



# THE BRIDGE

ST MARY OF THE LAKE SEMINARY

HOW THE SEMINARY WORKS: Our inside edition



*The human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation a man receives during his time in seminary must be rooted in the wisdom communicated to the believer from the Scriptures.*

## A view from **The Bridge**

*The rector's impression of how the seminary works*

By Father Dennis Lyle

What does it take to make a seminary work? Many dedicated people! In the last few years I have learned quickly that the men and women who work on behalf of Mundelein Seminary are a dedicated and talented group of people who have one goal in mind: Make Mundelein Seminary an effective institution in preparing men for the priesthood. From administrators to professors, from the board of advisors to the staff, I can attest to their hours of labor and their spirit of fraternal cooperation. And they do it all for the 200-plus seminarians who attend Mundelein Seminary.

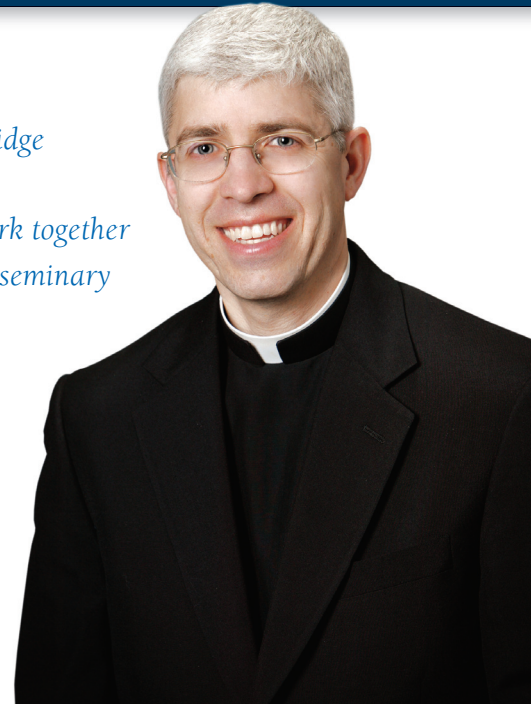
The numbers help put it in perspective. In order to meet the needs of the seminarians and resident faculty, and maintain the 17 buildings on campus, we employ over 100 grounds keepers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, secretaries, librarians, financial and facilities personnel. In addition to those who work at Mundelein on a daily basis, there are many who serve the seminary in a more limited, but no less important role. Such individuals include members of the board of advisors, the Knights of Columbus, and supervisors for the many field education opportunities. Finally, from the very beginning of the seminary, the generosity of many benefactors has demonstrated that Catholics are interested in and dedicated to the formation of priests.

This issue of *The Bridge* highlights the many components that work together in order to keep the seminary operating. As the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George, the Archbishop of Chicago, has a crucial role and responsibility in the formation of future priests. His predecessor, Cardinal Mundelein, saw the formation of priests as central to his ministry as a bishop and he constructed a house on the campus in order to be present to his seminarians.

It is difficult to appreciate the many different components of the seminary (and each person sees what is of direct interest to him or her). The seminarians learn the inter-relationship of the different pillars of formation: human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral. This unity of the program is not something that is obvious upon first entering the seminary. It takes time and experience to see that these pillars are holding up the same goal.

To an administrator, the responsibilities of each office are of interest. The article by Father Marty Zielinski offers a succinct summary and overview of the administration of the institution. He notes that four characteristics are necessary in order for the seminary administration to be successful: consultation,

*This issue of The Bridge highlights the many components that work together in order to keep the seminary operating.*



collaboration, commitment, and continuity.

When I became rector, there was one component of the seminary that was a complete mystery to me: the Board of Advisors. I had heard Father Canary, former rector, speak about the work of the board and I recognized some of the names of those who were members. It was not until I became rector, however, that I came to appreciate the dedication and wisdom of the men and women on our board of advisors. Andrew Liaugminas, a second year seminarian for the Archdiocese of Chicago, shares a conversation with our former board president, Jim Dowdle. Under Mr. Dowdle's leadership, the seminary was able to accomplish significant building projects. And his efforts are intended to provide leadership in the church for his children and grandchildren.

