of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life, the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, and the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum.” He also serves as chancellor of The Catholic Church Extension Society, Chicago, and the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

He was named a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on January 18, 1998, while serving as Archbishop of Chicago, where he was installed

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Rectors Share Common Vision for Seminary

In the fall of 1989, shortly after he became Rector of Saint Vincent Seminary, Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., wrote in the very first column of this newsletter, The Leaven:

“Jesus Christ is the leaven, being kneaded into the dough of our small community such that we will continue to expand and grow according to His magnificent plan which far outreaches anything we can yet begin to imagine. The humility of knowing Christ as our true ground (humus) is allowing us to grow in a strong sense of who we are as followers of Christ, as Roman Catholics, as priests, as ministers and servants of God’s people. This humility, which is at the very heart of the Rule of Saint Benedict, has its compelling importance because it is likewise at the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our love of learning more and more about the Gospel, the Scriptures, theology and about more effective pastoral ministry must be again and again nourished through a life of deep prayer. This is the spirit which we as the community of Saint Vincent Seminary are seeking to not simply learn about but to live out.”

He added, “The vision we have before us is not a vision which can be realized once and for all but must be stirred up in us again and again by the Gospels, by living in this community and by reaching out beyond ourselves into the larger church.”

A dozen years later, those words still ring true.

In 1989, when Fr. Tom wrote those words the Seminary was part of a national trend with a drop in vocations from the United States. There were 38 ordination students, including diocesan seminarians and those from religious orders.

A year later, when planning began for the expansion of the Seminary, Fr. Tom said some people wondered why there was a need for growth when Leander Hall, at the time the only dormitory for seminarians, was only half full.

A dozen years later, Saint Vincent Seminary has 93 ordination students enrolled, and once again additional housing for diocesan seminarians as well as additional office space is needed.

In 1991, Fr. Tom oversaw inauguration of a Hispanic Ministries program, although there were only 10 Hispanic students.

(Vocations Stories Enhance Seminary’s Website)

“Am I being called by God to the priesthood? Is this God’s plan for me?” Now the answers to those questions may be just a mouse click away. In the newest section of the Saint Vincent Seminary website, men contemplating the priesthood can read the stories of others discerning a vocation and can learn how they came to realize they were being called to the priesthood.

The new vocations section is devoted to telling the stories of men who have left careers in biochemistry, the media, engineering and even as the maitre d’ of a posh Pittsburgh club to become priests. In addition, the Seminary website will follow some recent graduates through their first year of the priesthood and the challenges they face once ordained. The Seminary’s website is: http://benedictine.stvincent.edu/seminary/. Visitors should follow the “vocations” link.

“Men who answer God’s call today will become the priests of tomorrow,” said John P. Marous, Jr., Chairman of the Seminary Board of Regents, in announcing the website addition. “The Seminary educates future priests, and is now expanding its role via the Internet to assist with vocations to the priesthood.”

“Each man called to the priesthood hears the call in a unique way,” said Father Kurt Belsole, O.S.B., Seminary Rector. “By featuring the stories of some of our seminarians we hope to assist others who are discerning a call to the priesthood.”

Rev. Mr. Thomas Burke, a transitional deacon from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will be among the first Seminary graduates to tell his story, including his thoughts regarding his approaching ordination. Monthly updates on his first year in the priesthood will follow next year.
on May 7, 1997. He came to Chicago from the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, where he was installed as archbishop on May 27, 1996. Prior to that he had served as the fifth Bishop of Yakima, Washington, his ordination and installation as Bishop taking place on July 10, 1990. He entered the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on August 14, 1957 and was ordained a priest on December 21, 1963.


He has also written dozens of articles and reviews published in a variety of national and international publications.

Cardinal George earned the S.T.D. degree in ecclesiology from the Pontifical University, Urbaniana, Rome (1988); the Ph.D. in American philosophy from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana (1970); the M.A. in theology from the University of Ottawa, Canada (1971); the M.A. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (1965); and the B.Th. from the University of Ottawa, Canada (1964).

His honorary degrees include the Doctor of Laws degree from the John Marshall Law School of the University of Portland (1998); Doctor of Humane Letters from Loyola University of Chicago (1998); Doctor of Pedagogy from Franciscan University of Steubenville (2000) and Doctor of Humane Letters from Barat College (2000).

He serves on numerous committees of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, including the Committee to Oversee the use of the Catechism (1995-present), the American Board of Catholic Missions Committee (1994-1997); the Committee on Church in Latin America (1994-present); the Committee on Religious Life and Ministry (1994-1997); the Committee on Doctrine (1991-1994); the ad hoc Committee on Shrines (1992-present); the Committee on Missions (1991-present); and is a consultant to the NCCB Committees on Science and Human Values (1994-1997), Hispanic Affairs (1994-1997) and Evangelization (1991-1993). He has chaired the NCCB Commission for Bishops and Scholars (1992-1994, 1996-present).

He was a Papal Appointee to the Synod on Consecrated Life (1994). He was a Special Secretary to the Special Assembly for America of the Synod of Bishops (1997), and serves as the NCCB Representative to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (1997-present). He has been a member of the Board of Trustees, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (1997-present), the Board of Directors of the Pope John XXIII Center, Boston, Massachusetts (1994-present), and the Board of Trustees, The Catholic University of America (1993-present). The Cardinal is the Episcopal Liaison for the Catholic Campus Ministry Association Executive Board (1998-present) and was treasurer of the Northwest Regional Office for Hispanic Affairs (1992-1997). He served as Episcopal Advisor for the Cursillo Movement, Region XII (1990-1997), and is Episcopal Moderator and board member of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities (1990-present).

He has been a Trustee of the Papal Foundation (1997-present), Grand Prior of the North Central Lieutenancy of the United States for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, (1997 to present); Convenantal Chaplain ad honorem of the Federal Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1997-present); member of the Kahl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Awards Advisory Board (1997-present); State Chaplain, Knights of Columbus, Washington state (1993-1995); member of the Board of Directors, Oblate Media, Belleville, Illinois (1988-present); member of the Providence Yakima Medical Center Community Board, Yakima, Washington (1990-1996); chair of the Washington Association of Churches Committee on Theological Dialogue (1993-1996); coordinator of the Circle of Fellows, The Cambridge Center for the Study of Faith and Culture, Cambridge, Massachusetts (1987-1990); Vicar General, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (1974-1986); Provincial Superior of the Midwestern U.S. Province, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St. Paul, Minnesota (1973-1974); President of the Board of Directors of Tekakwitha Indian Mission, Sisseton, South Dakota (1973-1974); Chairman of the Department of Philosophy of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska (1971-1973); member of the Council of Direction, Oblate House of Studies, Omaha, Nebraska and Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Creighton University (1969-1973); member, Council of Direction and Instructor in Philosophy, Oblate Seminary, Pass Christian, Mississippi (1964-1967).

Cardinal George is a member of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, the American Society of Missiologists and the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs.
Fr. Demetrius’ Book In Third Printing

When Saint Vincent Seminary faculty member Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B., published his first book in 1987, did not give much thought to how commercially successful it would be—he was more interested in its content than its sales. But a little over a decade since Flowers in the Desert: A Spirituality of the Bible was released, the sales have drawn his attention.

The book’s first run print of more than 18,000 copies from Paulist Press sold out and a reprint edition from St. Bede’s Publications has completed a third printing of the book, released this month. The book is used for classes in Florida, Ohio, California, Canada and elsewhere, is in demand for use at retreats, and is even listed on the Internet’s largest bookselling site, amazon.com.

