Seminary Graduates Say Understanding Broadened, Faith Deepened At Saint Vincent

Saint Vincent Seminary’s commencement on May 8 signified the end of their classroom work on the Latrobe campus for 13 students receiving master’s degrees. But it’s also a beginning, as they are now in Atlanta, Erie, Altoona, Cleveland, Morristown (New Jersey), Wheeling-Charleston, Pittsburgh and India, as well as Latrobe, prepared for the next stages of their lives in ministry. Recently, several reflected on their time in Latrobe and on some of the things they will remember and take with them from Saint Vincent Seminary.

“It has really broadened my understanding of the Catholic faith,” Brother Anthony Grossi, O.S.B., of Saint Vincent Archabbey said. “I had many preconceptions before I entered the Monastery. My studies at the Seminary have broadened in a very positive way my knowledge of the Catholic doctrine and the sacraments, and made me a more rounded person, both pastorally and intellectually. It has been a very positive experience for me.”

Benedict Kapa of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston said he has deepened his prayer life and spirituality in the year he has spent at Saint Vincent. “I will remember the Benedictine spirit and hospitality, as well as the spirit of the academics and life at the Seminary,” he said. Father Andrew Campbell’s homiletics classes stand out in Kapa’s mind for his “enthusiasm and approach ... and as a proclamation of one’s faith. He has been a big help in understanding scripture better, and that is something I will take with me.”

Father Damian Breen, O.S.B., of Saint Mary’s Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, will remember the community. “From my years as a student and a Benedictine here, I will remember the community itself, and all the (Continued on Page 12)

Book By Father Demetrius Dumm to Be Reprinted

When Saint Vincent Seminary faculty member Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B., published his first book in 1987, he hadn’t given 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 Spiritual-ity of the Bible was released, the sales are drawing some of his attention.

“I’ve had lots of calls about it,” he said. “They’re using it for classes in Florida, Ohio, Canada and California. I didn’t think it would be such a success.”

Now, 18,000 copies later, the print run from Paulist Press has been sold out, and a reprint edition is planned for this summer by another publisher, St. Bede’s Publications of Petersham, Massachusetts.

Sales “exceeded my fondest expectations,” said Father Demetrius, who has taught at Saint Vincent Seminary since 1952, after he re-

(Continued on Page 3)
Rector’s Message

In our last newsletter, I spoke of some elements of the Seminary spiritual life program, particularly its focus upon the Eucharist. Another aspect of Seminary life at Saint Vincent is that of its strong emphasis on community life.

Benedictine seminarians live in the Monastery and participate in the prayer and community life of the monastic community. Diocesan Seminary students live in Leander and Roderick Halls, and share a life together including prayer, meals, recreation and study. In placing an emphasis upon community life, we are well aware that most of these diocesan seminarians will be parish priests and not monks. Particularly during these times of a priest shortage, this means that many of them will probably be living alone throughout much of their priestly ministry. Nonetheless, the Program of Priestly Formation designed by the national Conference of Catholic Bishops and approved by the Vatican Congregation does call for four years of residential Seminary community life. It seems to me that this is very important. The many indefinable ways in which a future priest becomes more deeply aware of the meaning of his membership in the Body of Christ takes place in the give and take of daily life together. Indeed, one reaches maturity not only by bearing with each other but in forming good, deep friendships in which faith-sharing, hard work and fun take place. As we watch the growth of seminarians throughout their time at Saint Vincent, it has often been our experience that deepening sensitivity which comes through the common life allows individual seminarians to become more other-oriented, and more attentive and sensitive to the needs of others. It is our hope that future priests will form strong bonds with seminarians, not only from their own dioceses but from elsewhere, bonds that will hopefully continue into the years to come, but which will also spur the future priest to continue to nurture and treasure relationships with fellow priests.

Though the future diocesan priest will probably never live in such a community setting again, I am reminded that there are many aspects of priestly formation which are meant to be nourishing and intense during these years, so that the priest can continue to draw upon these strengths when he has left the Seminary. The experiences of praying together and living together are rich opportunities to develop a great love of community so that the future priest will be able to be a community builder and an outstanding leader of community prayer. While the future priest will probably not have the opportunity to enter so deeply into the study of theology, nor to continue to be supervised in his pastoral endeavors as he is in the Seminary, these processes are extremely important for his future theological development and pastoral attainment. Likewise, community life provides an apparatus which the priest, later living much more on his own, needs to have in order to be aware of others within a lived-faith experience of membership in the Body of Christ. Indeed, the priest is among those whom he shepherds in the person of Christ, as the head of that body. We likewise try to balance the life of the Seminary community with an awareness of the Universal Church. Saint Vincent Seminary is enriched by having seminarians studying here from countries such as Haiti, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Brazil, El Salvador, Colombia, Mexico, India, Slovakia and Poland. Moreover, the experience of each of the sixteen local diocesan churches is brought into our common experience here at Saint Vincent. We constantly keep in mind the needs and intentions of that greater community, those who request our prayers, certainly also you, our alumni and friends, who enable us to continue to flourish as a Seminary community and who are living reminders to us of Christ so powerfully in our midst.

Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B.
Father Demetrius has always been interested in writing. But he was always busy with other duties and just did not have the time to write.

“I was rector for 17 years, novice director and teaching, and it was too difficult to write then. I was giving summer retreats also and workshops on renewal. I was relieved of my administrative duties in 1983 and applied for a sabbatical in 1985-1986. So in the spring of 1986, I went to Savannah and in three months wrote my first book, all in longhand. By Easter it was finished.”

Father Demetrius’ second book is Cherish Christ Above All: The Bible in the Rule of Benedict (1996), also published by Paulist Press. It was based on a series of lectures he gave at an annual workshop for abbots.

“It was a natural development. I had taught Scripture for 40 years and lived a monastic life for 50 years. And no one had written a book like this, dealing with the use of Scripture in The Rule. Most of the commentators were scholars of The Rule, and they looked at it from the perspective of Benedict. My primary expertise is Scripture and so I looked at The Rule from this perspective first. So the second book seemed to fill a void.”

When he is not able to write due to other duties, he is always thinking about his ideas and future book projects.

“I have kept in the back of my mind a book on the Bible and aging, but there is another one that is more urgent, and that is what I am working on next. That is the spirituality of the Gospel of John. It has some very interesting perspectives on Christian living, especially the mystical challenge of Christianity. John was a great mystic.”


“I would like to point out in the book that the gospel is a very urgent challenge to move beyond merely ritual and verbal expressions of Christianity to a deeply personal, intimate union with God. I think this would be very helpful for people who are yearning for a more mystical experience in religion.”

Childhood on Farm Inspired Imagination of Father Demetrius

Born on a farm in northern Cambria County, near Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B., is one of nine children, the son of a farmer and grandson of a carpenter. He attended a one-room country school, finishing eight grades in six years, before attending Saint Vincent Preparatory School. When talking about his writing, he relates it to his childhood. “You have to create images in writing and teaching... My imagination was formed on the farm.”

Father Demetrius graduated from Saint Vincent Preparatory School 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, Vice Rector from 1953 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 abbots and abbesses of the Benedictine and Cistercan 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, 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 universities, has served as a member of the Commission for Christian Unity of the Diocese of Greensburg (1963–80); charter member of the East Coast Rectors’ Conference (1964–80) and past-president (1972–74); member of the Faith and Order Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches (1971–76); member of the Council of the Abbot President of the American Cistercan Congregation of the Benedictine Order (1973–85); professor in Duquesne University’s Institute of Formative Spirituality (1978–85); representative to the Pennsylvania Conference on Interchurch Cooperation (1991–90) and chairman of its Committee on Theological Consultation (1982–90); member of the Board of Incorporators of Saint Vincent College, Inc. and member of the Board of Directors of Saint Vincent College (various times).
Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., Receives Honorary Degree

The Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary at the Seminary’s 152nd annual commencement, May 8, at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

Father Burghardt, a senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center, has written 17 books, and has been featured on national radio and television programs and lectured at colleges, universities and seminaries across the United States. He has been listed in Contemporary Authors, Two Thousand Notable Americans, Personalities of America, Who’s Who in the East, The Dictionary of American Scholars, The American Catholic Who’s Who, Dictionary of International Biography, The International Authors and Writers Who’s Who, Who’s Who in America and a number of other publications.

Father Burghardt served for 45 years as the managing editor/editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal, Theological Studies. He established and directs the Woodstock Theological Center’s Preaching the Just Word program, which assists priests and other ministers of the gospel in being more effective in preaching social justice. The program, since its formation, has reached over 2,700 preachers in the United States, Australia, Canada and Jamaica.

In his commencement speech, “From I to Awe: A Catholic Vision for the Third Millennium,” Father Burghardt looked at three critical areas which confront the United States and the Catholic Church today, “three sets of choices, goals, where the priesthood of all the faithful can make a difference, choices where unless you or your kind make a difference, there will be no difference.”

He proposed choices between individualism or community, where individualism in today’s sense means acquisition of wealth, power and prestige; while community is “the good an imaginative God had in mind on the six days of creation; the good symbolized in the Garden of Eden, in that original, all-embracing single community where for a brief shining moment humanity was at peace with God, humans with one another, humans with earth and sea and sky. It is the covenant God envisioned in Christ...

“Very simply,” he asked, “what will drive America in its third century: a despotism of rugged individualists or a democracy of individuals for others? Will the individualism we proudly cherish serve the common good or greedy self-interest?”

His second choice was between ethical justice or biblical justice. Father Burghardt noted that “ethical justice does not demand of us what Christ commands, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’... A justice symbolized by a blindfolded lady with measuring scales and a sword is admirable but insufficient. Imperative is a fresh vision, the vision Saint

Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.