Alejandro Flores, a third-year seminarian for the Diocese of Brownsville, gets into the nitty-gritty of daily life. If you have been wondering how many gallons of coffee we consume each week and how many pounds of rice we eat each day, his article will answer your questions.

Two other groups are of great importance to Mundelein Seminary: the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest and the Knights of Columbus. The Oblate Sisters arrived in 1983 and are a source of inspiration, devotion, and commitment. Every priest and seminarian knows that his vocation is aided by the prayers of these dedicated women. Likewise, all the seminarians are aware of the help they have received from the Knights of Columbus. The start of this endeavor can be traced back to the efforts of Mr. Bob Wagner, a K of C who, even in his 90s, takes great interest in the welfare of the seminarians.

So many people make it possible to educate our seminarians. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Bridge* on How the Seminary Works: Our inside edition.

-The Very Reverend Dennis Lyle is rector/president of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary.





Very Rev. Dennis Lyle, S.T.D.

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# MUNDELINES

## New Faces on the Faculty



### Dr. Elizabeth Nagel

**D**r. Elizabeth Nagel, S.S.D., is Professor in the Department of Biblical Exegesis and Proclamation here at Mundelein. She comes to us from St.

Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, where she was a Full Professor of Sacred Scripture. Dr. Nagel holds an M.A. in Theology with a major in Scripture from Mount Angel Seminary, in Oregon, as well as a S.S.L and S.S.D. from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. She is the author of *Be a Blessing: A Spring of Refreshment on the Road of Daily Life*, a contributor to *Bible Today*, the National Catholic Education Association Publication, and Book Reviews for *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. Dr. Nagel lived in Israel for one year and was a Scripture resource person for numerous study tours to the Holy Land. She is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America and the Society of Biblical Literature. She has lectured and provided courses for many programs in various dioceses around the country.



### Father John T. Dillon

**F**ather John Dillon, S.J., M.A., M.Ed. joins the faculty at Mundelein this year. Father Dillon is serving as confessor for the

community and as a spiritual director. Father Dillon holds an M.A. and M.Ed. from Loyola University in Chicago. He is the former director and Jesuit religious superior of Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Illinois, as well as the assistant to the president and internal consultant at Loyola University. Additionally, Father Dillon was director of campus ministry, Loyola University Water Tower Campus. Other past positions include director and chief administrator of the Loyola University, Rome Center, Italy and University Chaplain at Loyola University in Chicago.



### Thomas Dougherty

**M**r. Thomas Dougherty is the new Director of the English as a Second Language Department at Mundelein Seminary. He comes with

an enthusiasm for teaching international students to communicate clearly in English. He has studied and worked abroad in Japan and South Korea and was the Academic Director at ELS Language Centers in River Forest, Illinois. prior to coming to Mundelein Seminary.

Tom and his wife, Cecilia, are raising two sons in Elmhurst, Illinois. As a family, they enjoy sports, travel and community life. Tom is happy to be at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and looks forward to raising the communicative skills of the richly diverse group of students whose

native language is not English. Tom would like to thank Brother Henry Baldwin, Father Ray Webb and the faculty and staff of Mundelein Seminary for their warm welcome.



### Father Ken Carlson

**F**ather Ken Carlson is the youngest of three brothers. He grew up in Park Forest, Illinois. His parents, Ray and Anne, both passed away many

years ago. He credits much of his vocation and love of the church to their example of love for their family and for their faith which they generously shared with the family. He attended all public schools through high school and enlisted in the Air Force at age seventeen. While serving in the Air Force, he was encouraged to pray about priesthood by his chaplain which led him to enter Niles College Seminary to study for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He was ordained May 23, 1998 and served as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of the Ridge parishes before becoming a chaplain in the Army. He spent 4½ years in the active Army and is now a brigade chaplain in the 1st Brigade, 75th Division of the Army Reserves. At Mundelein as Vice President of Recruitment, his main focus is on vocation discernment retreats and ways to increase the promotion of vocations to the priesthood. He also works on vocation events with the main vocation office of the Archdiocese.