“I have had a lot of feedback from people who have found it helpful,” said Father Demetrius, a Carrolltown, Cambria County native who has taught at Saint Vincent Seminary since 1952. His aim in writing the book was to bring Scripture to a wider audience, because sometimes good Biblical scholarship is only available to scholars.

Flowers in the Desert concentrates on the spiritual teaching of the Old and New Testaments, starting with God’s call to humanity and individuals. Then it considers the human adventure of the journey through life and, finally, the “ultimate homecoming to the Father.” There are many references to Biblical passages and daily life.

Father Demetrius is also the author of Cherish Christ Above All: The Bible in the Rule of Benedict (1996), published by Paulist Press. His third book, on the Gospel of John, has been completed and is being edited.

Flowers in the Desert is available by writing to Saint Vincent Archabbey Publications, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pa., 15650-2690. The list price is $12.95, plus $2 shipping and handling and 77 cents tax (a recent court ruling has now made religious publications taxable). The book is also available in the Saint Vincent College Book Center and the Basilica Gift Shop located in the Saint Vincent Parish Center.

Father Demetrius attended a one-room country school, finishing eight grades in six years, before attending Saint Vincent Preparatory School, from which he graduated in 1940. He received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Saint Vincent College in 1945, and attended Saint Vincent Seminary from 1943 to 1946. He received a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree in 1950 from the Pontifical Institute of Saint Anselmo, Rome. He studied at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem from 1950 to 1952, after which he received a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Commission, Vatican City.

He entered the Benedictine Monastic Community of Saint Vincent Archabbey in 1942. He made simple profession of vows on July 2, 1943, and solemn profession of vows on July 11, 1946. He was ordained a priest at Subiaco Abbey, Italy, by the Most Rev. Lorenzo Salvi, O.S.B., on December 7, 1947.

At Saint Vincent Seminary he has taught Sacred Scripture since 1952. He served as Rector of the Seminary from 1963 to 1980 and Vice Rector from 1955 to 1963. He also taught Biblical Greek from 1952 to 1959, and was Professor of Hebrew from 1959 to 1961. Father Demetrius was Seminary Director of Spiritual Life from 1989 to 1993.

He has given a series of lectures in England to the Union of Monastic Superiors, comprising all the abbeys and abberesses of the Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries in Great Britain, Ireland and Scotland, and has given a number of retreats in England, Ireland and Taiwan. He has given retreats to most of the Benedictine monasteries in the United States and for bishops of thirteen states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. He is a major contributor and one of the editors of the Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology. He has also contributed to the New Jerome Bible Commentary. He has written numerous articles for The American Benedictine Review and The New Catholic Encyclopedia.

He has also served in the greater community in a variety of positions. He has taught summer school at various colleges and convents (1956-present); and served as a member of the Commission for Christian Unity of the Diocese of Greensburg (1963-80); as charter member of the East Coast Rectors’ Conference (1964-80) and as past-president (1972-74); as a member of the Faith and Order Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches (1971-76); as a member of the Council of the Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation of the Benedictine Order (1973-85). He also served as a professor in Duquesne University’s Institute of Formative Spirituality (1978-85); as a representative to the Pennsylvania Conference on Interchurch Cooperation (1981-90) and chairman of its Committee on Theological Consultation (1982-90); as a member of the Board of Directors of Saint Vincent College, Inc. and as a member of the Board of Directors of Saint Vincent College (various times).

Father Demetrius is one of nine children, the son of the late Gordon and the late Esther (Kirsch) Dumm. His brother Father Wilfred Dumm, O.S.B., is also a Benedictine monk of Saint Vincent Archabey. His other brothers and sisters include Mrs. Dolores Demma, Lusby, Md.; Donald Dumm, Ebensburg; Mrs. John (Imogene) Reidy, Silver Spring, Md.; Mrs. Frank (Roselyn) Colella, Rockville, Md.; Clair Dumm, Ebensburg; Fred Thomas, Bald Eagle and Patrick Dumm, Summerhill.
Fourth Year Students Served in Parish, Ministry Assignments

Twenty-two men from Saint Vincent Seminary served in various parish and ministry assignments for 2000-2001, according to Rev. Richard B. Michel, O.S.B., Director of Field Education.


Br. Nicholas Ast, O.S.B., of Saint Gregory Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, served at St. John Parish, Latrobe, with Rev. Thomas Lukac, pastor.

Br. Kevin Bachmann, O.S.B., of Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado, served at St. Edward Parish, Herminie, with Rev. Lawrence Manchas, pastor.


Robert Burns of the Diocese of Harrisburg served at St. John the Baptist Parish, Pittsburgh, with pastor Rev. Charles Speicher and parochial vicar Rev. David Poecking.

Jonas D. Christal of the Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil, served with Therese Telepak, Associate Director of Youth Formation for the Diocese of Greensburg.

Donald Cramer of the Diocese of Harrisburg served at St. Regis Parish, Trafford, with Rev. James Tringhese, pastor.


Tien Hung Duong of the Diocese of Charlotte served at North American Martyrs Parish, Monroeville, with Rev. Francis Murhammer, pastor.

Anthony Gargotta of the Diocese of Pittsburgh served at St. Louise de Marillac Parish, Pittsburgh, with Rev. Thomas Kredel, pastor.

Wayne Morris of the Diocese of Steubenville, served at Holy Name Cathedral Parish, Steubenville, with Very Rev. Timothy Shannon, pastor.


Terrence O’Connor of the Diocese of Pittsburgh served at Transfiguration Parish, Monongahela, with Rev. William Feeney, pastor.

Roberto Orellana of the Archdiocese of Atlanta served at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Pittsburgh, with Rev. Harry Nicholas, pastor.

David Perry of the Diocese of Erie served at St. Thomas Becket Parish, Clairton, with Rev. Robert Seeman, pastor.

James Reardon of the Diocese of Erie served at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, with Rev. James Gaston, pastor.

Br. Anthony Sargent, O.S.B., of Saint Mary Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, served at Greensburg Central Catholic High School with Rev. Daniel Blout, President.


Clinton Zadroga of the Diocese of Pittsburgh served at St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Center Township, with pastor Rev. Joseph Kleppner and parochial vicar Rev. Chuck Baptiste.

Three students were on pastoral leave this year. William Berkey of the Diocese of Greensburg served at St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon, with pastor Rev. John Cindric and parochial vicar Rev. Donald Trexler.


Robert Miller of the Diocese of Youngstown served at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Beaver, with Rev. Msgr. William Ogrodowski, pastor.

Bishop Zubik

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Leonard on May 3, 1975, Bishop Zubik then served as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Shadyside, until 1980. At that time he was assigned as Vicar Principal at Quigley Catholic High School in Baden as well as Chaplain at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Motherhouse and Chaplain to the students at Mount Gallitzin Academy. At the same time, he began graduate studies in the School of Education at Duquesne University where he graduated with a master’s degree in education administration in 1982.

In 1987, Bishop Zubik was appointed Administrative Secretary to former Pittsburgh Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua. In 1988, he was appointed Administrative Secretary and Master of Ceremonies to Bishop Donald W. Wuerl where he served until 1991 when he began his service as Director of Clergy Personnel. He was named Associate General Secretary and Chancellor of the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995 and on January 1, 1996, became Vicar General and General Secretary. As General Secretary, Bishop Zubik is responsible for the administration of the diocesan central offices.

Bishop Zubik was ordained auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh on April 6, 1997, at Saint Paul Cathedral.

