“The teaching that the priest is called to give, that is, the Truth of the faith, must be internalized and lived in an intense personal spiritual journey, so that the priest really enters into a profound, interior communion with Christ himself.”

—Pope Benedict XVI
Dr. Scott Hahn spoke about his recent book, *Covenant and Communion: The Biblical Theology of Pope Benedict XVI*, during the annual lecture of the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Homiletics for Excellence in Preaching. The lecture was held at the Robert S. Carey Performing Arts Center on the Saint Vincent campus. In introducing his topic for the evening, Dr. Hahn quoted from Pope Benedict XVI’s opening remarks to the Bishops at their “Synod on the Word of God,” which took place in Rome in October of 2008: “The history of salvation . . . is the motive for everything, the motive for creation. Everything is created so that this story can exist, the encounter between God and his creatures. In this sense, salvation history, and in particular, the covenant, precedes creation. One could almost say that while material creation is the condition for the history of salvation, the history of the covenant is the true cause of the cosmos.” Dr. Hahn noted that this quote, with its characteristic focus on the covenant, serves as a “cornerstone” of Pope Benedict’s biblical theology as well as his pastoral work.

Another characteristic of Pope Benedict’s biblical theology, Hahn noted, is the role of faith in biblical interpretation. Quoting the Pope again, “It is becoming apparent that any interpretation of God’s Word that is detached from the life of the Church... remains non-obligatory and does not rise above the mere hypothesis.... When exegesis is not theological... the scriptures cannot be the soul of sacred theology, and vice versa, when theology is not fundamentally scriptural interpretation within the Church, then this theology no longer has a foundation. Therefore, for the life and mission of the Church, it is absolutely necessary to overcome the dualism between exegesis and theology.” Dr. Hahn went on to explain that the evening’s lecture would develop these two principles of the Pope’s approach to Scripture as they pertain to the theology of the covenant as a “lived reality” for God’s covenant people.

In the first place, Hahn emphasized the Pope’s stress on reading Scripture in the “living covenant community of the Church.” Quoting Pope Benedict again, Hahn drew attention to the fact that Pope Benedict’s emphasis on the covenant was never intended to be original: “I have never tried to create a theological system of my own, an individual theology.... In all of my theology I simply want to think in communion with Christ and the faith of his Church and that means above all to think in communion with the saints and the great thinkers...”. In the second place, Hahn described the success Pope Benedict has had in overcoming many of the antagonisms recent scholars might suppose, such as those between exegesis and theology, reason and faith, history and dogma, the old covenant and the new. The key to the Pope’s success, Hahn notes, is his insistence that the Word of God is not a dead letter that historians can relegate to the past. It is rather the presence of God in the Word who has entered history to be with His people. In other words, theologians must subordinate the inspired Word of Scripture to the Mystery of the Person of the Incarnate Word, so that Scripture is permitted to participate, as it in fact does, in the very Mystery it is communicating. What this requires of theologians, Hahn goes on to suggest, is faith in the Word and a life of prayer as Pope Benedict has stated on many
Hahn continued to unpack Pope Benedict’s deeply theological understanding of the covenant. Quoting Pope Benedict again: “covenant is the central theme of Scripture itself, thus giving a key to the whole of it.” After recounting the history of God’s covenants, Hahn explained how Pope Benedict relates the history of God’s covenants to the Eucharist. “The Eucharist is the covenant-making moment.” And as Hahn noted, “The New Covenant is a sacrament before it is a document. It illustrates the staggering realism, the flesh and blood bond that unites us to God as a family, a covenant of sacred kinship that is not just biological but theological.” Hahn describes the Eucharist as the lens through which early Christians interpreted the crucifixion of Jesus as a covenant sacrifice, a priestly act, wherein he truly gives himself to us to establish the new and eternal covenant in His blood.

As Hahn concluded, he related the lecture’s theme to the importance of preaching. He placed the relationship between the Paschal Mystery and the Eucharist at the heart of good preaching. The Paschal Mystery is the historical expression of God’s own self giving love, a Mystery proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word and made present in the Eucharist. Hahn described the place of the homily within this twofold movement of the Liturgy, by again, drawing upon the thought of Pope Benedict. “In one word, it is mystogogy,” Hahn stated, as he then summed up with another quote by Pope Benedict: “Mystogogy means more than simply conveying information about the Eucharist. Mystogogy means leading believers into a real participation in the saving mystery of Christ’s body, blood, soul, and divinity . . . . The mature fruit of mystogogy is an awareness that one’s life is being progressively transformed by the Holy Spirit, working through the Holy Mysteries being celebrated.” The lecture ended with Hahn emphasizing that “Mystogogy is moving from the visible ritual to the invisible reality.”


Summer Conference Focuses on Gospel of John

The fifth annual Conference for Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians will take place June 14-18, 2010. Priests, deacons and seminarians are invited to spend four days reflecting on the “Gospel & Sacraments: Reading and Proclaiming the Gospel of John,” with Dr. Scott Hahn.

Dr. Hahn will once again be joined by other noted scholars, including Dr. Brant Pitre of Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, and Dr. John Bergsma of Franciscan University of Steubenville. The days will be filled with discovery, in a leisurely, but stimulating environment. It’s an opportunity for clergy to contemplate the Scriptures more deeply—for prayer, for preaching, and for understanding.

Priests, deacons and seminarians can register for the summer conference online at http://www.stvincentstore.com. Retreat registrations can be found under the Archabbey section of the website.

Ministry of Reader Installation

Thirteen seminarians from Saint Vincent Seminary, representing one archdiocese, six dioceses, and two abbeys, were installed to the ministry of reader on February 22, 2010 by the Most Reverend William J. Winter, S.T.D., retired auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh, in the Saint Vincent Basilica. Seminarians included Luis Alvarez, the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Josiah Booth, Michael Norton, Ryan Stenger and Jacob Straub, Diocese of Covington; David Renne, Diocese of Erie; Stephen Kelley, Diocese of Harrisburg; Alberto Vargas, Diocese of Saginaw; Vernon Knight, Diocese of Savannah; Ryan Stichweh, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Brother Cassiano De Souza, São Bento Abbey, São Paulo, Brazil; Brother Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., and Brother Maximilian Maxwell, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey.
Saint Vincent Seminary held its annual Scholarship Dinner at LeMont on Mount Washington. Ms. Deborah Acklin, executive vice president and chief operating officer of WQED Multimedia, was the keynote speaker. Ms. Acklin serves as a member of the Saint Vincent Seminary Board of Regents.

Ms. Acklin talked about the importance of joy, holiness, and education in dealing with the challenges of living in our world today. Despite the rapid increase in communication technology, many in our world today find themselves becoming increasingly isolated and lonely. Experiences of family and community, however, provide stepping stones for liberating oneself from self absorption and engaging the world in a positive and fruitful manner.