Vincent portrays: Each man, woman and child is a creation of God, shaped in the likeness of God, a sister or brother of mine, another I. In the Christian vision, every human person, however warped, however savage, is to be loved as Jesus loved and loves us. A tough theology, not easily translated into today’s realities.”

His third choice was information or appreciation. Father Burghardt, quoting from Rabbi Abraham Heschel, said that today’s trap is believing that “everything can be explained, that reality is a simple affair, which has only to be organized in order to be mastered... Must I envy Bill Gates, marvel at my Macintosh, gaze openmouthed at the computer that crushed chess champion Garry Kasparov, and never see myself, man or woman, as the most ingenious creation of them all, the very image of God on earth?

“What will drive the priestly people of God in the next century? Only information piled upon information, or information selectively imbibed and salted with wonder? And where will you take your stand? Happily, in all three choices, it’s not an either/or; it’s the Catholic both/and. It’s individualism for the building of community; it’s ethical justice supplemented by biblical; it’s information ingested with awe.

“A swift conclusion. A Sufi mystic was complaining to God about the terrible state of the world. Finally, in angry desperation, he cried out to God, ‘Why don’t you do something about this?’ God’s reply? ‘I did. I made you.’

Father Burghardt has received 21 honorary doctoral degrees from colleges and universities across the United States. His books include Preaching the Just Word (1996); Love is a Flame of the Lord: More Homilies on the Just Word (1995); Preach the Word with Boldness: Homilies for Risen Christians (1994); and others. He has also edited numerous books, and written articles for dozens of publications ranging from New Catholic World, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Our Sunday Visitor, and Catholic Digest to the National Catholic Reporter, Jesuit Educational Quarterly and Serran.

He was ordained at Woodstock College, Woodstock, Maryland, in 1941. He earned three graduate degrees from Woodstock, including the M.A. in 1937, the Ph. L. in 1938 and the S.T.L. in 1942; and the S.T.D. from the Catholic University of America in 1957.

In addition to his work at Woodstock, he has been co-editor of Ancient Christian Writers series since 1958, president and co-editor of The Living Pulpit since 1989, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Pastoral Leadership since 1992, and co-chair of the academic conference, Future of the American Church since 1990. He has been professor emeritus at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., since 1978.

Congratulating the Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., (right) on his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Saint Vincent Seminary were, from left, Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., Seminary Rector; Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., Seminary Chancellor; Sister Cecilia Murphy, R.S.M., Seminary Academic Dean and Mr. John C. Marous, Jr., Chairman, Seminary Board of Regents, who also spoke at the commencement.
Thirteen Received Degrees on May 8

Thirteen students received degrees at Saint Vincent Seminary’s 152nd annual commencement ceremonies held Friday, May 8, at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica. The Archabbot and Chancellor of Saint Vincent, the Rt. Rev. Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., presided at the Solemn Vespers. Archabbot Douglas conferred the degrees on the candidates who were presented by Saint Vincent Seminary Rector, the Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., and given academic hoods by Seminary Academic Dean, Sister Cecilia Murphy, R.S.M. The Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.

Master of divinity degrees were awarded to Damian B. Breen, O.S.B., St. Mary’s Abbey, New Jersey, with highest honor; John William Bobinski, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with highest honor; William M. Calabrese, Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania; Anthony J. Grossi, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey, with honor; Benedict Edward Kapa, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, with highest honor; Adrian Christopher Hamilton Pleus, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia, with honor; Fernando Molina-Restrepo, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia; Richard Brian Tomkosky, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with highest honor. Receiving the master of religious education degree in absentia was Sr. Rosita Chengazhacheril, S.M.I., of West Bengal, India, with highest honor. Awarded master of arts degrees were Justin D. Dyrwal, O.S.B., St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, with highest honor; Michael P. Ferrick, Diocese of Erie, with honor; Kevin Joseph Hargaden, Archdiocese of Atlanta, with highest honor; and Edward Michael Mazich, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey, with highest honor.

John William Bobinski of Carrick is the son of Josephine Bobinski of Pittsburgh. He attended Duquesne University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and psychology. He has also done graduate work at Duquesne in education and theology and studied Biblical languages at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Father Damien B. Breen, O.S.B., of St. Mary’s Abbey, Delbarton, Morristown, New Jersey, is a son of Edward R. Breen and Nancy L. Blackmon, of Baltimore, Maryland. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in English in 1991 from St. John’s University, Jamaica, New York. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 6 at St. Mary’s Abbey. His home parish is Saint Agnes, Baltimore. He received a master of arts degree from the Seminary in 1997.

William M. Calabrese is the son of Martha Calabrese of Punxsutawney and the late Frank Calabrese. He earned a bachelor of science degree in management from Saint Francis College, Loretto, in 1974 and is a 1970 graduate of Punxsutawney High School. His home parish is Saints Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney.

Sister Rosita Chengazhacheril, a sister of Mary Immaculate, completed her studies in December, 1997. She holds a B. Th. from Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, India, and a bachelor of arts degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She is now ministering in Krishnagar, Nadia District, West Bengal, India.