He has also served in the role of adjunct spiritual director at Saint Paul Seminary from 1984 through 1991 and associate spiritual director at Saint Vincent Seminary, from 1989 through 1996.

Currently, he is Bishop Wuerl’s personal representative to the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. He is also President of the Diocesan Finance Council and President of the Catholic Institute of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Zubik is presently a member of the Duquesne University Board of Directors, the Duquesne University Academic Affairs Committee, the Priest Council, Board of Diocesan Consultants, Priest Personnel Board, Catholic Charities Board and Saint Paul Seminary Advisory Board, along with the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Cemeteries Association, Pittsburgh Catholic Publishing Associates, Diocesan Building Commission, Diocesan Pastoral Council, and Chimbote Foundation.

On the national level, Bishop Zubik is a member of the National Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Priestly Formation and currently is a nominee to serve on the Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry.

He serves as Chaplain to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Ross Township where he is in residence. Saint Vincent Seminary has graduated and prepared more than 2,400 men for the priesthood since its founding by Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B., in 1846.
Summer Graduate Courses Planned

Saint Vincent Seminary will offer four graduate courses in three summer sessions for qualified men and women, both lay persons and members of religious orders.

Session I, which runs from May 14 to June 7, will feature "An Introduction to New Testament Greek," by Dr. Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan. The three-credit course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This course is an introduction to Hellenistic Greek, its basic grammatical forms and principal syntactical construction, including some linguistic peculiarities of New Testament Greek. The exercises, based on New Testament texts, provide the students with a working vocabulary of about 400 words. Deadline for Session I registration is May 1.

Dr. Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan, Associate Professor in Sacred Scripture at Saint Vincent College, holds a B.A. from Carlow College. She also received a Lic. Sc. Rel., S.T.L., and S.T.D., Ph.D. from The Catholic University of Louvain.

The second session, from May 21 to June 14, will feature an elective course on "Christian Mystical Theology," taught by Rev. Justin M. Matro, O.S.B. The three-credit course will be held from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mysticism has influenced Christian theology in a variety of ways. In certain disciplines it has allowed for a flexibility of thought that softens intellectual rigidity. In other branches, however, unguarded loftiness produces dangerously subjective extremes. The intention of this course is to examine the origin of Christian mysticism and then trace and evaluate its influence in the works of some specific writers. The final grade will include a paper in which each student will select an appropriate author or school of thought and objectively examine both positive and negative aspects of mysticism's lasting impact in these writings. Note: Those taking this course will be required to do some preparatory reading.

Deadline for Session II registration is May 9.

Fr. Justin Matro, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology, received his B.A. from Seton Hall University, and the M.A. and M.Div. from Saint Vincent Seminary. In addition, Fr. Justin holds an M.A. from Duquesne University and the S.T.D. from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.


Br. Benedict, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, received his B.A. from Saint Vincent College; the S.T.L., from Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo, Rome, and the S.S.L. from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. He also did Graduate Studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem, and Brown University.

Br. Elliott’s three-credit course will be a survey of the life and times of Paul and a discussion of the circumstances of his literary work. The major epistles will be read with exegesis of selected passages. Note: Those taking this course will be required to do some preparatory reading. It will be held from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Br. Elliott, Professor of New Testament and Biblical Languages, received a B.A. from Saint Vincent College; the S.T.L. from the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant’ Anselmo, Rome; and a Ph.D. from Fordham University.

The tuition charge for the Summer Session is $205 per credit hour/$615 per course, half the price of the regular tuition. The charge for audit is $135 per credit hour/$405 per course. There are no application fees for the summer sessions. Room and Board charges are $185 per week/$740 for each four-week session.

Registration for the Summer Session must be made through the Office of the Academic Dean, 724-539-9761, Extension 2395, e-mail: svssummer@stvincent.edu.

Father Kurt Belsole Appointed Seminary Rector

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degree from Saint Vincent Seminary in 1978. He earned a Diploma in Latin Letters in 1980 from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; a license in Patristic Theology and Sciences in 1983 from the Patristic Institute at the Augustinianum, Rome; studied at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute, Rome (1981-1983); and earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1994 from Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant’ Anselmo, Rome. He wrote his doctoral dissertation "Joy in Lent: "Gaudium" in the Rule of Saint Benedict" under the direction of Fr. Adalbert de Vogüé. He has also received grants from the German Government to study German at the Goethe Institut in Passau, Germany, and from the French Government to study French at the Institut Catholique of Paris.

Fr. Kurt has taught at Saint Vincent Seminary since 1983; he served as Academic Dean of the Seminary from 1986 to 1989. Since 1995, during the spring semesters, he has taught at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant’ Anselmo, Rome. In the fall semester of 1998, he served as acting Director of Spiritual Life at Saint Vincent Seminary. He had been appointed Assistant Rector in January of 2000. At the Seminary, Fr. Kurt has chaired and served on numerous committees, including the Academic Committee, Admissions Committee, Alumni Degree Committee, Master of Arts Committee, Middle States Association of Theological Schools Self-Study Committee, and the Committee on Faculty Rank.

At Saint Vincent Archabbey, Fr. Kurt has served as master of ceremonies (1985-1993); secretary to the Archabbot (1991-1992); on the administrative staff of the Archabbot (1992-1993); on the Liturgy Committee (1984-present); on the Formation Committee (1992-present) and on the Saint Vincent Fire Department (1971-1976). He has been on the novitiate faculty of Saint Vincent Archabbey teaching monastic history since 1984.

Fr. Kurt has served on the editorial board of Word and Spirit (1992-1998), and has been an associate editor of The American Benedictine Review since 1994. He has published numerous articles and book reviews in various periodicals including Spirit and Life, Word and Spirit, Living Prayer, Church History, Antiphon, and The American Benedictine Review, and in the recently published Encyclopedia of Monasticism.

His professional memberships include the North American Patristic Society (1985-present) and the Society for Catholic Liturgy (1997-present).
Seminarians Attend 28th Annual March for Life

By Paul Smith

WASHINGTON — We departed from Saint Vincent Seminary and embarked on our journey at 1 p.m. Jan 21.

The Seminary chartered a bus that comfortably accommodated the approximate 60 seminarians and priests who made the trip. The ride to Washington was filled with much prayer, much food and much fellowship. As we entered the city limits, the excitement and anticipation was palpable.

Upon arrival, we made our way to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Prayer Vigil for Life, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and rosary. The magnificent shrine with its immense architectural and artistic splendor was made even more so by the sight of the overflow crowd of some 9,000 Catholics.

At the Mass, Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore, principal celebrant and homilist, addressed the congregation: “How far our culture in the United States has moved from a sensitivity to life as a gift from above, as the culture in the United States has moved from a respect for human life to a tolerance of the destruction of human life. The right to life is the right that trumps all other rights — including the right to free speech and the abortion license is the right that trumps all protest and counseling at abortion clinics is constitutionally protected.

The Cardinal was interrupted numerous times by thunderous applause throughout his homily.

From midnight until 7 a.m., Eucharistic adoration was held in the crypt church below the basilica. Saint Vincent Seminary was one of the only eight seminaries privileged to lead a holy hour of prayer and did so from 4 a.m. to 5 a.m.

Later that day we attended the 13th Annual Seminarians Mass for Life at the Church of St. Patrick. I was heartened to see a standing-room-only crowd of approximately 1,000 seminarians -- the future priests of our Church, in attendance, publicly supporting the right to life.

After Mass, we proceeded to the Washington Monument for the march. I was astounded at the sight of well over 250,000 people, the majority of them under the age of 20.