Ms. Acklin spoke of three individuals in her life who embodied the fruits of joy, holiness, and the value of education in their lives—her father, James Acklin, her cousin, Father Tom Acklin, and her dear friend and co-worker at WQED, Fred Rogers, creator and host of Mister Rogers Neighborhood. For all of them, family, and community, and education provided the fertile ground for growth in joy and holiness—the essential ingredients for a meaningful and fruitful life.

She observed that the Benedictine values of family and community were the reason why all three of these importance influences and models in her life were connected to Saint Vincent. Her father began his teaching career at Saint Vincent College. Her cousin, Father Tom, is a member of the Benedictine community. And Fred Rogers chose Saint Vincent College as the setting for carrying on his legacy in early learning and children’s media.

As executive vice president and general manager, Ms. Acklin is responsible for day-to-day operations of the organization, including WQED-TV, WQEX-TV, WQED-FM, Pittsburgh Magazine, an education center and wqed.org. She recently served as executive producer for “The War That Made America,” a four-hour, nationally released docu-drama for PBS on the French and Indian War. In 2007, Ms. Acklin received the Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award for Station Excellence, given by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences to a television station for outstanding programming, commitment to broadcast excellence, and exemplary operations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and New Jersey.

Ms. Acklin returned to WQED in 2002 to serve as Senior Vice President of Production and Technology and Chief Content Officer after working at the National Geographic Channel where she was helped launch the cable television startup. At the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C., she helped lead a team that conceived, developed and produced National Geographic Today.

She has been garnered a national Emmy award nomination; seven Emmy awards (Mid-Atlantic); a CINE Golden Eagle; White House Press Association honors; the Gabriel Award, the Pearl Award, the Pennsylvania TV/Film Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); Associated Press honors for Best Newscast and the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters awards for Excellence in Broadcasting. She was named one of Pittsburgh’s Outstanding Women in Science by the Women & Girls’ Foundation, and one of the region’s 40 Under 40, by Pittsburgh Magazine.

Saint Vincent Seminarians from left, Kevin Coye of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Ryan Fischer of the Diocese of Harrisburg, and Ryan Stichweh of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, were among those attending the Serra Club dinner at Saint Vincent Seminary with Director of Development Paul Whiteside.
Two Seminary Staff Members Bid Farewell

By Kim Metzgar

Father Lester Knoll, O.F.M. Cap., the Seminary’s Director of Spiritual Formation for the past three years, and Father David Brzoska, who has served in the administration in a variety of roles since 2004, most recently as Vice Rector, will be completing their terms of service to the Seminary this spring. Father Lester will return to his community and Father David to the Diocese of Charlotte.

“This has been a fantastic experience in terms of ministry,” Father Lester said. “The Benedictines have certainly lived up to their reputation in terms of hospitality. I’ve felt very much at home and couldn’t have asked for more from the seminarians, who have been wide open to spiritual direction.”

Father Lester, who has served as a school principal as well as a pastor, most recently at Saint Mary’s Parish in Herman, will return to the Capuchin Hermitage in Wheeling, West Virginia, and to a life dedicated to prayer, penance, and ministry. The hermitage is near the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s pastoral center, where Father Lester plans to continue with spiritual direction as well as with directed retreats. However, he said that his future duties will depend on the needs of the Order, and that he will do whatever his provincial asks of him.

He described his role as a spiritual director as helping each seminarian he directs to “listen more clearly to what the Lord is saying to him. The seminarians have been wide open to spiritual direction and very transparent in terms of dialogue. It has been an ideal setting for spiritual direction.”

Father David, who earned a master of arts from the Seminary in 1999 and a master of divinity degree in 2000, served in the Diocese of Charlotte for four years before beginning his term of service at the Seminary. Currently serving as vice rector, dean of human formation and director of pastoral formation, he has also been director of Hispanic ministry.

“Both of my times here have been wonderful,” he said. “As a student it was a great environment to learn in, to be formed in. The seminary has a very strong community and a very family-like atmosphere.”

Father David said, “the hospitality of the Benedictines is truly very evident. As a student, the monks always made us feel at home, and as a staff member the whole monastic community has been very supportive and gracious.”

One of the great blessings, he said, has been “to be on a spiritual journey with the men in formation, from when they first come through the seminary to watching them grow and progress to ordination. That has been one of the things my second time around that has made me learn what it means to be a ‘father,’” he said. “It’s been good.”

Father David Brzoska teaching.

Father Lester Knoll, O.F.M. Cap., at left, meets with seminarian Bill Appel of the Diocese of Covington.
The James and MaryAnn Cherubini Establish a Scholarship to Commemorate ‘Year of the Priest’

By Elizabeth Cousins

James “Jack” and MaryAnn Cherubini trace their friendship with the Benedictines to the parishes they grew up in—she at Saint Bartholomew in Crabtree, he at Saint Bruno in South Greensburg. Both alumni of Saint Vincent College, they sponsor scholarships in both the college and the seminary. They are also active in their parish, Saint Bruno, both as lay ministers and on parish committees. They are also serving as co-chairs of the “Today’s Challenge, Tomorrow’s Hope,” the capital and endowment campaign for the Diocese of Greensburg.

“We both believe we are stewards of God’s generosity,” Jack said. “Being that steward, you try to be as helpful as you can. What better way can we help to provide for those seminarians? They will be our future shepherds.” MaryAnn said, “We asked ourselves, ‘What can we do to help?’”

That question led them to start a scholarship at the Seminary. Jack explained that starting their scholarship was easy. “We talked with Paul Whiteside, the seminary’s director of Development, about how we could help. “If you start a scholarship and add to it yearly, the seminary can use the funds as they’re earned,” he added. “We are contributing to the education of a future priest, a priest who will help us to live as disciples of Christ. For every person who becomes a priest, there is that potential to bring thousands and thousands of souls closer to Christ. Our world needs good and holy priests and we are eager to be supportive of fulfilling that need.”

The Cherubinis welcome seminarians to their home, often seminarians from Brazil and Vietnam. “We have become very close to these seminarians,” MaryAnn said. “We just ask ourselves, ‘what is there that I can do that will help them along their way?’”

Jack added, “What greater return can you get on your investment that to invest in a seminarian?”

Tour of Saint Vincent Seminary

Saint Vincent Seminarians Robert Fleckenstein of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, back, left, Christopher Barnes of the Diocese of Erie, fourth from the left in the back row; Michael Marcelli of the Diocese of Youngstown, back row, by tabernacle, and Michael Polinek, Diocese of Erie, gave a tour of the Basilica and the Seminary to seventh and eighth graders from Saint John the Baptist School in Scottdale.
Academic Dean Dr. Michel Therrien was a guest on EWTN’s, “Franciscan University Presents,” speaking on the topic of the Pope’s recent Encyclical, “Charity in Truth.”

He gave a lecture at Franciscan University, “The Pedagogy of Law in Aquinas.”

He also conducted a continuing education program for the priests of the Diocese of Pittsburgh on the Pope’s recent Encyclical, “Charity and Truth,” and gave a Lenten Reflection, “Moral Paradigms” at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Latrobe.