Brother Justin D. Dyrwal, O.S.B., of St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, is the son of Marion Dyrwal of Pittsburgh and the late William Dyrwal. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1994, and also attended Saint Vincent College. His home parish is Risen Lord, Pittsburgh.

Michael P. Ferrick is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Ferrick of Erie. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in arts and humanities from Gannon University, Erie, in 1994. His home parish is St. George, Erie. He also received a master’s degree from the Seminary in 1997.

Brother Anthony J. Grossi, O.S.B., of Saint Vincent Archabbey, earned a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1993 from Saint Vincent College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Grossi of Butler. He is a 1989 graduate of Butler High School. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel, Butler. He will make solemn profession of vows on July 11 at the Archabbey Basilica.

Kevin J. Hargaden, son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hargaden of Milledgeville, Georgia, earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1994. His home parish is Sacred Heart in Milledgeville.

Benedict E. Kapa of Martinsburg, West Virginia, is the son of the late Benedict E. Kapa and Helen V. Kapa. He is a 1970 graduate of LaSalle College High School, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania. He attended Allentown College of St. Francis DeSales, Center Valley, Pennsylvania and earned a master of arts degree in theology from DeSales School of Theology, Washington, D.C. His home parish is St. Joseph’s, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Brother Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B., of Saint Vincent Archabbey, is the son of Alice Mazich of Danville and the late John Mazich. He is a 1990 graduate of Danville Area High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Penn State University in 1994. His home parish is St. Joseph, Danville. He will make his solemn profession of monastic vows on July 11 at the Archabbey Basilica.

Fernando Molina-Restrepo is the son of Maria Enoe Restrepo Molina of Bogota, Colombia, and the late Gildardo Luis Molina. He studied economics at the Military University in New Granada, Colombia. His home parish is Immaculate Heart of Mary in Atlanta.

Adrian C.H. Pleus is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Werner Pleus of Pelandome, New York. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in history at the University of the South in 1990 and a master of education degree at the University of Georgia in 1994. His home parish is St. Mary’s in Manhasset, New York.

Richard B. Tomkosky is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Tomkosky of Johnstown. He received a bachelor of arts degree in social sciences in 1994, summa cum laude, from the University of Pittsburgh. His home parish is St. Benedict, Johnstown.
Scholarship Fund Dinner Held

Saint Vincent Seminary held its annual Scholarship Fund Dinner on April 30 at Churchill Valley Country Club, Pittsburgh. The Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., Rector and Professor of Theology, was the keynote speaker and addressed the topic: “Tomorrow’s Priests, What Will They Be Like?” He was introduced by Rev. Thomas J. Kram, in photo at right. Father Kram is a member of the Seminary Board of Regents.

The annual dinner raises money for Seminary scholarships. Saint Vincent seeks to keep down the cost of educating a seminarian, which is generally in the range of costs in other seminaries. But, there are expenses and there is a trend toward greater student dependence on financial assistance. According to Edward P. Hager, Director of Development for the Seminary, nearly every Seminarian receives some sort of scholarship aid.

“It would be a tremendous service to the Church if Saint Vincent Seminary, through a well-funded scholarship endowment, can lighten the burden on dioceses sponsoring seminarians over their four to six years of study here,” Mr. Hager said.

For further information, contact the Seminary Development Office at 724-532-6740.

Staff Changes

The Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., gave the keynote address, “Tomorrow’s Priests: What Will They Be Like?” at the Seminary’s annual Scholarship Fund Dinner.

Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., Rector at Saint Vincent Seminary has announced several staff changes, effective July 1.

Sue Answine, left, who has served as secretary to the Rector for 16 years, is leaving full-time work to help care for her new grandson, James Michael. She will continue work for the Seminary on an “as needed” basis. Liz Morris, at left in the second photo, who has been the secretary for the Academic Dean and Faculty, will become the Rector’s secretary. She will be replaced by Nancy Ravis, who is one of the secretaries for Ed Hager in the Seminary Development Office.

Father Alan E. Thomas

Father Alan E. Thomas

New Dean of Students

The Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., Rector of Saint Vincent Seminary, has announced the appointment of Father Alan E. Thomas as Dean of Students at the Seminary. Father Thomas comes to the Seminary from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, where Bishop Joseph Adamec agreed to release him for service to Saint Vincent. The appointment is for a three-year period with a possibility of a two-year extension.

Father Thomas will assume many of the responsibilities previously handled by Father William Fay, who has served as both Vice Rector and Dean of Students for four years. Father Fay will remain Vice Rector and assist the Rector with more administrative responsibilities. Father Thomas will assume the role of external forum formation director as Dean of Students and will be responsible for the evaluation process, as well as teaching.

Father Thomas is a graduate of Mount Saint Marys Seminary, and was a student while Father Fay taught and served as Vice Rector there. He said he is anxious to have an opportunity to work with Father Fay. “He was among the three best professors I ever had,” Father Thomas said of Father Fay, “and there were many tears shed when he announced he was leaving Mount Saint Marys.”