Several speakers addressed the crowd and U.S. Congressman Chris Smith, R-NJ, read a greeting from President Bush. “...We share a great goal: to work toward a day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law,” he said. “We know this will not come easily, or all at once. But the goal leads us onward: to build a culture of life, affirming that every person, at every stage and season of life, is created equally in God’s image.”

After the speeches, the great crowd marched down Constitution Avenue past blocks of federal buildings up to Capitol Hill and the Senate Office Buildings to the United States Supreme Court. It was then that we had the opportunity to visit the office of our representatives to show our support for the pro-life movement.

Soon thereafter, we were back on the bus heading for Latrobe. The ride home was much more subdued as most of us were emotionally drained from the day’s events and exhausted from lack of sleep.

Later that night, as I lay in bed, reflecting on the past 36 hours, I felt an overwhelming feeling of hope.

Although abortion is still legal and thousands of babies are murdered each day, we must continue to hope.

As I witnessed the awesome sight of over a quarter-million people, including thousands of priests and seminarians, storm our nation’s Capitol to stand up for the weakest among us, I realized once again, that we are not alone. Not just in the faces of the crowd was this demonstrated, but in remembering, and hoping in, God’s great promise, “...I am with you always — until the end of time” (Matt 28:20).

The fight for life goes on.

Smith is a seminarian for the Diocese of Steubenville.

Rev. Drew Morgan Named To Seminary Faculty

Father Drew Morgan, C.O., of the Pittsburgh Oratory, has joined the Saint Vincent Seminary faculty as an adjunct professor.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981, a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Saint Michael’s College, University of Toronto, Toronto School of Theology in 1984, and a doctorate in Roman Catholic Systematic Theology from Duquesne University in 1997. His dissertation was titled “Conscience in the Writings of John Henry Newman: A Test Case for the Possibility of a Distinctively Christian Ethic.”

He was ordained a priest of The Oratory in 1985 and serves on the Board of Directors of The Bethany Foundation, the National Board of Directors of the Venerable John Henry Newman Association, and is Chair of the Selection Committee of the National Conference, Newman Association. He has been the Catholic chaplain at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and Chatham College since 1984. From 1982-1984 he was Resident Dean of Seminarians at St. Basil’s College, University of Toronto.

He has given lectures on topics related to John Henry Newman at Duquesne University, The Pittsburgh Oratory and The Brooklyn Oratory in New York. He has also lectured in Indiana, Pennsylvania; Rensselaer, Indiana; Naples, Florida; Mundelein, Illinois and Louisville, Kentucky, at several national conferences and as part of several lecture series. He published “Hermeneutical Aspects of John Henry Newman’s ‘Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine’” in Horizons in 1989.

Rev. Drew Morgan, C.O.
To give a tribute or memorial gift, please make a donation to Saint Vincent Seminary in honor of or in memory of a friend, colleague or family member. Donations should be mailed to Mr. William P. Malloy in the Seminary Development Office, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pa., 15650-2690, 724-532-6740.

Donors from October 1, 2000, to February 28, 2001, include:

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Retired Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop John McDowell, a ’45 Seminary graduate, has authored another book, this one on the late Bishop Vincent Leonard, who was Bishop of Pittsburgh for 14 years. The book is titled, Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Bishop Leonard was the first Pittsburgh-born priest to become Bishop of Pittsburgh.

“He was a great inspiration as a man, a priest and bishop,” Bishop McDowell told The Pittsburgh Catholic about his long-time friend, who died in 1994 at the age of 86. He noted Bishop Leonard’s passion for helping the poor, and his work to begin programs and grants to aid struggling inner-city schools. He also had a special interest in the elderly and the disabled. Bishop Leonard was also noted for giving away “almost anything he earned,” Bishop McDowell said, comparing him most closely to Bishop Regis Canevin. “I was privileged to be a friend of his.”

The book is available at Kirner’s, Merhaut and the Diocesan Purchasing Commission.
It is my great pleasure to report on the progress and activities of Saint Vincent Seminary. Once again, we can point to a number of significant accomplishments.

First of all, Saint Vincent Seminary continues to provide a world-class, Total Quality educational experience for its seminarians. With a renowned faculty trained at the most prestigious universities in the world, we have established a core curriculum that thoroughly prepares our graduates to return to the parish setting and make an immediate positive impact on their dioceses and in the lives of those whom they are called to serve.

Secondly, our Total Quality program has again resulted in record enrollment. This year’s enrollment of 114 students gives us our largest enrollment in more than three decades, placing Saint Vincent among the ten largest seminaries in the United States.

Thirdly, as we achieve these exceptional results, it is important to point out that the seminary remains a model of efficiency and fiscal management. This year, the seminary administration has again prudently managed its resources while coming in under the financial budgets that have been established, thereby helping to protect and grow the precious financial assets that our generous supporters have donated.

Fourthly, we have made marked progress in our capital campaign — “Expanding the Vision.” As I detailed in the last annual report, the Board of Regents conducted a comprehensive strategic planning process to identify those areas which required our immediate commitment. We felt that, with improvements to the seminary living and learning quarters, and with enhancements to our program offerings, scholarship funding, and library, we could provide our seminarians with the tools and experience to best serve the People of God.

Over the last 12 months, we have received generous financial commitments from our Board and our constituent bishops toward our efforts. We are truly grateful for their commitment to the priesthood as witnessed by their willingness to help us prepare these courageous and holy young men. As you review our progress on page 21 of this report, please take a few moments to remember the important roles that priests have played in your life. Providing the priests of tomorrow with a Total Quality formation program is one of the most worthy causes you could ever support.

Lastly, I am pleased to welcome back Fr. Tom Acklin who, upon the completion of his book on Christology, returned to full-time instruction and spiritual direction with the Seminary. I also wish to congratulate his successor, Fr. Kurt Belsole, on his promotion to Rector and I offer him my full support.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I thank all who, through their prayers and support, make these achievements possible.

Dr. John C. Marous, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Regents
During the Great Jubilee Year 2000, Saint Vincent Seminary continued to exhibit exceptional growth and prosperity under the capable leadership of Chairman John C. Marous, Jr. and the Board of Regents. The enrollment in the seminary has risen to 114 students (96 in the ordination tract), giving us our largest enrollment in more than three decades. We are experiencing growth not only among our constituent dioceses, but, thanks to our ever-expanding reputation for excellence and international stature, we have attracted many new dioceses and religious communities as well. We are grateful for the representation of the following domestic archdiocese, dioceses and religious communities:

- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA
- Diocese of Charleston, S.C.
- Diocese of Charlotte, N.C.
- Diocese of Columbus, OH
- Diocese of Erie, PA
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- Saint Leo Abbey, Saint Leo, FL
- Saint Mary Abbey, Delbarton, Morristown, NJ
- Saint Procopius Abbey, Lisle, IL
- Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA

We are blessed with an international diversity never before seen at Saint Vincent Seminary. We are grateful for the representation of the following international archdiocese, dioceses, and religious communities:

- Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil
- Diocese of Arua, Uganda
- Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica
- Saint Peter’s Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan, Canada
- Via Christi Society, Makurdi, Nigeria

In March of 2001, the Board of Regents recommended the appointment of Father Kurt Belsole, O.S.B., to succeed Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., as Rector of Saint Vincent Seminary. Having completed twelve years of service as Rector, Father Tom’s request to assume duties as a full-time professor was granted. A seasoned instructor and administrator in the Seminary, Father Kurt brings to his new role a great knowledge and love of scripture. He also brings an energy and vision to build upon the success and history of Saint Vincent Seminary. I welcome Father Kurt and offer him my complete support.