## New Religious Order and Dioceses at Mundelein

**M**undelein Seminary is the largest seminary in the United States. We began this year with 204 seminarians who represent people from around the world. The seminary currently serves two religious orders and 42 dioceses in the United States

and from countries around the world. We welcome this year one new religious order, the Conventual Franciscan Friars of Marytown. Their guardian is the Very Reverend Stephen McKinley, OFM Conv. Marytown is next door to Mundelein and is the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe. We also welcome to the seminary, the Archdiocese of

Atlanta, led by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, SLD, and welcome back the diocese of Arua, Uganda, under the Most Reverend Frederick Drandua. The dioceses that are served here at Mundelein represent the United States as well as the entire world. We welcome our newest family members to Mundelein and look forward to serving them in the

years to come.

— Greg Michaud is a third-year theologian for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin.



► **MundeLINES** is edited by Greg Michaud, a second-year theologian for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

► Above: Friar Francis Mikosz (left) and Friar Anthony Lajato (right)



## Restoration of the DIME Monument

After over 80 years of exposure to the extreme Chicago weather, the statue of the Patroness of the Seminary was in need of cleaning and maintenance.

This marble monument, with a larger than life bronze statue of Mary on top and four bronze prophets, David, Isaiah, Moses and Ezechiel positioned around the base, has been hit by lightning, experienced 130-degree temperature variations, high winds and numerous rain, snow and hail storms, not to mention the constant attack of pollution, which is normal in our industrialized world.

Initial inspection, done more than fifteen years ago, revealed serious cracks in the bronze and a crack in the marble column near the top. Temporary repairs were made, but clearly more extensive repairs would be required.

Thanks to a generous donation by Tina Lavezzorio, repairs were made this summer. Scaffolding was erected around the entire structure and an inch-by-inch examination was done by structural and restoration engineers. The bronze figures and Georgia marble were extremely dirty and permanently stained. More serious, however, was the deterioration and damage to the base of Mary and the marble to which it was attached.

The bronze figures that are at the base of Mary exhibited 10 to 12-inch cracks, each ½ inch to ¾ inch wide and the upper 6 inches of marble was seriously damaged.

All five statues were removed, cleaned and repaired, and the antique bronze finish was reapplied. For the Mary statue, the upper 6 inches of damaged marble was replaced. Stainless steel rods and epoxy were used to attach the new marble piece to the column and the base on which the statue rests. The base was then filled with high strength concrete and allowed to cure for several weeks.

Finally, on September 12, the five figures were re-installed. New landscaping was planted by the seminary grounds department, and accent lighting was installed to complete this project.



## Congratulations to 45 new deacons!

### • Diaconate Class of 2008

#### Amarillo, Texas

Daniel Dreher

#### Belleville, Illinois

Nick Junker

#### Benedictines

Br. Damien Daprai

#### Chicago, Illinois

Juan Pablo Avila  
Diego Berrio  
Manuel Dorantes  
Maciej Dominik Galle  
Jose Maria Garcia  
Michal Lewon  
Thadeo Mgingba  
Laurent Mhagama  
Roberto Molina Torres  
Marcin Szczypula  
Grzegorz Wojcik  
Przemyslaw Wojcik

#### Columbus, Ohio

David Schalk

#### Covington, Kentucky

Dan Schomaker

#### Davenport, Iowa

Hai Dinh  
Joseph Sia

#### Evansville, Indiana

Chris Forler

#### Gary, Indiana

Richard Holy  
Mick Kopil

#### Grand Rapids, Michigan

Michael Cilibraise

#### Great Falls-Billings, Montana

Cory Sticha

#### Green Bay, Wisconsin

Jason Blahnik  
Daniel Schuster

#### Inchon, Korea

Byoung Jin Lim

#### Joliet, Illinois

Nathan Gohlke  
Matthew Pratscher

#### Kampala, Uganda

Dennis Kasule  
Deogratias Walakira

#### Kansas City – St. Joseph, Missouri

Douglas Langner

#### Kansas City, Kansas

Shawn Tunink

#### Knoxville, Tennessee

Miguel Velez

#### La Crosse, Wisconsin

Jim Altman

#### Madison, Wisconsin

Brian Dulli  
Lance Schneider

#### Nashville, Tennessee

Mark Sappenfield

#### Phoenix, Arizona

Arthur Nave, Jr.