Father Warren D. Murrman, O.S.B., gave a presentation of “Evolution of the Christian Priesthood,” at Saint Vincent Parish. The event was sponsored by the Adult Education Committee of the Parish as part of a year-long venture in the “Year of the Priest” to learn more about the past, present and future of the priesthood.


Brother Bruno was also asked by the archivist at Dickinson College, his alma mater, to write the preface to an online archive of lectures of the Rev. Charles Nisbet, the first president of Dickinson College. The preface and lectures—literary criticisms of authors ranging from Ovid to Joseph Addison, including Chaucer, Milton, and Vergil—are available online at http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/context/m031.htm.

Father Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B., was the guest speaker at a Christian Unity Service held at Saint Vincent Basilica. Sponsored by the Latrobe Ministerium, this year’s theme was “You are witnesses of these things,” based on Luke 24, v. 48.

Father Edward teaches Christology, theological anthropology and Greek at Saint Vincent Seminary, and is novice master at the Archabbey.

Father Justin M. Matro, O.S.B., has given a number of retreats and workshops recently. They include:

- Diocese of Nashville, Clergy Retreat.
- Diocese of Allentown, Clergy Day of Recollection.
- Diocese of Arlington, Retreat for Vocation Discernment Group.

Upcoming retreats include:


Teaching a year-long adult formation class on the Sacraments for St. Cecelia and Sacred Heart parishes.

Father Patrick T. Cronauer, O.S.B., has presented at and given a number of conferences and retreats, including:

- A faculty colloquium on the “Divisio Textus Formation Course on Critical Reading.”
- Four Conferences entitled, “Highlights from the Life and Writings of Saint Paul” to the Presbyteral Gathering of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion.
- The First Profession Retreat to the novices at Saint Vincent Archabbey.
- The Catholic Biblical Association Meetings at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska where he was a participating member of the “Divinity in Ancient Israel” Working Group.

- A conference entitled: “The History of the Permanent Diaconate, From its Suppression in the 3-4th Century Until its Restoration at Vatican II.”

- Presented two conferences for the Altoona-Johnstown Permanent Diaconate Program on Divisio Textus: The Art of Critical Reading at Saint Emma Monastery and Retreat House in Greensburg.
- Participated in a Seminary Faculty Colloquia held at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve Center.

Father Patrick also authored the publication: “Learning and Practicing the Art of Critical Reading and the Preparation of a Divisio textus,” a 181 page workbook compiled for the formation program at Saint Vincent Seminary with the assistance of Dr. Michel Therrien, Academic Dean.
By Melissa Kaminski

Some have been here for four years, some for six, but all except one—a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey—are preparing to leave for ordination in their respective dioceses. Whether they started Seminary in pre-theology or moved directly into the formation program, the eleven deacons from the Seminary Class of 2010 are ready for ordination.

Deacon Robert Fleckenstein of the Diocese of Pittsburgh says he will miss the “fraternity that I have established with the other men here. The seminarians at Saint Vincent are among the greatest men that I’ve come to know, and I will miss their support and friendship on a daily basis.”

As he prepares for ordination, he notes that the support of family and friends “has been the backbone of where I am today and where I am going.”

Deacon Jeremy Heppler, O.S.B., of Saint Benedict’s Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, reflected on his time at Seminary, noting that “one of the greatest challenges was properly balancing prayer, classwork, developing and maintaining friendships, and other things to live a healthy life.”

One of his fondest memories of his time at Saint Vincent was attending “the youth rally with Pope Benedict in New York. That is something I will cherish the rest of my life.”

Deacon Michael Polinek of the Diocese of Erie said that his classes at Saint Vincent “had a pastoral twist to them. It wasn’t just about memorizing information for the test, but how to integrate what we are learning and putting it into real life scenarios and situations. The seminary does very well in this area.” He said he will miss “the relationships with the rest of the seminarians. There is a great atmosphere at Saint Vincent between the students and faculty. Sharing meals and common prayer will be missed the most.”

Deacon Carlos Vargas of the Archdiocese of Atlanta has enjoyed the deacon internship that he served at Saint Camillus Parish, New Castle, and spending time at table with people in the refectory, “especially Father David (Brzoska, vice rector). I will miss the scheduled time for prayers, the morning adoration, the food and the people,” Deacon Vargas said. He added that one of his greatest sources of inspiration, as he prepares for ordination, has been Father Lester Knoll, O.F.M. Cap., his spiritual director. From Father Lester he has learned to “live one day at a time, and do not run. Let God form you.”

Deacon Christopher Barnes of the Diocese of Erie said his experiences at seminary “have taught me how to be dependent upon God and Jesus Christ for the strength and grace to persevere in all the challenges that I will face in ministry. Staying focused on Jesus Christ in prayer has allowed me the opportunity to foster a deeper sense of trust and fidelity to whatever the Father and Son ask of me in service of the Church.”

While he does not yet know what his assignment will be after ordination, he said, “the only plan that I have is to serve the people of God with my gifts and talents, always being open to whatever assignment I receive from my bishop. I pray and hope that I can just be a good shepherd to the flock that Jesus Christ calls me to tend and lead, always loving them as the Father has loved me with mercy and compassion.”

Other deacons in the class include Michael Marcelli of the Diocese of Youngstown, Thang Pham of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Jose Alexandre Missio of the Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil, Brian Cline of the Diocese of Youngstown, and Brother Bonaventure Curtis, O.S.B., of Saint Vincent Archabbey. (See opposite page for a group photo.)

“God continues to call all people to follow Him in a unique way all their own,” Deacon Fleckenstein concludes. “Find your path. Journey closely with the Lord, His Mother, and His Church. Enjoy the journey, because you never know how God will use you to bring others closer to Himself.”

Vietnamese Abbot Visits

Father Anthony Pham, O.S.C.O., S’04, right, and his abbot, John of the Cross Doan Le, O.S.C.O., Abbot of Phuoc Son Abbey, Vietnam, meet with Seminary Chancellor Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., during a recent visit. Father Anthony studied at Saint Vincent Seminary as a monk of Phuoc Son Abbey, and worked to found Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, following his graduation and ordination. Abbot John visited two monks of Saint Joseph monastery who are in formation at the Seminary.
Deacons from the Seminary Class of 2010 ready for ordination, front, from left, Michael Marcelli, Diocese of Youngstown; Brian Cline, Diocese of Youngstown; Thang Pham, Archdiocese of Atlanta; Michael Polinek, Diocese of Erie; back, from left, Jose Alexandre Missio, Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil; Brother Jeremy Heppler, O.S.B., Saint Benedict’s Abbey, Atchison, Kansas; Brother Bonaventure Curtis, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey; Carlos Vargas, Archdiocese of Atlanta; Christopher Barnes, Diocese of Erie and Robert Fleckenstein, Diocese of Pittsburgh.