“Bishop Joseph was very supportive of the move,” Father Thomas said, noting that he will continue to work with the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese on the formation of seminarians and newly-ordained clergy. A native of Meyersdale, Somerset County, Father Thomas has worked for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese for five years, serving in various capacities in State College, Ebensburg and Johnstown, as well as serving as chaplain of Bishop Carroll High School, Ebensburg. He was a biology major at Juniata College, and studied at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.
Former Seminary Faculty Member, Judge Bernard Scherer Dies

Westmoreland County President Judge Bernard F. Scherer, an ardent supporter of Saint Vincent Seminary, died on April 18, 1998, at his home. He was 65. He was eulogized as a “consummate educator” by Father Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B., president of Saint Vincent College. Judge Scherer and Father Sebastian A. Samay, O.S.B., roomed together when they were students at Saint Vincent College 40 years ago. Judge Scherer was a member of the history department faculty at Saint Vincent College and at one time taught Church History at Saint Vincent Seminary.

He was buried in Saint Vincent Cemetery.

A native of Arnold, he earned a Ph. D. and later a law degree at Duquesne University, and practiced law in Latrobe. He taught history at Arnold High School, and also taught law at Duquesne. In the late 1960s the history professor became a Westmoreland County Commissioner. Following his term as commissioner he became chairman of the county Democratic Party. He ran for Congress in the 1980s. He also campaigned twice for a seat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He was elected a County judge in 1982, was retained for a second term in 1992, and became president judge in 1996.

He was a professor of law and history at Saint Vincent College, and an author of

(Continued on Page 8)

Members of the Westmoreland County Bar Association formed an honor guard on the steps of the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica on April 21 for the funeral of President Judge Bernard F. Scherer.

(Photograph courtesy of the Latrobe Bulletin)

Saint Vincent Seminary Tribute, Memorial Gift Donors

The Saint Vincent Seminary has a Memorial Gift and Tribute Gift Program, which allows donors to honor individuals via a Tribute Gift for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, retirements or holidays, or with a Memorial Gift in memory of a friend or loved one.

The Seminary Tribute Roster for the period from January 1 to May 19, 1998, includes the following gifts:

IN HONOR OF:

JOANNE AND JIM BRAHOSKY AND FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. James Sackett
REV. AARON J. KRISS
Mr. Gary T. Beuke
REV. JOSEPH M. MELE
Ms. Margaret A. McMahon
JIM AND STELLA SACKETT AND FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. James Sackett

IN MEMORY OF:

MRS. MARY BRECHT
Mrs. Patricia A. Compton

REV. RAPHAEL G. BRIDGE, O.S.B.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Bridge

JANE DEMSHOCK
Mrs. Patricia A. Compton

PAUL DUGGAN
Mrs. Helen M. Duggan

JOHN A. AND SUSAN E. FATORA FAMILY
Rev. Joachim R. Fatora, O.S.B.

JOHN S. AND ANNA GRAZIANO
Mr. John V. Graziano

ERNEST AND ELLA HARTSHORN
Ms. Helena R. Hartshorn

WILFRED I. HLUVKO
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MARY AND ADAM HUDEK
Mrs. Helen Hudek

PHILIP HUDEK
Mrs. Helen Hudek

PETER J. AND THERESA KARNOSKI
Mr. Peter J. Karnoski

MICHAEL KOTTER
Mrs. Margaret R. Back

LARRY AND JANET TOTH
Ann and John Golofski

PAUL L. KRAM
Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Hess

FRANK L. KUSS
Mr. Thomas J. Kuss

LOUIS MCDONALD
Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B.

REV. CHARLES MCFADDEN, O.S.B.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Bridge

REV. JOHN H. MCMAHON
Mr. Regis T. McMahon

DORIS A. MCKINLEY MILLER
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Acklin

Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel J. Answine

Mr. Edward F. Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Cleary

Crossroads of Redemptorists

Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Hager

Ms. Margaret M. Lyday

Sr. Cecilia Murphy, R.S.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Novak, Jr.

Resident Forum,

Saint Vincent Seminary

Ms. Rose Marie Volpe

ANNA MYKICH
Mr. Hasson H. Mykich

ANN PERUNKO
Mrs. Margaret R. Back

Larry and Janet Toth

Ann and John Golofski

ANDREW RIDDILLA
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Pesavento

DOLORES E. SENCHUR
Mr. Stanley Sanchur

MR. AND MRS. JOHN SKRJANC
Mr. Frank A. Skrjanc

REV. PAUL F. WEISMAN

Terence E. Moore, M.D.

For details on the gift program, contact the Seminary Development Office at 724-532-6740.
Memorial Gifts Made In Memory Of Judge Scherer

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scholarly publications dealing with the influence of classical Roman law upon English law. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Athens, Greece, and was a state department lecturer in Milan and Rome.