#### Rockford, Illinois

Michael Oswalt

#### Saginaw, Michigan

Daniel Roa-Fuentes

#### Salina, Kentucky

Nick Parker

#### Tucson, Arizona

Emilio Chapa  
Ed Lucero  
Ricky Ordonez



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Throughout the year, the university engages its community in various forms of ministries, educational experiences and social outreach programs. We invite you to become a part of our community by holding us in prayer as we grow closer to fulfilling our mission in the church. Hopefully, with the help of your prayers, the following upcoming events may be received profitably with the grace of God.

**JANUARY 12-13:**  
**EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND**

This is the second Exploring Priesthood Weekend of the school year. If you are curious about the priesthood and interested in participating, please call Father Ken Carlson at (847) 970-4845.

**JANUARY 16:**  
**ACOLYTE MASS**

The first-year men will be instituted as Acolytes in order to serve the Lord more closely around the altar.

**JANUARY 20-22:**  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**

As a part of the seminary's effort to be involved in current events and movements, a number of our students will represent the university and the church in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life.

**JANUARY 23:**  
**PALUCH COLLOQUIUM**

Father Joseph Henchey, C.S.S., will deliver the second of three lectures on the priesthood to the Mundelein community. In these presentations, Father Henchey will be offering reflections on the priest's call to service, leadership, prayer and simplicity. His final presentation this year will be on April 30.

**JANUARY 25-27:**  
**SEMINARY SHOOTOUT**

In an effort to strengthen community and fraternity among seminaries, Mundelein will once again host its annual basketball tournament, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



**JANUARY 30:**  
**READER MASS**

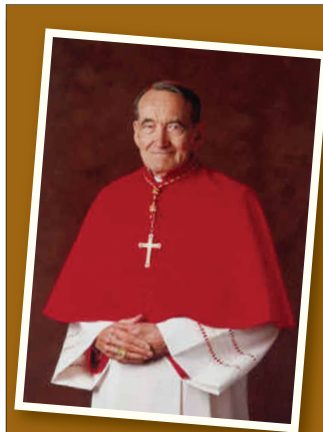
This is an important step toward the priesthood as the second-year men accept the ministry of reader.

**FEBRUARY 9:**  
**PRE-THEOLOGY II MISSION TRIP**

The class leaves for a two-week mission trip to either Mississippi or Nigeria.

**FEBRUARY 22:**  
**PASTORAL INTERNSHIP BEGINS**

In the hopes of experiencing ministry on the front lines, the second-year men will be sent into parishes in their dioceses, where they will serve the people of God for three months.



**APRIL 10-11:**  
**Meyer Lecture**

► The University of St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary is pleased to host a symposium on the work of Avery Cardinal Dulles. In addition to the presence of Cardinal Dulles, we will welcome Rev. Aidan Nichols, O.P., and Rev. Paul McPartlan, D. Phil.

**MARCH 12:**  
**CANDIDACY MASS**

Candidacy celebrates the third-year seminarian's public commitment to complete his preparation for ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood.

**APRIL 5-6:**  
**EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND**

This is the third and final Exploring Priesthood Weekend of the school year. Your prayers for the participants are very much appreciated as men come to discern the call of God more closely in their lives.

**MAY 3:**  
**UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION**

In addition to the seminarians who will be receiving master's degrees in divinity, the university also will be awarding acknowledgements in the Lay Ministry Program, the Permanent Deacon Program and the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral. It will also award canonical degrees and degrees for the doctor of ministry program.

**MAY 17:**  
**CHICAGO PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION** Those men studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago will be ordained at Holy Name Cathedral.