When any significant transition is undertaken, it is imperative to focus on your mission. Our primary mission, as defined in our Mission Statement on page 21, is “the preparation of candidates for the priesthood.” What characteristics are important in the development of a seminarian for the priesthood? In the Holy Father’s “Prayer for the Great Jubilee 2000,” he provides guidance to all of Christ’s followers.

Father, by the power of the Spirit,

strengthen the Church’s commitment to the new evangelization

and guide our steps along the pathways of the world,

to proclaim Christ by our lives,

and to direct our earthly pilgrimage towards the City of heavenly light.

May Christ’s followers show forth their love for the poor and the oppressed;

may they be one with those in need and abound in works of mercy;

may they be compassionate towards all,

that they themselves may obtain indulgence and forgiveness from you.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity,

You alone are God most high!

May Christ’s blessed peace be with you.

Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.
Chancellor
A Message from the Rector

“Grace Upon Grace”

“From His fulness we have all received grace upon grace” (John 1:16). As I reflect on the past year, this passage from the Gospel of John describes best of all my first nine months serving as Rector. This past year can very well be described as receiving grace upon grace. God in his goodness, which goes beyond all that we can ask or imagine, is preparing marvelous priests for His Church; and when asked by bishops, priests, alumni and friends how things are going as Rector, I am able to respond only with words of gratitude. Almost every day, beginning last summer, has been a moment of particular grace.

We have a strong Seminary, a particular blessing thanks in large part to the vision and leadership of Archabbot Douglas, Mr. John Marous, the Board of Regents, our constituent bishops and Father Thomas Acklin. This strength of the Seminary, however, is made possible only by the dedicated faculty, administration, staff, students, and friends of the Seminary, and I would like to spend some time reflecting with you on our students and our friends.

The Seminary this year has a total of over 100 students. Ninety-six of them are seminarians preparing for priesthood from seventeen dioceses and thirteen religious communities. In addition, eight religious and lay men and women are pursuing the Master of Arts or Master of Divinity degrees, and several others are taking continuing education courses. This year will also mark the first time that Saint Vincent Seminary will award the Bachelor of Sacred Theology, by authorization of the Holy See, after our affiliation with the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. This past year the international character of the Seminary has continued to grow. In the fall, we admitted new students from Argentina, Canada, Nigeria, and Uganda. Saint Vincent has truly become an international seminary, and our students are greatly enriched by exposure to seminarians from various cultures.

Beyond the statistics, though, the strength of the Seminary can be found in the devotion of our seminarians to their vocations. I am constantly edified by the dedication that they show to their preparation for priesthood, and so, I would like to invite you, so to speak, into the Seminary to see some things that I have observed.

First of all, these men love Christ and the Church. Besides their reverent participation every day at Morning Prayer, Mass, and Evening Prayer, they are often to be found in the chapel praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

Their care for the poor and defenseless is also quite remarkable. Every month, a number go to pray outside of an abortion center in Pittsburgh. Every week, they go to help at a men’s homeless shelter. Every month, they go to work at a local food bank, and the list could go on.

Then again, there were the three special collections that the seminarians were asked to contribute to in the course of the year: one for a woman whose house had burned down; another for a crisis pregnancy center in honor of Brother Anthony Costello, O.S.B., who had spent three years at Saint Vincent as a diocesan seminarian and who passed away suddenly on October 17th; and a final collection for the mother of one of the international students who needed an operation. In these three collections, the seminarians contributed a total of $2,000, an impressive sum from people who by and large have no regular income. Forgive me, but I am proud of these men! God is preparing great priests for His Church.

Their preparation for priesthood, however, is only possible because of the many friends of the seminary who support us precisely because you too are so dedicated to Christ and His Church and so dedicated to fostering good priestly vocations. Day after day, the many persons and organizations named in this report have shown how concerned they are for the good of the Church and future generations and how generous they are in making sure that the fine young men whom God is calling to the priesthood are supported in their vocations. Again and again, as I am confronted with your generosity, I find myself filled with gratitude. In the name of Saint Vincent Seminary, and in the name of our students, I want to extend to you my very sincere gratitude. A prayer in the monastic breviary expresses my own prayer for you: Reward with eternal life, O Lord, all those who for your sake do good to us. God bless you.

Very Reverend Kurt Belsole, O.S.B.
Rector
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We have endeavored to accurately include everyone and apologize if we have made an error. Please telephone the Seminary Development Office at 724-537-4552 if a correction is necessary.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners in our mission during 2000.

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Diocese of Charleston, SC
Diocese of Erie
Diocese of Greensburg
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Diocese of Savannah, GA
North American Martyrs Church, Monroeville
Saint Gregory the Great Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Saint Louise de Marillac Church, Pittsburgh
Saint Mary’s Church, St. Marys
Saint Susanna Church, Penn Hills
Saint Vincent Archabbey
Saint Rose of Lima Church, Darlington

Foundations

Brooks Foundation
Donald F. Hunter Charitable Foundation
Hoehn Scholarship Trust Fund
Kate M. Kelley Foundation
Prudential Foundation
R. K. Mellon Family Foundation
Thomas Reynolds Charitable Trust

Organizations

Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
Carmel of the Assumption
Catholic Daughters of America, Court 1853
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, National Headquarters
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Okres
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 13
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 44
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 88
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Junior Branch 112
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 233
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 277
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 404
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 424
Human Life International, Inc.
Ivrea Sisters Convent
Knights of Columbus, Supreme Council
SAINT VINCENT SEMINARY
PLANNED GIVING ASSOCIATES

The Planned Giving Associates are loyal alumni and friends who have remembered Saint Vincent Seminary in their estate planning through bequests, insurance policies, trusts or annuities. Their stewardship guarantees a quality education to the future spiritual leaders of the Church.

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Knights of Columbus, Prince Demetrius Council 9622
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**Cardinal John O’Connor Scholarship**

- Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions
In order to meet the needs produced by a decade of increasing enrollment, Saint Vincent Seminary has embarked upon the second capital campaign in its 155 year history. Included in the $6.15 million four-year “Expanding the Vision Capital Campaign” are:

- 25 additional rooms for Seminary housing,
- Seminary Fitness Center, including an exercise room and commons area,
- Seminary Classroom upgrades, including technological enhancements,
- Chair in Homiletics, to ensure effective preaching of the Word of God,
- Hispanic Ministries program enhancements,
- Scholarship assistance for seminarians with financial need, and
- Library improvements, including scriptural and theological Internet access.

Through the generosity of our Board of Regents, constituent bishops and dioceses, and a limited number of leadership gifts, we have made marked progress. In order to ensure success, we need participation from all of our alumni and friends. Please contact Bill Malloy at (724)532-6740 to find out how you can assist in the formation of future priests....a role that Pope John Paul II calls “one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of the evangelization of humanity.”