For 10 years he was on the board of governors of the state universities. He was also chair of the board of directors of the Penn State Center, New Kensington. He was a member of the Pennsylvania President Judges Association, American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Westmoreland County Bar Association, Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Association, Westmoreland American Inn of Court, Penn State New Kensington Board of Trustees, Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Historical Society (founding incorporator), the Serra Club of the Diocese of Greensburg, and Saint Vincent Basilica Parish.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Petrone Scherer, a teacher in the Greater Latrobe School District, and two sons, Bernard C., a family practice physician in Blairsville, and Christopher, a neurologist practicing in Roanoke, Virginia, and a brother, Robert Scherer of Lower Burrell.

Memorial gifts made in memory of Judge Bernard F. Scherer include:

- Judge Daniel Ackerman’s Staff
- Mr. and Mrs. Rod Altmyer
- Attorney Bruce A. Antkowiak
- Mr. and Mrs. Ray Apryas
- Dr. and Mrs. Adel W. Armanious
- Mr. and Mrs. Sam Astorino
- Ms. Nancy Barbero
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- Attorney Linda Broker
- Mrs. Veronica Bronson
- Attorney Kenneth Burkley
- Burrell Group, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Busch
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Capo
- Mr. and Mrs. George F. Carter
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn R. Cavanaugh
- Ms. Antonetta Cerilli
- Mr. Greg Cerilli
- Capt. and Mrs. Francis J. Chester
- Chestnut Ridge Primary Care Ltd.
- Ms. Barbara J. Clark
- Mr. and Mrs. John P. Conroy, Jr.
- Mr. Matthew J. D’Cioma
- Ms. Jane DeBacco
- Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Demangone and Family
- Dr. Annamarie Denis
- Attorney David S. DeRose
- Diocese of Greensburg
- Mr. and Mrs. Herman K. Dupre
- Mr. Wilmer P. Edermiller
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Emrick
- Fayette County Court of Common Pleas
- Attorney Timothy A. Fedele
- Mr. and Mrs. John Felice
- The Ferrari Family
- Bob, Kaye and Greg Fierle
- Rev. Augustine A. Flood, O.S.B.
- Ms. Marie E. Gallatin
- Attorney Albert C. Gaudio
- Mr. and Mrs. David J. Geiser and Family
- Ms. Tommilea H. Giegel
- Mr. and Mrs. John Giunta
- Dr. Gregory D. Grabiak and Family
- Mr. and Mrs. John C. Graham
- Mr. and Mrs. George Gratton
- Greater Latrobe High School English & Business Departments
- Greater Latrobe High School Social Studies Department
- Greater Latrobe Senior High School Secretarial Staff
- Ms. Virginia H. Hamilton
- Attorney Peggy Hooker
- The Honorable and Mrs. Joseph A. Hudock
- Ms. Marsha Kashurba
- Mr. Earl S. Keim, II
- Mrs. Mary E. Keim
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Klucak and Family
- Ms. Caroline Kocian
- Mr. Alphonse L. Kovacik
- Ms. Caroline Kocian
- John, Janice, Jon and Jen Kozusko
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kubus
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Kucenic and Family
- Mr. Martin and Dr. Karen Lang
- Attorney and Mrs. Morrison F. Lewis, Jr.
- Attorney Timothy Maata
- Attorney Patrick H. Mahady
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Manoli, Sr.
- The Honorable Terry Marolt
- Mrs. Beatrice S. McCormick
- Attorney and Mrs. Gene E. McDonald
- Ms. Rose Melenyzer
- The Honorable and Mrs. Gilbert Mihalich
- Mr. and Mrs. Todd Moses
- Attorney and Mrs. Milton V. Munk, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Murphy
- Ms. Gail Nugent
- The Honorable William J. Ober
- Miss Pearl Orlowski
- Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Paletta
- Dr. and Mrs. Gabriel S. Pellathy
- Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Pugliese
- Dr. and Mrs. Dennis P. Quinn
- Mr. Glen Roadman
- Mr. John A. Robertshaw
- Rose, Schmidt, Hasley & DiSalle, P.C.
- Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rosenzweig
- Mr. Thomas Ryder
- Saint Vincent Seminarians
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sakaluk
- Mrs. Norma Scherer
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Sheehy
- Ms. Molly M. Sheehy
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Shoemaker
- Mr. and Mrs. David Sisca
- Mr. and Mrs. Jaroslav J. Slezk
- Mrs. Betty J. Silskey and Family
- Mr. Paul Sovich, Jr.
- Mrs. Gloria Stewart
- Ms. Cindy Stofo
- Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Stone
- Sturdevant & Kistner
- Mr. and Mrs. George R. Sweeney II
- Dr. and Mrs. James Taulber
- Ms. Ann Testa
- Alexis Tragos and Family
- Mr. Robert E. Vagley
- Richard R. Victoria, Esq.
- The Honorable Dick Vidmer
- Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Office
- Westmoreland County Clerk of Courts Staff
- Westmoreland County District Attorney Staff
- Westmoreland County Domestic Relations
- Westmoreland County Sheriff’s Office
- Westmoreland Federal Savings
- Dr. A. Roger Wigle
- Attorney Gerald J. Yanity
- Mr. Thomas Yazvec
- Dr. and Mrs. George Alan Yeasted
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Yoney, Sr.
- Young Men’s Volunteer Fire Company of Blairsville
The March 18, 1998, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette’s story on men who opt for the priesthood after pursuing other careers featured a number of Saint Vincent seminarians from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

“My life was empty. There was a big void within me. God kept calling me to the priesthood,” Tom Lewandowski, a second-year theologian from Duquesne, told writer Vicki Rock. He had worked at a Strip District warehouse for eight years and driven a tractor-trailer cross-country for five years before answering the call.