► **Upcoming Events** was edited by Nathan Gohlke, a fourth-year theologian and deacon for the Diocese of Joliet.

“Far more than a ‘connection,’  
Mundelein Seminary is deeply rooted  
in the Archdiocese of Chicago.”



## In Direct Relation to the Archdiocese



*How the seminary affects and is affected  
by the Archdiocese of Chicago*

By Andrew Liaugminas

Unlike the many connections the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary has with organizations across the nation and the world, the seminary really is not just “connected” to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Rather, envisioned by Chicago’s first bishop, Bishop William Quarter, and built by its local legend, George Cardinal Mundelein, Mundelein Seminary is truly an integral part of the Church of Chicago. Successive generations of the Archdiocese’s priests have received their training for ministry on these grounds. And from here they have gone out to serve the church in every corner of the Archdiocese. Far more than a “connection,” Mundelein Seminary is deeply rooted in the Archdiocese of Chicago. *Archdiocesan News* this issue pauses to recognize and examine that unique relationship.

In an interview with Father Thomas Baima, provost of Mundelein Seminary and priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Father Baima explained to *The Bridge* some of the dimensions of this unique relationship. Starting from the top, says Father Baima, the ultimate

responsibility for the seminary rests in the control of the Archbishop of Chicago. He is not just the chairman of the board. Even day-to-day elements of the seminary’s operation fall under his guidance. Father Baima explained that the reason for this is theological, and not merely administrative. Forming candidates to receive ordination and serve in the church is high among the bishop’s role as “overseer” and shepherd of his diocese. In serving that very mission the seminary is, “a direct extension of the bishop’s ministry – so much so that in Canon Law a seminary is exempt from other jurisdiction,” said Father Baima.

Yet, that does not mean it is cut off from the rest of the diocese. “The rector sits on a number of important boards which advise on the assignment of newly ordained priests, staffing issues and other personnel matters.” In addition to that, Father Baima added how, as provost, he sits on a number of administrative boards and committees that link the seminary to the Chicago Archdiocesan curia. Reciprocally, the seminary receives from the curia many services, including services in personnel, law and public relations. And like all archdiocesan parishes and schools, employees of Mundelein Seminary enjoy the full benefits of archdiocesan employment.

In a more visible way, Mundelein Seminary can be seen throughout the archdiocese in the variety of roles in which its faculty and seminarians are involved. “Faculty of the seminary frequently assist the archdiocese’s department of communications as subject matter experts in presenting faith on controversial topics,” explained Father Baima. “Seminary faculty also regularly give talks, lead retreats and teach continuing education courses in parishes throughout the area.” Also at the parish level, one often can see priests of the seminary assisting in weekend Masses, and Mundelein seminarians serving as full-time staff during their 12-week intensive parish experience or serving in a variety of Field Education opportunities in local parishes and institutions throughout the year.

Father Baima noted how the parish-seminary relationship is one where both sides benefit. The parish connection keeps faculty in touch with current pastoral life, seminarians are formed by their experiences in the parishes, deacons preparing for priestly ordination begin to transition into full-time ministry in that setting and, in turn, the parishes receive the important vocational and ministerial witness of the faculty and seminarians of the seminary.

Through all these varied aspects of its relationship with the parishes, priests, diocesan curia and Archbishop of Chicago, Mundelein Seminary truly is and will always be an integral part of the Church of Chicago.

Through all these varied aspects of its relationship with the parishes, priests, diocesan curia and Archbishop of Chicago, Mundelein Seminary truly is and will always be an integral part of the Church of Chicago.

- Andrew Liaugminas is a second-year theologian for the Archdiocese of Chicago.





“I expect the men, at the end of their years here at Mundelein, to be familiar with Jesus, to have developed their biblical understanding and to be hungry to learn more and more about the Word of God.”

— Father Pat O'Malley on the importance of scripture in spiritual formation.