Saint Vincent Seminary Mission Statement
Saint Vincent Seminary is a Roman Catholic Seminary grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the living tradition of the Church in accord with the Magisterium, and shaped by the Benedictine heritage of liturgical prayer, study, hospitality and community. As such, the Seminary is a center for the spiritual formation, human development, and academic and pastoral preparation of candidates for the priesthood. Consistent with this primary mission and responsive to the contemporary needs of the Church, the Seminary provides programs for permanent diaconate candidates and offers its degree programs to qualified men and women seeking a theological education.
Saint Vincent Seminary Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2000

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support:
- Tuition and Fees: 967,807
- Contributions: 495,461
- Investment Income: 67,508
- Net Realized Gains on Long-Term Investments: 161,162
- Net Unrealized Appreciation: 229,749
- Auxiliary Enterprises (including Room and Board): 421,023

Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support: 2,342,710

Expenditures:
- Instruction: 378,106
- Library: 50,000
- Academic Support: 128,580
- Student Services: 98,861
- Admissions and Institutional Support: 430,339
- Operation and Plant Maintenance: 286,849
- Auxiliary Enterprises: 362,217

Total Expenditures: 1,734,952

Change in Net Assets: 607,758

Net Assets, Beginning of Year: 4,993,204
Net Assets, End of Year: 5,600,962

The information presented in this report has been derived from the consolidated financial statements audited by an independent accounting firm and published separately. Copies of audited financials are available upon request.

Saint Vincent Seminary is grateful to all who have contributed to the endowment funds. It is our sincere hope that continued growth in the funds will allow us to offer increased financial assistance to seminary students in need.
Seminary Rectors Share Common Vision for Future

(Continued from Page 2)

were no students for it. A decade later, Hispanic Ministries has become one of the fastest growing needs of the Catholic church in North America, and the program is set to expand.

“I am convinced that prayer, devotion to Jesus Christ and the Eucharist and trust in faith” are the reasons for the Seminary’s phenomenal growth, Fr. Tom said. The growth “confirms my faith that if you live in radical trust in the Lord, with a firm religious faith in the Blessed Sacrament and the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, you will experience success.

Along with that faith, he added, was a full team effort from everyone involved with the Seminary, from the faculty and staff to the support of the monastic community. With only 38 students in 1989, the Seminary did not have the resources to meet its operational needs. In a time when other seminaries were closing, Fr. Tom did not want Saint Vincent Seminary to be a part of that trend.

He credits the bishops who send seminarians to Saint Vincent with having faith in the Seminary’s vision for the future.

He also credits the many alumni and friends of the Seminary whose faith and financial support made the nuts and bolts of the expansion a reality.

“We received tremendous support and I discovered how generous, committed and selfless the people who support us are. It was very enlightening,” he added.

But the biggest blessing of his dozen years as Rector, he said, was being able to be a part of the formation of priests.

“When I was sent to graduate school I was being prepared to work in a religious studies department in college,” he recollected. “Being able in God’s grace to work with and help form priests was something I had never even dreamt of.”

During the more difficult times, Fr. Tom, the faculty and administration always referred back to the mission statement of the Seminary.

Fr. Tom was able to stay close to the seminarians while he was Rector because he continued teaching, something he will now return to full time. “I love the classroom, being in the chapel with them and being a part of their spiritual formation. Now I will be able to be more and more involved in those aspects of the Seminary.”

He began a sabbatical leave in May of 2000, has worked at the Saint Vincent Archabbey’s monastery in Brazil and a monastery in India, and spent six months in a contemplative setting while working on two books. The first is And You, Who Do You Say That I Am? which is a book on Christology. It is currently being reviewed by a potential publisher. He is completing the last chapter in a second book, The Unchanging Face of the Priesthood.

He added that he is leaving the Seminary in “very good hands,” referring to Fr. Kurt Belsole, O.S.B., who served as Assistant Rector and was recently named Rector by Archabbot Douglas. “I cannot imagine a better person, and one who shares the vision of our mission and that of our founder, Boniface Wimmer.”

Fr. Kurt knows the Seminary well from the inside — he served as Academic Dean for a number of years, he was Acting Director of Spiritual Life, he has been involved in monastic formation, in addition to his experience in the fields of patristics, Christology and liturgy. His eighteen years as a faculty member at Saint Vincent Seminary, and his experience teaching at the International Benedictine University of Saint’ Anselmo in Rome have put him in touch with diocesan and religious students from the United States and abroad. Fr. Kurt also served on the staff of Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., allowing him to share in the Archabbot’s vision of building upon the success and history of Saint Vincent Archabbey, College and Seminary.

Fr. Kurt credits much of the growth of the Seminary to the large number of bishops “with whom we share a common vision regarding the formation of priests.”

Over the past year, in order to assess the Seminary’s program, he has met with all of the bishops who send students to Saint Vincent. Fr. Kurt commented that these visits were like going on a retreat on the priesthood. “It was one of the most wonderful things that I have experienced, hearing the bishops reflecting on their vision of the priesthood at the beginning of the third millennium and what it will mean for the life of the Church.”

Fr. Kurt shares the vision of Fr. Tom that “the priesthood is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ with the Eucharist at its center. Fidelity to the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Church is essential to the formation of priests. It’s also important for young men in the priestly life to develop good priest friends.

“In terms of the vision and where I see the Seminary going,” Fr. Kurt said, “I think we are building on the foundation which is already strong. I want to deepen the liturgical life and spirit of the Seminary. I also would like to see a renewal of preaching in its theological dimension.

His vision for the priests of the new millennium is that when they preach “they do so in the context of their own living relationship with the word of God in the tradition and doctrine of the Church, heart speaking to heart.”

Fr. Kurt plans to emphasize Hispanic ministries to help the Church minister to the great influx of Hispanics “which goes beyond the predictions of demographers.” He sees the development of Hispanic Ministries as following from the Saint Vincent tradition of reaching out to serve the needs of an immigrant population. He noted that Boniface Wimmer came here to serve the pastoral needs of immigrants to the United States from the 1800s. We need to be true to the tradition of his vision — we have to reach out to all people immigrating who need priests.”

Colleagues on the Seminary staff have commented on the rapport Fr. Kurt has with the seminarians, something that bodes well for the future. When asked about the reason for this rapport, Fr. Kurt responded that in ministry, it is essential to love the people one serves. He sees the Rector primarily as the pastor of the Seminary and noted that whether in a parish, a hospital, a chaplaincy or a school, unless the pastor has a genuine love and concern for those whom he has been called to shepherd in Christ’s name, he has nothing to say to them. But if he does love them, and only then, can he serve as a representative of the Good Shepherd who came to serve and not to be served. People respond with a natural rapport when they know that they are loved. Fr. Kurt added, already last spring when I was named Interim Rector, I told the seminarians that they were not my first priority, they were my only priority.

In addition, he acknowledged, “I have a rapport with them, because I have been able to see and appreciate how God has worked in their lives, in their vocations and in the mystery of their response to the call of God. I have their confidence because we speak the same language and we understand one another from the inside. I can see what this generation is trying to say and trying to do.”

On another note, Fr. Kurt mentioned that one of the first things he did as Rector was to purchase a new cross-trainer for the Seminary’s wellness program, which is also a part of the Seminary’s new capital campaign. “We need to make sure that the priests of this generation take care of their health, and we also need to develop in the men a good work ethic.” He noted that today’s “entertainment culture” has infected the way that people live and reflected on how, “We need to produce a generation of priests who are free of the unreasonable demands of the entertainment culture, who find fulfillment in spending themselves in ministry to the People of God, priests who give themselves generously to pastoral service. So we’re challenged to produce young priests who are happy to work and to work hard for God and the Church. That is absolutely essential.”

Fr. Kurt concluded: “All things are possible for the Seminary community if everybody keeps their eyes fixed on Christ and His Paschal Mystery. We are here to do the will of God and to show forth His love to the world. That love is never more evident than when we contemplate Christ who poured out his life for us so that we might pour out our lives for our brothers and sisters.”
A Deacon in Transition

By Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Burke

This final year in the Seminary has been very exciting. I am anxiously preparing to be ordained a priest, with five of my classmates on May 26, 2001, at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. This final year of a six-year program is called a “transitional year.” My classmates and I are at Saint Vincent Seminary during the week taking classes, and on the weekends we return to our parish assignments where we have been doing a pastoral internship for the past three years. It is an opportunity to get great hands-on training outside of the classroom.