(See article on opposite page)
Chancellor’s Column

“Pope Benedict XVI and The Year of the Priest”

Dear Friends,

As part of the Church’s celebration of “The Year of the Priest,” Pope Benedict has offered some reflections on priestly ministry, namely the teaching, sanctifying and governing roles that are part of every priest’s stewardship in the name of Christ.

In a recent audience at Saint Peter’s Square, our Holy Father remarked that “the teaching that the priest is called to give, that is, the truth of the faith, must be internalized and lived in an intense personal spiritual journey, so that the priest really enters into a profound, interior communion with Christ himself.”

Our Holy Father noted that the priest is called to a personal encounter with Christ that will enable him to internalize the teachings and values of Christ in such a way that the priest reflects the attitude, values and compassion of Christ in all that he says and does. The priest offers the teachings of Christ “not with the presumption of one who imposes his own truth, but rather with the humble and happy certainty of one who has found the Truth and who has been gripped and transformed by it. Because of this, he can do nothing less than proclaim it.”

Through our educational and formational programs in preparing those who are called to priestly ministry, Saint Vincent Seminary encourages our seminarians to seek the Truth and to serve others without hesitation in the name of Christ.

To our benefactors and friends who support Saint Vincent Seminary in fulfilling our mission to prepare seminarians for service in the priesthood, I extend profound gratitude and promises of continued prayers now and in the years to come.

May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with you in great abundance!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.

Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.

Chancellor

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Dear Friends,

Saint Vincent Seminary joins the Holy Father and the universal church in celebrating the Year of the Priest. Saint Vincent Seminary continues its 164 year tradition in forming young men to be good stewards of the mission that Christ entrusted to his first disciples. From the very beginning of our foundation in 1846, the Seminary has provided the necessary formation for faith and for service for those called to priestly ministry.

In his encyclical Deus Caritas Est (God is Love), His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that all Eucharist that is disconnected from loving service is a Eucharist that is intrinsically flawed. Love for the Eucharist is love for all of God’s people.

In recent years Saint Vincent Seminary has initiated three new programs to strengthen the formation of those preparing for the priesthood. These include:

1) The Pope Benedict XVI Chair for Homiletics and Excellence in Preaching,
2) The Pastoral Stewardship Program, and
3) The Hispanic Ministries Program.

Three initiatives build upon the solid philosophical and theological program provided in the academic curriculum of Saint Vincent Seminary. These programs were strongly affirmed by this past year’s accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools and by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. This positive assessment of these academic programs of the Seminary follows upon the strong endorsement of Saint Vincent Seminary’s intellectual, spiritual, human and pastoral formation programs in the Vatican Visitation of U.S. Seminaries several years ago.

Building a strong formation program such as we have here requires a commitment, on the part of the generous supporters who are listed in this Annual Report.

It is the responsibility of every generation to make sure that future generations have the opportunity to come to know the person of Jesus Christ. It is the priest who helps us to come to encounter the Risen Lord in a personal way. The personal qualities of the priest, namely his own faith and the unique skills and talents that he offers in the name of the Church to God’s people provide the inspiration for deepening our personal relationship to Christ.

The Church needs good and holy priests now more than ever.

We are grateful that Saint Vincent Seminary provides the essential experiences and formation for our seminarians to become the best stewards possible in serving Christ and His Church today.

As Chairman of the Board of Regents, I express my personal gratitude and that of the board in thanking the administration, faculty and students of Saint Vincent Seminary, along with our alumni and friends who so generously support us in providing for a world class, total quality education and formation program.

Sincerely,

John C. Marous, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Regents
Dear Friends,

As I write this letter we are in the Easter season, and spring is manifesting its full splendor! It seems most appropriate that in the midst of this celebration of life we are preparing to send eleven men back to their dioceses and religious communities to begin their new vocations as priests. Each of these priesthood candidates has been diligently preparing for years, and now they each embark on a sort of new springtime in their lives. It is truly a period of blessed fruition!

At the same time, we are also bidding farewell to two stalwart members of our formation faculty. Father Lester Knoll, OFM, Cap., has been recalled by his religious superior to continue his work as a spiritual director in a different venue. Father Lester joined our team as the director of spiritual formation in 2007. We express our gratitude to Father Lester and to his provincial and the Capuchin community for providing the opportunity to have him serve as spiritual director for our seminarians for the past three years.

In addition, we are also saying goodbye to our vice rector and director of pastoral formation, Father David Brzoska. After six years of working in seminary formation, Father Dave has been recalled by his ordinary, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, to serve in his home Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina. In all, Father Dave has spent twelve years at Saint Vincent Seminary. He arrived as a pre-theology student in 1994 and was ordained in 2000. In 2004, he returned to work as the director of pastoral formation and dean of students. In 2006 he was named vice rector and has served well and joyfully in that post. We will surely miss his dedication and fun-loving disposition.

Every year spring brings new life, growth, and change. In this spring of 2010, we bear witness to new seasons in the lives of our ordination candidates as well as Fathers Lester and Dave. It has been a great honor to share in the journeys of each of these men. Saint Vincent Seminary is surely a better place for having shared in their vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Justin M. Matro, O.S.B.
Rector

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 also provides programs for permanent diaconate candidates and offers degree programs to qualified men and women seeking a theological education.
The following list includes all Saint Vincent Seminary donors who made a gift or pledge payment for any purpose during 2009. All gifts received after December 31, 2009 will appear in the next annual report.

Please telephone the Seminary Development Office at 724-532-6740 if a correction is necessary.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners in our mission during 2009.

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Rev. Mr. and Mrs. John E. Sroka
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+Mr. Gilbert A. Strittmatter
+ Dr. and Mrs. George E. Sweeney
+Mrs. Mary E. Tepe
+Miss Mary Lou M. Trancone
Ms. Rose Marie Volpe
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Wolfe
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Leaven  Spring 2010
Scholarships