# Our Approach in Formation

The directors of the formation program reveal their theories of sound formation



## Pastoral Formation at Mundelein Seminary

By Sister Linda Sevcik, SM

According to the *Program of Priestly Formation* (#236) published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, pastoral formation is “the culmination of the entire formation process.” Pastoral formation reveals what a seminarian can put into practice from his spiritual, academic and human formation, in imitation of Christ.

Each class participates in particular pastoral experiences. Pre-Theology I does ministry in detention centers, nursing homes or other ministry to the elderly, or a hospital. This is overseen by Sister Linda Sevcik. Doctor Kate Wiskus heads up the Pre-Theology II students who are involved in ministries that highlight social justice. They also participate in an intensive experience in the United States or internationally. The First Theology students ministry is coordinated by Sister Kathleen Mulchay, SSCM. They are involved in parish religious education, youth ministry or RCIA programs. Father Ray Webb coordinates the Second

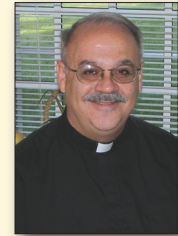
Theology class who spend three months on “Internship” in a parish in their diocese getting hands-on training. The third-year men choose from among intensive experiences in Appalachia, the U.S.-Mexican border, rural ministry, ecumenical/inter-religious dialogue, campus ministry, juvenile detention prayer services or other areas of ministerial interest. Students from various years participate in a summer unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, normally in a hospital setting. Sister Linda heads up these last two programs. Finally, in Fourth Theology, once ordained deacons, these men serve in a parish on weekends, getting valuable parish experience. Father Marty Barnum coordinates the placement of non-Chicago seminarians.

At every pastoral site, Mundelein depends upon faith-filled, competent supervisors, including priests, deacons, sisters and lay men and women. The hope of the seminary is that our pastoral formation “not only connects with the other three pillars of priestly formation, but in itself provides a goal that integrates the other dimensions.” (PPE, #241)

Sister Linda Sevcik, SM is the Director of Field Education and teaches several courses for the Pastoral Life department.

## Human Formation at Mundelein Seminary

By Father Kevin J. Feeney



“In order that his ministry be humanly as credible and acceptable as possible, it is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ, the redeemer of humanity. It is necessary that, following the example of Jesus, who, ‘knew what was in humanity’ (John 2:25; cf. 8:3-11), the priest should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems, to make meeting and dialogue easy, to create trust and cooperation, to express serene and objective judgments.” (PDV 43).

This citation, taken from Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis (I Will Give You Shepherds)*, highlights human formation as one of the essential four pillars of priestly formation. It is clear that the subject of human formation cannot be treated in isolation from the other dimensions. Human strengths and deficits are revealed as one engages spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. Growth in human formation is promoted by growth in the other areas as well.

Sometimes referred to as *human development or character*



## The Goal of Spiritual Direction

By Father Marty Barnum

There are many instances in the gospels pointing to Jesus’ encounters with individuals. His meetings with Martha and Mary, the Samaritan woman, the rich young man, Nicodemus and so many more reveal him to be the pre-eminent spiritual director

At Mundelein Seminary spiritual direction is the heart and soul of priestly formation. With the companionship of Jesus as the model, 25 diocesan and religious priests both on the faculty and in other ministries around the archdiocese, serve as spiritual directors for the seminarians. It is an act of shared prayer and a time for both the seminarian and the director to notice more clearly the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives

The purpose of spiritual direction is to provide a confidential forum for the seminarians to explore the movement of God in their lives, helping them to delve more deeply into their call to priesthood.

Spiritual direction is a one-to-one relationship in faith in which the seminarians can talk with an experienced guide about the deeper implications of life and the ways God encounters us in those depths. In direction the seminarians have an opportunity to speak about faith, prayer, celibacy and chastity, vocational discernment and spiritual growth. Since God can be discovered in all of our life experiences, spiritual direction provides the time and freedom for each seminarian to explore with his director issues of personal growth and development, relationships, family of origin concerns, ministry experiences and classroom learning. All of these areas form the essence of spiritual direction. In exploring these and other issues, the role of the director is to help the seminarians notice the movement of God and to discover how God is urging them to growth, conversion and a deepened response in grateful prayer and service to others

Jesus shared his life with many companions. Indeed, he sent his disciples out two by two. Spiritual direction offers the seminarians another companion to challenge and support them on their journey of faith.