As an ordained Transitional Deacon, our life is in “transition.” We spend a lot of time driving in our cars back and forth from Latrobe to our parishes. I am stationed at St. Ferdinand in Cranberry Township, Butler County, 25 miles north of Pittsburgh, just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit 3. It is a large and very active parish. I assist at several masses on the weekend, delivering the gospel and also giving the homily, and help prepare the altar. I also perform baptisms, go to the hospital and homes for communion calls, and teach eighth grade CCD. It is quite a weekend and very rewarding. It is a good learning lesson preparing a transition from Seminary to priesthood.

The weekend assignment is a very good learning lesson for us in our final year. We have to balance the Seminary life and parish life. Come time for ordination we will make that final step to be in the parish life full-time. This pastoral experience teaches us people skills and ministry. Whether it is interacting with the elderly, middle-aged, or youth, we encounter people every day. Also counseling skills are put to the test.

I have met so many wonderful people these last three years in the parish. The people are very supportive and are walking the journey with me. It is an awesome experience. It is great hands-on training for the future. There are just some things that you can’t learn in the classroom. We are Deacons in “transition.” We are moving on towards the future!

Read other articles by Thomas Burke on the Seminary’s website: http://benedictine.stvincent.seminary/

Forthcoming Ordinations

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
Diocesan Ordination, Br. Michael Calhoun, O.S.B., Saint Bede Abbey; Terence A. Crone, Archdiocese of Atlanta; Carl Kerkmeyer and David Medina, Diocese of Tulsa; Christopher Roux, Diocese of Charlotte; Bryan Small, Archdiocese of Atlanta. Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa, Ordaining Prelate, Archabbey Basilica, 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 12
Diocesan Ordination, Thomas Dagle, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

MONDAY, MAY 14
Diocesan Ordination, William Berkey and Douglas Dorula, Diocese of Greensburg.

SATURDAY, MAY 19
Priesthood Ordination, Br. Lee Yoakam, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey, 10 a.m., Archabbey Basilica.

Diocesan Ordination, Robert Miller, Diocese of Youngstown, 10:30 a.m.

Diocesan Ordination, John Nesbella, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

FRIDAY, MAY 25
Priesthood Ordination, Wayne Morris, Diocese of Steubenville.

Priesthood Ordination, Stuart Crevcoure, Diocese of Tulsa.

SATURDAY, MAY 26
Priesthood Ordination, Thomas J. Burke, Anthony Gargotta, Terrence P. O’Connor, Michael J. Stumpf, Robert J. Vular and Clinton P. Zadoga, Diocese of Pittsburgh, 10 a.m., St. Paul’s Cathedral.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1
Priesthood Ordination, Br. Kevin Bachmann, O.S.B., 7 p.m., Holy Cross Abbey.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
Priesthood Ordination, Robert Burns and Donald Cramer, Diocese of Harrisburg, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Harrisburg, 10 a.m.

Priesthood Ordination, Tien Hung Duong, Diocese of Charlotte.

Priesthood Ordination, Roberto Orellana, Archdiocese of Atlanta.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9
Priesthood Ordination, Gregory Wilson, Diocese of Charleston.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

SATURDAY, JULY 14
Priesthood Ordination, Br. Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey, 10 a.m., Archabbey Basilica.

JULY 27
Diocesan Ordination, Jonas Christal, Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil.

SEPTEMBER 2001
Priesthood Ordination, David Perry and James Reardon, Diocese of Erie.

Seminary Welcomes New Students

Saint Vincent Seminary welcomed two new students during the spring semester.

Br. Isaac Camacho, O.S.B., is a monk of Saint Leo Abbey, Florida. He is the son of Manuel and Teresa Camacho of Mexico City, Mexico. He is a 1980 graduate of Miguel Hidalgo High School, Mexico City. He earned a degree in religion from Saint Leo University, Florida, in 1994 and has also studied theology at Saint Meinrad’s School of Theology.

Paul D. Smith is from the Diocese of Steubenville. He is the son of W. Vernon and Donna K. Smith of Glen Dale, West Virginia. He is a 1985 graduate of John Marshall High School, Glen Dale. He earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from West Liberty State College, West Virginia, in 1990. He has also studied business administration on the graduate level at Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Erie Seminarian Featured in Production

Seminarian David Shaffer of the Diocese of Erie recently joined the Saint Vincent College Players with a feature role in the musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” based on Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz. Shaffer, a third-year student, had the role of Charlie Brown.
Five Saint Vincent seminarians were pictured along with Greensburg Bishop Anthony Bosco and other diocesan seminarians in the January 11 issue of The Catholic Accent. The occasion was promotion of the National Vocations Awareness Week from January 7 to 13. The goal of the week was to heighten awareness of the need for priestly vocations.

Along with the photo were brief biographical sketches of William G. Berkey, currently serving his pastoral internship at St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon; Douglas E. Dorula, serving his pastoral internship at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg; Michael K. Pecosh, in his second year of theology studies; Alan Polczyinski, in his first year of pre-theology; and Michael G. Zimcosky, in this third year of theology studies.

Sr. Margherita Marchione, M.P.F., author of the book, Pope Pius XII Architect for Peace, discussed the role of Pope Pius XII during the Holocaust in a visit sponsored by Saint Vincent Seminary on October 12.

Sr. Margherita is an internationally known author of 35 books and more than 90 articles. She has been named a Columbia University Garibaldi Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar, and received such awards as the Star of Solidarity of the Republic of Italy, the UNICO National Rizzuto and George Washington Medals. Her books include Yours is a Precious Witness: Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy, Americans of Italian Heritage, and more.

Ricardo De Silva and Alejandro Alaya were pictured in The Catholic News and Herald, Charlotte diocesan paper, on January 5, sending holiday greetings to Friends of the Seminarians at St. Patrick Cathedral. The Friends offer spiritual and financial support to those in priestly formation.

Also over the holidays, Altoona-Johnstown Bishop Joseph V. Adamec was pictured in the January 15 edition of The Catholic Register with diocesan seminarians at his annual Christmas gathering for them. Photographed with the Bishop were Matthew Reese, John Nesbella, Vocations Director Msgr. Michael Becker, and Paul Molchany, Saint Vincent seminarians, as well as deacons and other diocesan seminarians.

Of the eight men ordained to the diaconate on December 16 by Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop David A. Zubik, six were transitional deacons from Saint Vincent Seminary, who will be ordained to the priesthood this spring. Pictured in the December 22 Pittsburgh Catholic were Thomas Burke, Anthony Gargotta, Terrence O’Connor, Michael Stumpf, Robert Vular and Clinton Zadroga.

Bishop Zubik told the deacons that if they are to be sincere about their ministry, they must always pray, wrote staff writer John Franko.

“’Prayer must be the absolute essential of everything you do,’ he said. He said another important part of their ministry will be to leave a special place in their hearts for Mary, who was ‘not only the first servant of Jesus, but the best.’

“’In speaking to the audience, Bishop Zubik told them that what they were witnessing was a clear example of the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through his people.”

Pittsburgh diocesan seminarian Terrence O’Connor was among the participants at the second annual “Come and See: Find the ‘U’ in Church” vocations gathering held on February 4 in Pittsburgh. The program attracted more than 250 people.