- The Altoona-Johnstown Seminarian Scholarship
- Victor and Christina Ballash Memorial Scholarship
- Victor E. and Joan B. Ballash Scholarship
- Monsignor Andrew J. Balok Endowment Fund
- The Benedict Endowment Fund
- Benedictine Pastors Fund
- Rev. Matthew A. Benko, O.S.B., Scholarship
- Frank J. and Joan Hoover Bonanno Scholarship
- The Paul and Rosemary Breindel Scholarship
- The John and Margaret Bridge Scholarship
- Rev. Aloysius D. Carasella, O.S.B., Scholarship
- Anna M. Chase Scholarship
- James and MaryAnn Cherubini Scholarship
- Bishop William G. Connare Scholarship
- Rev. J. David Crowley Scholarship
- Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo Memorial Scholarship
- Marianne F. Dean Scholarship
- Jane and Michael Demshock Memorial Fund
- Diocese of Pittsburgh Scholarship
- The DiPadova Family Trust, James A. DiPadova Scholarship
- Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan Scholarship
- George and Eileen Dorman Fund
- Mario J. Ferretti Memorial Scholarship
- Ann S. Foster Memorial Scholarship
- The Kathleen Sacco Hann Scholarship
- William Randolph Hearst Scholarship
- Gilbert J. and Dorothy Hoehn Scholarship
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Scholarship
- Marie Kaul Scholarship
- The B. P. Kenna Scholarship
- Andrew and Amelia Kirsch Scholarship
- Stephen P. Kosmo Scholarship
- Theresa C. Kosmo and Pearl Szczygiel Scholarship
- Rev. Thomas J. Kram Scholarship
- Monsignor Paul A. Lenz Burse for Native Americans
- Monsignor Charles Owen Rice Scholarship
- Saint Gregory The Great Scholarship
- Saint Mary Scholarship
- Honorable Bernard F. Scherer Scholarship
- Rev. Paulinus J. Selle, O.S.B., Endowment Fund
- Norma A. Sirback Scholarship
- Steckert Memorial Scholarship
- The Sväté Písmo i Katolícka Viera Education Fund
- Dr. George and Mrs. Clara Sweeney Scholarship
- Rev. Ulric C. Thamer, O.S.B., Scholarship
- John V. Toner Fund
- Grace and Anthony Trancone Scholarship
- Rev. Raymond A. Vollmer Scholarship
- Monsignor Francis Wagner Fund
- Wall Memorial Fund
- Thomas J. and Margaret McKeon Munsch Scholarship
- Albert Murman Memorial Fund for Hispanic Ministries
- The Murman Family Fund for Inter-cultural Ministries
- Cardinal John O’Connor Scholarship
- Dr. Rizal V. Pangilinan Memorial Scholarship
- Pope John Paul II Scholarship
- The Rachel Pevarnik Scholarship
- Rev. Peter Pilarski and Saint Januarius Parish Scholarship
- Rev. Adrian C. H. Pleus Leadership Scholarship
- James A. and Mary Louise Redding Scholarship
- Benedict and Edna Reuscher Scholarship
- Monsignor Paul A. Lenz Burse for Native Americans
- Thomas J. and Margaret McKeon Munsch Scholarship
- Albert Murman Memorial Fund for Hispanic Ministries
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- Cardinal John O’Connor Scholarship
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- Monsignor Francis Wagner Fund
- Wall Memorial Fund
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Guardian Society

If you have included Saint Vincent Seminary in your estate planning, or need information on becoming a member of the Guardian Society, please contact Paul Whiteside at (724) 532-6740.

In Memoriam
Requiescat in Pace

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+Rev. Msgr. Andrew J. Balok
+Mr. August J. Battaglia
+Mrs. Bernice R. Bauer
+Mrs. Mary Rose Carey
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+Rev. John T. Flaherty
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+Mr. Andrew R. Gurecka
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+Mrs. Ethel C. Harvey
+Dr. Joseph F. Heisel, Jr.
+Rev. John P. Hickey
+Mr. Raymond W. Hill
+Rev. Msgr. John F. Hogan
+Mr. John W. Holtz
+Rev. Thomas W. Jackson
+Rev. Patrick J. Jones
+Rev. Stanislaus J. Jozwian
+Miss Pearl Karawsky
+Rev. Hubert J. Kealy
+Mr. Stephen P. Kosmo
+Rev. Thomas J. Kram
+Ms. Irene H. Kruzynski
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+Rev. Joseph R. Lemp
+Mrs. Grace Long
+Rev. Francis M. Lynch
+Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Maher
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+Rev. John H. McMahon
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+Rev. Francis P. Plantes
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+Mr. Gilbert A. Stackmater
+Dr. and Mrs. George E. Sweeney
+Ms. Mary K. Tamasy
+Mrs. Mary E. Tepe
+Rev. Andrew J. Turlik
+Rev. Msgr. Joseph L. Weidmann
+Rev. Francis C. Wildgruber
+Rev. Msgr. Aloysius L. Zvolinski
Saint Vincent Seminary Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2009

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support:
Tuition and Fees ........................................................................................................................ $1,067,534
Contributions ............................................................................................................................... $509,650
Investment Income ...................................................................................................................... $142,357
Net Realized Gains, (Losses) on Long-Term Investments .......................................................... $89,388
Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) .............................................................................. ($2,279,224)
Auxiliary Enterprises (including Room and Board) .................................................................. $474,172
Net Assets Realized from Restrictions ..................................................................................... $0
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support .................................................................................. $3,877

Expenditures:
Instruction ...................................................................................................................................... $653,166
Library .......................................................................................................................................... $55,000
Academic Support ...................................................................................................................... $127,801
Student Services ......................................................................................................................... $108,212
Admissions ................................................................................................................................... $29,029
Institutional Support ................................................................................................................... $702,619
Operation and Plant Maintenance .............................................................................................. $334,974
Auxiliary Enterprises .................................................................................................................. $378,152
Total Expenditures ...................................................................................................................... $2,388,953

Change in Net Assets ................................................................................................................ ($2,385,076)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year .................................................................................................. $9,913,091
Net Assets, End of Year .............................................................................................................. $7,528,015

The information presented in this report has been derived from the consolidated financial statements audited by an independent accounting firm, Parente-Randolph, LLC and published separately. Copies of audited financials are available upon request.
Greetings from Saint Vincent Seminary! It is always a pleasure to write to you and to receive your very kind cards, letters, calls and emails. Many of you have asked me what the greatest needs of Saint Vincent Seminary are. Our needs are straightforward, and can be placed into four major categories:

- Scholarships
- Pastoral Formation Programs
- Building and Capital Projects
- Operating Funds

Your contribution to any of these areas is very important, and we know that one may appeal more to your interests than the others.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has declared “The Year of the Priest” to emphasize the importance of priestly ministry in the life of the Church. In order to commemorate this year and to express their gratitude for the priests who have touched their lives personally, Jack and MaryAnn Cherubini have established The James and MaryAnn Cherubini Scholarship Fund at Saint Vincent Seminary.

In this issue of Leaven you can read about why Jack and MaryAnn have established a Scholarship Fund to provide for the education and formation of priests. Jack and MaryAnn have become friends with many of our seminarians over the years, and have extended themselves particularly to our seminarians who come from Brazil and Vietnam. Their gift has enabled the Seminary to help to provide critical funding for our seminarians who will continue to dedicate their lives to becoming stewards of God’s Kingdom through their training for the priestly ministry in the United States and throughout the world.

Today, there is a great need to witness to the truth of the values proclaimed by Jesus Christ and passed on to us through the Sacred Scriptures. Through our education and formation programs, we are responding to the call of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to help our seminarians develop a deeper personal relationship with Christ by internalizing the truth of his teachings in order to proclaim his message of salvation to all the world.

Please consider establishing a scholarship either in your name or in memory of a loved one. Or, if you would prefer to contribute to one of the existing scholarship funds, which can be found on page 21 of this issue, I am eager to be of assistance to you. Your gift will become a part of the educational endowment of Saint Vincent Seminary and it will enable us to provide education and formation, now and in the years to come, for those who are called to be stewards of God’s Kingdom through priestly ministry.