— Father Barnum is the Director of Spiritual Formation at Mundelein.

development, this focus of the Mundelein formation program attends to the human growth that is necessary if one is to become an effective and holy priest.

As is required in other seminaries, a battery of psychological tests is given to each candidate as part of the admissions process. The resulting report, which highlights the person's strengths and vulnerabilities, can be a helpful tool for generating a human formation agenda with the individual. Reports contain language such as "is assertive," "has a wealth of psychological resources," "is struggling with some anxiety," "alcohol is an issue in the family," "above-average intelligence," "tends to avoid conflict," "struggles with OCD," "has dated," "no history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse," "overly controlled emotionally," "dealing with personal loss," "friendly," "high moral standards," etc. Each man is encouraged to review the report with one of our counselors if he has not already done so with the original examiner.

At Mundelein Seminary, we address the many issues relating to the human formation of tomorrow's priests in the weekly class formation programs (a combination of presentation and discussion), the annual ministry seminars, coursework, spiritual direction and formation advising. Community life itself reveals some of the dynamics of "becoming human together," to quote Jerome Murphy O'Connor, O.P., in his work, *Becoming Human Together: A Pastoral Anthropology of St. Paul*.

In the class formation programs in particular, issues such as one's family of origin, emotional and physical health and maturity, integrity, addictions, personal and professional relationships, professional behavior and boundaries and sexuality are dealt with. Here are some examples:

Pre-Theology I: "Human Formation and Our Spiritual Lives,"

"Sexuality and Celibacy."

Pre-Theology II: "Intentional Habits for Celibate Chastity" (a follow-up to the previous year's work).

First Theology: "The Relationship between Human and Spiritual Formation," "Human Needs: Healthy Ways of Handling Them," "The Roles of Emotions," "Coping with Stress and Strong Emotions," "Anger," "Christian and Human Foundations of Self-Esteem," "Relationships," "Civility and Manners," "Family Patterns When Addictions are Present," "Mature Christian Relationships with Authority," and "Characteristics of a Mature Human Person."

Second Theology: An in-depth treatment of "*Pastores Dabo Vobis*," "Professional Relationships, Behavior and Boundaries" (in preparation for pastoral internship).

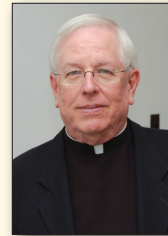
Third Theology: "Celibacy," "The Personal Life of a Priest," "Boundaries and Referrals," "Accountability," "Practical Life of a Priest: Elements of an Integrated Life."

Fourth Theology: "Developing and Maintaining Healthy Relationships within Priesthood," "First Five Years of Priesthood," "Professional Standards for Priests."

People connect with, listen to, respect and follow priests – and, more importantly, Christ the Priest – and are moving toward fuller humanity. The humanity, of course, is renewed and redeemed by our participation in the Paschal Mystery; human development is intimately related to spiritual growth. Hopefully, Mundelein seminarians are well on their way to becoming bridges to a fuller relationship with Christ.

– Father Feeny is the Vice President and Dean for Formation at Mundelein.

► The **Formation** feature was edited by Nathan Gohlke, a fourth-year theologian and deacon for the Diocese of Joliet, Ill.



## Intellectual Formation at Mundelein Seminary

Father Raymond J. Webb

Mundelein Seminary is a learning community of believers who want to know the Great Tradition of the Catholic Church and its authentic interpretations in depth, so that they can deepen their own knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and be good shepherds of persons entrusted as the guide of their priestly ministry of sanctifying, teaching and governing – the mission of the pastor.