O’Connor was baptized at the age of 19, and staff writer John Franko wrote that “O’Connor ... said a call is something one doesn’t plan out. He said this was a gradual process that involved prayer, reading the Bible and daily Mass. The phone just kept ringing and ringing,’ he said. ‘You finally can’t take it anymore and you have to pick it up and see who’s on the line.’

“’He described his tremendous joy of being a seminarian, and he encouraged others to explore their call. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ he said. ‘God wouldn’t call you if you couldn’t handle it. Just go for it. Find the ‘U’ in church and go for it.’”

Also pictured attending the event with Bishop Donald W. Wuerl was Gary W. Krummert, another diocesan seminarian.

Gregory Wilson, a deacon from the Diocese of Charleston, was featured in the January 25 issue of The New Catholic Miscellany, the diocesan paper. He noted in the column that “The Eucharist was the key to my conversion. It’s been the whole impetus to my vocation.”

“Seminarian sees God in art, everyday life,” was the headline in The Catholic News and Herald on February 2. Alejandro Alaya, a Charlotte diocesan seminarian, was featured in

Sixteen seminarians attending Saint Vincent Seminary were recently installed in the Ministry of Reader by the Most Rev. Gilbert I. Sheldon, Bishop of Steubenville, Ohio, at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica. The seminarians, from nine dioceses and two abbeys, were installed on March 12.
the article by Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar:

“Alaya says God’s voice sent him in pursuit of religious life . . . But it is also sensing God in everyday life — and especially in his own artwork — that Alaya truly feels a divine presence.

‘Since I was a teenager, I had that deep desire for giving my life to God,’ says Alaya, a native of Argentina. ‘I felt that voice inside me — that feeling that desire, that need for filling my heart with something more. That belongs to God, to the mystery of God. That voice is still inside me.’

‘While that voice has long been there, Alaya felt another pull, too. ‘For me it was difficult to enter the seminary because I wanted to do my art,’ he says. ‘I design tapestries, and my cousin and I founded a small company. At one point, we had the chance to do an exhibition in Toulouse, France.’

‘I had a great curiosity for the world,’ he continued. ‘I wanted to see the world as much as I could, and I wasn’t ready to settle down in just one way of life. I think it was my artist impulse telling me to see as much as I could.’”

Rostar wrote that “while he dreamed of pursuing that impulse to see the world as an artist, Alaya still had the feeling of being sent in a different direction. In a small community in Argentina called El Siambon, Alaya continued his discernment process at a Benedictine monastery. . . . His work as an artist continued, and in those tapestries, he experienced God’s presence as well. ‘I wanted to try as much as I could to express God and the divine through art,’ he says. ‘Through art, you can express the mysteries of God that are beyond words. Art is a metaphor for the divine, the transcendent.’”

When he was ready to move into the religious life, Alaya left his homeland and settled in Asheville, North Carolina. He joined the Basilica of St. Lawrence Parish and found examples of faith in his daily conversations with the priests ministering there.

“Now a first-year seminary student at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Alaya continues along the path of his faith journey. Though ‘100 percent’ involved in his studies at this mile marker, he hopes to find God in his tapestries and painting again somewhere down the road. As he felt about his calling, ‘the time will come’ to return to art as well, he said — ‘God-willing, when I join the priesthood.’”

“Alaya,” Rostar wrote, “looks forward to ‘100 percent’ involvement in his studies at this mile marker, he hopes to find God in his tapestries and painting again somewhere down the road. As he felt about his calling, ‘the time will come’ to return to art as well, he said — ‘God-willing, when I join the priesthood.’”

Coverage of the Clergy Day program of the Kiwanis Club in the Erie Diocese brought mention of Rev. Larry Richards, a Saint Vincent Seminary graduate ordained to the priesthood in 1989. The Erie Times-News weekend edition of December 23 covered his talk, which asked: “Why don’t we tell the people we love that we love them?”

Richards, who is pastor of the Bread of Life Community Catholic Church, told those in attendance that the two key necessities for a successful life are to pray and to love.

“Prayer isn’t just about going through the motions. It’s touching the throne of God, and doing it on a daily basis. You’ve got to be among the people who encounter God,” he said.

Richards is also the director of campus ministry at Cathedral Preparatory School and chaplain to several of the school’s sports teams. He is spiritual director of the To Encounter Christ program in Erie, which he began in 1996. He has also led many retreat weekends. He was involved in campus ministry at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Penn State Behrend from 1990 to 1997.

The following deaths were reported:

Rev. Bernard Carr, C’59, on December 1, 2000.

Rev. Edward V. Curry, S’47, on December 19, 2000.


Rev. Francis V. Marchukonis, S’52, on December 21, 2000.


Condolences are offered to:


Rev. Kenneth E. Zezhmarsky, S’86,
To Whom Will the Next Generation Belong?

In 1846 Saint Vincent founder Boniface Wimmer asked, “To whom will the next generation belong?” Since that time Saint Vincent Seminary has been working to ensure that the future belongs to Jesus Christ.

For over 150 years, the formation of future priests has been our mission at Saint Vincent Seminary. In that time we have been blessed to prepare 2,400 men to serve the people of God.

Our blessings continue to grow. At a time when other seminaries in this country suffer from declining enrollment, Saint Vincent Seminary is preparing record numbers of future priests to lead the Church in the new millennium.

As seminarians exhibit the courage and faith to accept the call to priesthood, we must educate and prepare them. As Our Holy Father tells us, the formation of future priests is “one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of the evangelization of humanity.” We cannot allow the challenges of a growing enrollment and rising educational costs to impede our mission.

Please consider a gift to help support the priestly formation program at Saint Vincent Seminary. You can ensure the continued availability of financial aid for Seminary students in need. Your gift will allow us to continue to prepare the leaders of the Church for the new millennium.
Ash Wednesday in Rome

Br. Edward Mazich, O.S.B., is pictured receiving ashes from Pope John Paul II at Santa Sabina Church in Rome on Ash Wednesday. He served as Deacon for the Mass. Several photos also appeared on the front page and inside the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, on March 2. Br. Edward, a Seminary graduate who will be ordained to the priesthood this summer, is currently pursuing graduate studies in Rome at the Pontifical Biblical Institute.

he apparently had a weak blood vessel in his brain. On May 25, 1999, with no warning, he suffered a cerebral vascular stroke, an aneurysm, in the rectory of St. Joseph in Duquesne, where he was pastor. He died, without ever regaining consciousness, on June 3 at the age of 57.

“Once we all realized and understood that it was inevitable, the transplant was not a difficult decision,” Father Susany’s sister, Patti Boxwell, said. Father Susany’s liver, kidneys and tissue were donated.

“Being a priest, I think he would be very pleased that someone else could live because of him,” his sister said. “He was pro-life, and he would want that.”

As public affairs director for the Center for Organ Recovery and Education, Pat Kornick knows the devastation families feel at such sudden loss of loved ones.

Praising the Susany family’s courage and their wish to honor their son and brother, she said, “Of course, the recipient is the one who benefits the most from these donations. But saying ‘yes’ is one of the few ways a family can do something positive from something that is totally negative,” said Pat Kornick, public affairs director for the Center for Organ Recovery and Education.

Awareness and knowledge of the need for such donations are essential, she told The Pittsburgh Catholic.

Catholic Church leaders have spoken in favor of such donations. In August, Pope John Paul II issued a statement reasserting the church’s support of organ donation.

“We believe it’s really important that people of all faiths understand that all major religions, including the Catholic Church, support organ and tissue donation,” she said. “It follows the natural inclination of being able to give of oneself.”