If you are able to assist in providing funding for the education and formation of priests at Saint Vincent Seminary, especially during this “Year of the Priest”, please contact me by email at paul.whiteside@email.stvincent.edu, or by phone at (724) 532-6740.

Paul R. Whiteside
Director of Development

Please Return To:
Mr. Paul R. Whiteside,
Saint Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Road,
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690,
Phone: 724-532-6740
E-mail: paul.whiteside@stvincent.edu

Enclosed is my gift of ________________
I am interested in discussing estate planning.
I am interested in starting a scholarship in memory of:
I would like to pledge $_________ per month.

Please make checks payable to Saint Vincent Seminary.
Memorial, Tribute Gifts

To give a tribute or memorial gift please make a donation to Saint Vincent Seminary in honor of a friend, colleague or family member. Mail to Mr. Paul R. Whiteside, Seminary Development Office, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pa., 15650-2690. Donors from September 20, 2009 to April 4, 2010, are included below.

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Mrs. Anna Golofski
Most Rev. Anthony G. Bosco, C’49, S’52, Bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Greensburg, was among those honored at the annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards dinner for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg this year. Bishop Bosco, who started the annual dinner, received a lifetime achievement award during the 12th annual dinner on April 22.

The dinner has raised more than $600,000 for Catholic Charities since its inception; however, Bishop Bosco noted that “everyone is doing their work for the diocese and for the work of the Gospel for the diocese. They will be honored some day, too, if not in this life, in the next.”

More than 6,000 individuals and families in the four counties of the diocese benefit from Catholic Charities, the article, appearing in The Catholic Accent, stated.

Bishop Bosco now teaches a class at Seton Hill University and facilitates online courses in the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation programs. He also hosts Bible study sessions at his residence every two weeks and celebrates Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish.

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio has granted Rev. Msgr. Raymond W. Kutner, J.C.D., S’64, senior priest status and named him pastor emeritus of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Jackson Heights, effective January 31, 2010. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities at the 14,000 member parish, Monsignor Kutner holds various diocesan offices: Judge in the Diocesan Tribunal, Chairman of the Diocesan Real Estate Board, President of the Diocese’s Rocklyn Properties Corporation, which oversees all diocesan real estate transactions as well as the management of diocesan owned properties.

Monsignor Kutner received the Catholic Charities’ Ubi Caritas Deus Ibi Award at the 2009 Bishop’s Testimonial Dinner in recognition of his support of human services in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Charities’ Progress of Peoples Development Corporation.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Michael J. Bransfield has made the following appointments:

Father Richard Ulam, O.S.B., S’80, was named chaplain to the Court Joan of Arc No. 341 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The appointment was made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont.

Father John P. Mulcahy, C’96, S’05, was Monsignor Paul Lenz Receives Patronal Medal

At the annual meeting of the Board of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, held in Baltimore, Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, and Very Rev. David O’Connell, C.M., President of The Catholic University of America, announced that the recipient of the annual Patronal Medal, bestowed at the Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, was Monsignor Paul A. Lenz, C’46, S’49, D’95.

Monsignor Lenz has served on the boards of the Basilica and the Catholic University for a number of years, and has been active in committee assignments, although he noted that the honor was a surprise.

Since the inception of the Patronal Medal in 1974, 25 recipients have been recognized for their efforts and example in advancing Marian devotion, and for their lasting contributions to the two institutions. The mutual sponsorship of the award attests to the strong alliance of the United States’ only Pontifical University and of its Patronal Church. These two entities, located adjacent to one another in Washington, D.C., are a reminder of the history and strength of Catholicism in America. Those recognized by the tribute are “outstanding models of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Steadfast in their Catholic beliefs, confident of Christ’s promise of eternity, and generous in service to the Church and to those in need.”

Monsignor Lenz is also a long-time member of the Saint Vincent Seminary Board of Regents.
appointed administrator of the chaplaincy of Fairmont State University, in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Saint Anthony Parish in Fairmont and Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah.

Rev. Mr. Stephen McGinnis, S’08, was assigned residence at Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, under the direction of Father Mulcahy.

In the Diocese of Savannah, Bishop J. Kevin Boland ordained Jorge Bedoya to the transitional diaconate at Saint Teresa of Avila Church, Grovetown, on November 28. Deacon Bedoya will be ordained a priest in June of 2010.

Father Stephen J. Pontzer, S’07, has been appointed temporary administrator of Saint Peter Claver Parish, Macon, effective December 17, 2009.

In the Diocese of Greensburg:

Ray William Takacs of North Huntingdon was accepted into the permanent diaconate program at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2009. He is the son of William and Gloria Takacs of McKeesport and is married. He is from Saint Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon.

Dr. Edwin Patrick Hogan of Smithton was accepted into the permanent diaconate program at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2009. He is the son of Edwin R. and Priscilla Hogan of West Newton and is married. He is from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg.

Michael Orange of Latrobe was accepted into the permanent diaconate program at Saint Vincent Seminary in 2009. He is the son of Daniel P. Orange of Jeannette and the late Sylvia Orange. He is from Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe.

William Newhouse was accepted into the permanent diaconate program of Saint Vincent Seminary in 2009. He is from Saint Paul Parish, Greensburg.

In the Diocese of Tulsa, Father Stuart Crevcoure’s, S’00, article on “How does Paul understand the Eucharist?” appeared in the November issue of Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, diocesan magazine. His article, “What structures does Saint Paul insist upon in his Church?”, appeared in the October issue.

Father Timothy D. Marcoe, S’07, parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Parish, Hanover, was interviewed for a series of priestly reflections appearing in The Catholic Witness, newspaper of the Harrisburg diocese. Father Marcoe is also chaplain at York Catholic High School.

“The fulfillment in knowing that I can help people encounter God in so many unique ways,” is one of the greatest rewards of his vocation, he said.

In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Michael L. Russo of Saint Michael Parish, Saint Michael, was installed to the ministry of acolyte on October 17 by Bishop Joseph Adamec. The ceremony took place at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Altoona.

Brother Jacob Amos, O.S.B., a monk of Saint Bernard’s Abbey and student at

Bishop Rhoades Moves to Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Harrisburg was named ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana. He has served as Bishop of Harrisburg for the past five years and recently completed his service on the Seminary Board of Regents.

One of Bishop Rhoades’ priorities while in Harrisburg was increasing vocations to the priesthood. He also served as President of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, co-chair of the Pennsylvania Conference on Interchurch Cooperation, Chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Task Force on Health Care and as Episcopal Moderator of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf. He is also a member of the USCCB’s Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism, the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Board of Trustees of Mount Saint Mary’s University, the Board of Trustees of Saint Charles Seminary, the Episcopal Advisory Board of the Theology of the Body Institute, the Episcopal Cabinet for Catholic Charities USA and the Bishops’ Advisory Council of The Institute for Priestly Formation. He succeeds Bishop John D’Arcy, who has served in the diocese since 1985. Bishop Rhoades’ installation was held on January 13.
Saint Vincent Seminary, was mentioned in a vocations article appearing in his diocesan newspaper. He serves as vocations director for his abbey.