Others interviewed were Joseph Codori, Emsworth, a former civil engineer; Tony Gargotta, Beechview, a former hospital radiation therapist; Bob Vular, Wexford, a former sales manager; James Holland, East McKeesport, a former nurse; and Terry O’Connor, Squirrel Hill, a former criminal defense and personal injury lawyer.

Men entering the priesthood later in life “found their careers inadequate. They thought they wanted material things, but they’ve found that’s not enough,” commented Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., Seminary Rector. Statistics back him up, indicating 13 percent of men entering theological programs are 40 or older.

June 6 ordinations. Father Holland told writer John Franko that his experience as a flight nurse on a specialized treatment and transport helicopter made him search for a deeper understanding of life, and he turned to faith for answers. “The depth and breadth of my prayer experience has had a profound effect on me,” he said. “I’ve become more centered on Jesus Christ.”

Father Sparacino, who was an occupational therapist, was inspired by his parents to enter the priesthood. “I saw their love for God, their love for the church and the way they lived out their own Christianity,” he told the newspaper.

Other ordinations involving Saint Vincent Seminarians included Father Paul-Alexander Shutt, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey, May 23; Father Frantisek Halka, Father Jozef Kovacik and Father Lubomir Strecok, all from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, May 30; Father Dean Cesca and Father Peter Pham, Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, June 6; Father Victor Galler and Father Richard Tibbetts, Archdiocese of Atlanta, June 6; Father Michael Messner, Diocese of Harrisburg, June 6; Father Damian Breen, St. Mary’s Ab-
— Father Kevin F. McKnight, S’94, on the death of his father Robert McKnight on March 16, 1998.  
— Father Emmeran A. Rettger, O.S.B., P’29, C’34, S’38, on the death of his brother, Charles Rettger on May 23, 1998.

In news of alumni:  
Joseph A. Corrado, Ph.D., C’57, S’61, has been elected to the Board of Trustees at Point Park College where he is a Professor of Humanities.  
John F. (Mick) McLaughlin, C’67, S’71, has recently accepted a position as a senior manager of organization development for Motorola’s Space and Systems Technology Group in Phoenix, Arizona. Visitors welcome!  
Rev. Kenneth G. Zaccagnini, C’78, S’82, was appointed pastor of St. Therese Church, Uniontown, Pennsylvania and also Dean of Fayette Deaney, one of six deaneries or geographic boundaries in the diocese of Greensburg.  
Richard R. Rossi, C’84, S’91, received a teaching assistantship to do his doctoral program in conducting and choral literature at the University of Illinois.

Installed to the Ministry of Lector in March were Brother William D. Benthall, O.S.B. and Brother Matthew J. Bodnar, O.S.B., Saint Vincent Archabbey; Brother Anthony G. Sargent, O.S.B., St. Mary’s Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey; Terence A. Crane and Roberto A. Orellana, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia; Jonas D. Cristal, Archdiocese of Campinas, Brazil; Gregory B.
Alumni Observing Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following alumni who are observing 60-50-25 year anniversaries to the priesthood or of profession of monastic vows this year.

Ordinations: 60 Years
Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Findlan, S’38
Rev. Fr. Francis A. Glenn, S’38
Rev. Fr. Emmeran A. Retting, O.S.B., P’29, C’34, S’38

Professions: 60 Years
Rev. Clement J. Heid, O.S.B., P’34, C’41, S’44
Rev. Louis S. Sedlacko, O.S.B., P’35, C’40, S’44

Ordinations: 50 Years
Rev. Alfred J. Beck, O.S.B., P’40, C’45, S’48
Rev. Raymond A. Cercone, C’46, S’48
Rev. Ferdinand Lech, S’48
Rev. Alphonse H. Meier, O.S.B., P’41, C’46, S’48
Rev. Francis A. Nazimek, S’48
Rev. George J. Parme, S’48
Rev. Emeric J. Pfeister, O.S.B., P’40, C’45, S’48
Rev. Brinstan G. Takach, O.S.B., P’40, C’45, S’48

Professions: 50 Years
Rev. Joachim R. Fatora, O.S.B., P’46, C’51, S’54
Rev. Arthur Holtz, O.S.B., P’46, C’51, S’54
Right Rev. Paul R. Mahur, O.S.B., P’43, C’50, S’51
Rev. Daniel C. Wolfel, O.S.B., P’46, C’50, S’54

Ordinations: 25 Years
Rev. John M. Bauer, S’73
Rev. Timothy G. Evans, C’69
Rev. Regis M. Farmer, C’68, S’73
Rev. V. Paul Fitzmaurice, C’68, S’73
Rev. Myron M. Kirsch, O.S.B., C’69, S’73
Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Kumantis, S’73
Rev. James K. Mazurek, S’73
Rev. Lawrence J. McClellan, C’69, S’73
Rev. Bernard Pistone, S’73
Rev. Thomas A. Scala, S’73
Rev. Roger A. Statnick, C’69
Rev. Leonard W. Stovlak, P’65
Rev. John P. Sweeney, S’73

Professions: 25 Years
Brother David A. Kelly, O.S.B., S’75


Six seminarians were admitted to Candidacy in March. The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, presided. Admitted were David M. Hereshko, Diocese of Harrisburg; Richard B. Tomkosky, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown; Theodore R. Book, Kevin J. Hargaden, Fernando Molina-Restrepo, and Adrian C. H. Pleus, all of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

Upcoming Events

August
20 New students arrive
20-23 Seminary orientation
24 First day of classes

September
25 Red Mass, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, noon, Archabbey Basilica.
29 Visit of Cardinal Jozef Tomko.

October
20 Board of Regents meeting, 2 p.m., Placid Hall.

November
1 Feast of All Saints

Three seminarians received awards at Saint Vincent Seminary’s 152nd annual commencement, held Friday, May 8. Pictured with Sister Cecilia Murphy, R.S.M., Seminary Academic Dean, they are, from left, Brother Justin D. Dyrwal, O.S.B., Saint Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio; the Bernard F. Scherer Award, Kevin J. Hargaden, Archdiocese of Atlanta, American Bible Society Award for excellence in the study of scripture and the Omer U. Kline Award for excellence in preaching; William M. Calabrese, Diocese of Erie, Seminary Diakonia Award, the annual service award. The Scherer Award was established recently to honor the late Judge Bernard F. Scherer, a Saint Vincent College alumnus and a member of the college faculty. At one point in his career Judge Scherer also taught at Saint Vincent Seminary, and he always took an interest in the Seminary. He was President Judge of the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas at the time of his death.
groups which comprise the Saint Vincent community. Living, working and praying with them have been tremendous. There is a hospitality, a warmth, a genuine fraternal regard that exists here for one another and to me that stands out the most. There is an affability for one another that keeps drawing you into their lives."

“As I prepared for the ministry I found it to be a good place to be nurtured in, and I feel that I’m ready for the ministry,” said Father Damian, who was ordained on June 6.

“When I arrived here I was very insecure because of the cultural and language differences,” said Fernando Molina-Restrepo of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and a native of Colombia. “But everyone has always been very helpful and kind, especially Father Tom (Acklin, Seminary Rector).”

Before coming to Pennsylvania, he lived in Georgia and before that in Bogota, and so he will never forget the Pennsylvania winters. “I never was in weather like this in my life. I arrived here in January and there was snow and the lakes were all frozen. It was too cold. It was like hell. Then I discovered that it was really heaven because of the goodness of the people here.”

“You can feel the spirit of Christ in the Seminary community,” said Adrian C. H. Pleus of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, who will be ordained to the diaconate July 1 in Atlanta.

“Many of the students give thanks for the strong leadership of Father Tom Acklin, and reflect on what a fine, prayerful person he is. We all have a great affection for him. We also appreciate the efforts of every member of the Saint Vincent community. They have been very sincere in their efforts, and the Seminary leadership holds the whole thing together. The Benedictines also have this charism, and they have been generous with their time and facilities. I know the people of God appreciate all their work.”

The Saint Vincent Seminary community has been growing in the past several years. The demand for Seminary merchandise has also increased. As a result, the Saint Vincent College Book Center is selling Seminary golf shirts with the Seminary logo embroidered on them. Brother Mark J. Evans, O.S.B., the book center manager, worked with officers from the student government to gauge interest in this new item. The 1996-1997 Resident House Forum Vice President Don Cramer of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Atlanta Seminarian Terry Crone worked on the design and with Brother Mark on the project. The 1997-1998 House Forum Vice President Doug Dorula of the Greensburg Diocese took office and continued with the project. After getting some samples made, Dorula polled the diocesan seminarians and the result was favorable. The shirts went on sale prior to spring break of 1998 and the response has been positive. Cost is $25 each, plus $3 postage, and they are available to alumni. Credit card orders can be made through the Saint Vincent Book Center at 724-537-4557. Looking over the new shirts are the 1998-1999 Resident House Forum officers, from left, David Brzoska, Liturgical Coordinator, Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina; Douglas Dorula, President; William Berkey, Social Coordinator, Diocese of Greensburg; Michael Zimcosky, Vice President, Diocese of Greensburg.