“When you are speaking with others about vocations, it’s a hard call,” he said. “Our hope is to participate in the discernment process with men who are asking the most difficult question: how do I answer the call of God in my life? A vocation is a primary call, be it to marriage, serving the Church as a layperson, or in the priesthood or religious life. Ultimately it is God moving the heart to respond.”

* * * * *

In the Diocese of Youngstown, Bishop George Murry, S.J., has made the following assignments:

**Father G. David Weikart, S’03,** appointed administrator of Saint Mary Parish in Orwell and Sacred Heart Parish in Rock Creek, effective November 27, 2009. He previously was associate pastor of Saint Christine Parish in Youngstown and Saint Rose Parish in Girard, and as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Lowellville. He was chaplain of the Serra Club of Mahoning County and a member of the Diocesan Priests’ Personnel Board.

**Father Jack Lavelle, S’99,** received the Father Kevin Fete Memorial Award in the Diocese of Youngstown on October 23. The award was presented at the Voice of Hope Dinner for the Catholic Charities Agencies’ Emergency Assistance Programs.

* * * * *

In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Bishop David Zubik has made the following assignments:

**Father Edward L. Yuhas, S’96,** to pastor of Saint Bernadette Parish, Monroeville, for a term of six years, effective November 16, 2009. He previously was director of the Department for Worship and diocesan master of ceremonies.

**Father James R. Gretz, S’95,** to director of the Department for Worship and diocesan master of ceremonies, effective November 16. He will reside at Saint Simon and Jude Parish, Scott Township, and is also appointed to replacement ministry. He most recently served as parochial vicar of Saint Vitus Parish, New Castle.

**Father E. Daniel Sweeney, S’82,** to pastor, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Homestead/Munhall, for a term of six years, effective November 1, 2009, with residence at Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish, Munhall. He is also appointed part-time parochial vicar at Saint Therese of Lisieux.

**Father James G. Young, S’69,** has been appointed fulltime as pastor of Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish, Munhall, effective November 1, 2009.

**Father Eugene F. Lauer, S’61,** has been granted permission to retire. He will reside at Prince of Peace Parish, South Side, Pittsburgh.

**Father Cornelius W. McCauley, S’66,** has been given permission to retire. He most recently served as pastor of Saint Stephen Parish, Hazelwood.

**Father Richard G. Terdine, C’61, S’65,** has been granted permission to retire. He has most recently served as chaplain to the Catholic patients and staff at UPMC, Shadyside. He will reside at the Cardinal Dearden Center, Oakland.

**Father Sean M. Francis, S’04,** has been named parochial vicar, Saint Vitus Parish, New Castle, effective November 30, 2009. He most recently served as parochial vicar at Saint Alphonsus Parish, Wexford, and part-time chaplain at Mount Alvernia High School.

**Father William E. Dorner, S’07,** has been named parochial vicar of Saint Paul Cathedral Parish, Oakland, effective November 30, 2009. He most recently had served as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Conway.

**Father Edward M. Czemerda, S’97,** has been assigned to replacement ministry, effective November 20, 2009, with continued residence at Saint John Vianney Manor.

**Rev. Albert C. Koser, S’59,** has been named administrator, pro tem, of Saint John Parish, Coylesville, effective January 12, 2010.

**Rev. John D. Nanz, S’71,** has been named chaplain to the Catholic patients and staff members at West Penn Allegheny Health System/Canonsburg General Hospital and designated nursing homes in the Canonsburg area, effective January 11, 2010, with residence at Saint Patrick Parish, Canonsburg.

**Very Rev. Donald J. Breier, S’69,** has been appointed to a second six-year term as rector of Saint Paul Cathedral and pastor of Saint Paul Cathedral Parish, Oakland, effective February 1, 2010.

**Rev. Charles J. Baptiste, S’96,** has been named parochial vicar of Good Samaritan Parish, Ambridge, Saint John the Baptist Parish, Baden, and part-time chaplain at Quigley Catholic High School, effective March 9, 2010.

**Rev. Michael A. Zavage, S’09,** has been named part-time chaplain at Bishop Canevin High School, effective March 8, 2010. He maintains his responsibilities as parochial vicar of Saint Anne Parish, Castle Shannon.

**Rev. Ralph M. Tajak, O.S.B., S’94,** on the death of his father Ralph Tajak, Sr. on December 5, 2009.


**Roman J. Verostko, C’55, S’59,** on the death of his wife Dr. Alice Wagstaff on December 7, 2009.


**RECENT DEATHS:**

The following deaths were reported:

**Rev. Hubert J. Kealy,** C’60, S’64 on March 11, 2010.


Rev. Regis R. Alberth, S’80, has been named to replacement ministry, effective March 8, 2010, with residence at Saint Francis Cabrini Parish, Center Township.

Rev. Alvin J. Adams, S’67, has resigned as pastor of Ascension Parish, Ingram, as well as chaplain to the students at Bishop Canevin High School, effective February 17, 2010.

The resignations of Rev. Carl J. Gentile, S’60, as pastor of Saint John Fisher Parish, Churchill, and Rev. John R. Haney, C’57, S’61, as pastor of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Whitehall, have been accepted, on April 12, 2010, and April 7, 2010, respectively, in accordance with Canon 538.3. Both priests have been appointed administrators of their respective parishes, effective on the same dates.

Rev. Kenneth E. Oldenski, S’62, pastor of Saint Richard Parish, Richland Township, has been granted permission to retire, effective June 30, 2010.


Rev. Gerald J. Lutz, C’53, S’56, has been named parochial vicar with the designation of senior priest, at Saint Paul Parish, Butler, and Saint Wendelin Parish, Carbon Center, effective April 12, 2010.

Rev. David A. Driesch, S’82, has been named part-time chaplain at Serra Catholic High School, effective March 15, 2010. He maintains responsibilities as pastor of Our Lady of Joy Parish, Holiday Park.

The two deacons in the Diocese of Greensburg, Deacon William J. Hisker, P’65, C69, S’05, and Deacon Daniel Frescura, S’02, serve seven parishes. Deacon Hisker serves at Immaculate Conception, Saint Rita and Saint John the Evangelist in Connellsville, under the pastoral direction of Father Joseph Bonafed, S’92. Deacon Frescura serves at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning; Saint Mary, Parish, Yatesboro, under the direction of Father Daniel L. Blout, S’86. He also serves at Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City and Saint Lawrence Parish, Cadogan, under the pastoral leadership of Father Bryan Summers.

In the Diocese of Erie, Father David A. Perry, S’00, continues as pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Frenchville and the mission churches of Saints Peter and Paul, Grassflat and Saint Severin, Drifting. He is in residence at Saint Agnes Parish, Morrisdale.

At Saint Vincent Archabbey, Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B., P’61, C’66, S’69, has been named the 17th president of Saint Vincent College, effective July 1, 2010. Brother Norman is currently executive vice president of Saint Vincent College, dean of the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computing, and associate professor of mathematics.

Father Paul Alexander Shutt, O.S.B., S’97, was appointed by Metropolitan Archbishop Basil M. Schott of the Byzantine Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and with the consent of the Archabbot of Saint Vincent, as administrator of Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trauger.

Saint Vincent at NCDVD Conference Convention

Saint Vincent Seminary was well represented at the National Convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, held in Newark, New Jersey recently. At left are Father Matthias Martinez, O.S.B., Dean of Students. Father Timothy Shannon, director of vocations for the Diocese of Steubenville and Father Edward M. Lohse, chancellor and vocation director for the Diocese of Erie. Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., a member of the Seminary faculty and author of two books, was among the keynote speakers at the convention. Other keynote speakers were Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States; Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, (former) Bishop of Harrisburg and now Bishop of Fort Wayne; Most Reverend Basil Schott, O.F.M. Metropolitan Archbishop, Archeparchy of Pittsburgh for Byzantines.
Father John F. Murtha, O.S.B., P'48, C'53, S'57


He attended Saint Peter’s Elementary School, North Side, Pittsburgh, and Saint Benedict Elementary School, Marguerite. He is a 1948 graduate of Saint Vincent Preparatory School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Saint Vincent College in 1953, a master’s degree in history from Columbia University in 1960, and a doctorate in history from The Catholic University of America in 1965. He was awarded a master of divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary in 1985.

In 1991 he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, and in 2002 he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan.

In 1965, he was assigned to the Archabbey’s Wimmer Priory in Taiwan, Republic of China. He taught history at Fu Jen Catholic University as associate professor of history from 1966 until 1977, when he returned to the Archabbey. He was prior from 1980 until he was named president of Saint Vincent College. Following his retirement as college president, he served as president of the Benedictine Military High School, Savannah, until 1999. From 2001-2004 he was pastor of Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite. A complete obituary can be found at: http://www.saintvincentarchabbey.org.

Bishop John B. McDowell, C’42, S’45

Retired Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell of Pittsburgh died on February 25, 2010 at Passavant Hospital, Pittsburgh. He was 88 years old and had retired in September 1996 after 30 years as a bishop.

“Bishop McDowell was a giant of the Church,” Bishop David A. Zubik said, “a national figure in Catholic education, and an influential bishop in our national conference.”

The retired bishop was well known in Catholic education nationwide, and was a leader in educational matters for the Catholic Bishops. He was instrumental in drafting the 1972 landmark document of the United States bishops on catechesis, “To Teach as Jesus Did.”

He served the Diocese of Pittsburgh as assistant superintendent of schools, superintendent of schools and vicar for education. In recognition of his service to Catholic education, a consolidated elementary school in the South Hills area in 1995 was named the Bishop John B. McDowell Regional School.

Bishop McDowell also authored seven biographies on the past bishops of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He completed his last, a brief biography of Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, a month after celebrating his 84th birthday. His final book was an autobiography, completed in 2007.

Born on July 17, 1921 in New Castle, the son of Bernard A. McDowell and Louise Hannon McDowell, he attended St. Lawrence O’Toole Elementary School and Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, in 1942, and a master’s degree from Saint Vincent Seminary. At Catholic University of America, he earned a master’s degree in administration and education in 1950 and a doctorate in education and philosophy in 1952. Duquesne University awarded him an honorary doctorate of literature in 1962.

Bishop McDowell was ordained a priest in November 1945, and served as associate pastor at Saint Irenaeus Parish, Oakmont. He was named assistant superintendent of schools in 1952, superintendent of schools in 1955, and vicar for education in 1970. He served a term as head of the National Catholic Educational Association. He was also pastor of Epiphany Church, Pittsburgh, from 1969 until his retirement. He was appointed papal chamberlain in September 1956 and domestic prelate in February 1964.

Bishop McDowell was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh and titular bishop of Tamazuc in Saint Paul’s Cathedral on September 8, 1966.

Courtesy Diocese of Pittsburgh

CD Now Available

The Saint Vincent Seminary music compact disc, O God Come to my Assistance: Saint Vincent Seminarians in Song, is now available. The CD showcases the multicultural diversity of the Seminary, with songs in Spanish, Vietnamese, and even a Baptist choir piece, along with several individual and duo selections.

The production of the CD included more than thirty seminarians helping in all the various aspects of the process ranging from singing, playing, and writing songs to a seminary-wide CD naming contest and the designing of the album’s cover. The CD is available at http://www.stvincentstore.com or by calling or writing Archabbey Publications at 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650, 724-805-2427.
Erie Chancellor 2010 Commencement Speaker

Rev. Edward M. Lohse, J.C.L., of the Diocese of Erie will receive an honorary degree and serve as commencement speaker at Saint Vincent Seminary’s annual commencement, on May 7, 2010, in the Archabbey Basilica.

Father Lohse is the chancellor and vocation director for the Diocese of Erie. The son of Edward L. and Ida E. Lohse of McKean, Pa., he is a graduate of Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie. Father Lohse earned a bachelor of arts degree in history, summa cum laude, from Gannon University, Erie, in 1984; a master of divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary, with highest honors, in 1987; and a license in canon law, summa cum laude, from The Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, in 2002. He also pursued additional studies at Gannon University in secondary education.

Father Lohse was ordained to the diaconate on October 22, 1988 at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Corry, Pa. and to the priesthood on April 21, 1989 at Saint Peter Cathedral in Erie. He served at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish from 1987 to 1990, as a seminarian, deacon, and parochial vicar. From 1990 to 1995, Father Lohse was a faculty member and campus minister at Central Christian Junior-Senior High School, DuBois, where he taught theology, Latin and German. During the same time period, he served as a weekend assistant at Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville. He also served on the adjunct faculty of Gannon University at DuBois in 1993. From 1994 to 1999, Father Lohse was vice chairman of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Erie, and from 1995 to 2000 he served as vocation director for the diocese. In 1997, he received the additional assignment of acting university chaplain at Gannon University, serving in that capacity until 1999. Following his studies in Rome, from 2000 to 2002, Father Lohse was appointed assistant chancellor of the Diocese of Erie until 2002, when he was named vice chancellor and vocation director. In 2007, he was named chancellor for the Diocese, while continuing to hold the role of vocation director.

Father Lohse is a member of the Saint Vincent Seminary Board of Regents, National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, the Canon Law Society of America and was the Bishop’s Delegate to Cathedral Preparatory School Academic Excellence Foundation in Erie. He received the Msgr. James F. Murphy Award for Excellence in Philosophy while a student at Gannon University, and the Diakonia Award while a student at Saint Vincent Seminary.

—Elizabeth Cousins