Seminary theology is not knowledge for its own sake, but rather for the sake of the common mission of the church. Students realize that the learning process is cooperative, not competitive; they assist each other in their intellectual development. They also bring what they learn to their human, spiritual and pastoral formation, immersing the whole person in Christ. Seminarians realize that they are not simply receivers of teaching but will be soon called on to preach, teach, write and apply what they have learned. With their Catholic partners – lay, religious and ordained, they will be in critical conversation with the culture. They will engage persons of other religions. They will want to dialogue with every person in this world, for the sake of the mission, for the sake of making Christ known to all. Students engage in theological research so that they are better equipped for the conversations to which they are called. They attend to their own continual conversation so that they can call others to continual conversion.

Seminarians are asked to frequently take a step back from their actual studies to look at what they are doing. How are they integrating all aspects of their formation? How will their intellectual journeys continue after ordination? How can their practice of ministry always be an interplay between actions and reflecting theologically? Is their primary way of viewing the world religious?

The Mundelein Seminary curriculum includes courses in Systematic Theology (e.g. Christology, Ecclesiology), Bible and Proclamation, Church History, Worship, Pastoral Life and Christian Life (Moral Theology, Spirituality and Canon Law). Students receive the Master of Divinity degree after four years. Many students also receive the Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degree. Some pursue the License in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.), which requires an additional year of study after ordination. The degree programs are guided by the Program for Priestly Formation, 5th edition, as well as by the Statutes of the Ecclesiastical Faculty of Theology in regard to research degrees (S.T.B. and S.T.L.).

– Father Webb is Vice President and Academic Dean of Mundelein



## The New Pre-Theology II Field Education Program: Social Justice

*Seminarians in Pre-Theology II learn to see and serve Christ in those most in need in society.*

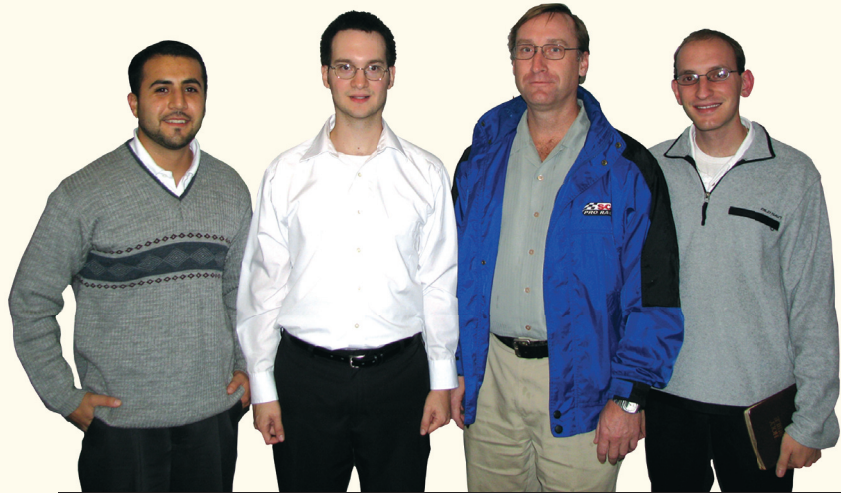
By Nathan Gohlke

Every year at Mundelein, seminarians further their discernment and prepare for ministry by engaging in various forms of Field Education. These experiences range from teaching religious education in parishes to working with the youth in correction facilities. So with the addition of a second year of Pre-Theology, the seminary has developed a new program of Field Education. Recognizing the need for ministry to the poor, the sick and the marginalized, Mundelein decided to devote this new year of Field Education to service in the field of social justice.

The *Program of Priestly Formation* expresses the importance of this form of service: “If seminarians are to be formed after the model of Jesus, the good shepherd, who came ‘to bring glad tidings to the poor,’ then they must have sustained contact with those who are privileged in God’s eyes – the poor, the marginalized, the sick and the suffering. In the course of these encounters, they learn to cultivate a preferential option for the poor. They also need to become aware of the social contexts and structures that can breed injustice as well as ways of promoting more just contexts and structures” (*Program of Priestly Formation* 5th Edition, 239).

Pursuing formation in this model of the good shepherd, each of the men in the Pre-Theology II program will spend two to five hours every week meeting Christ in the downtrodden of society. Among the various sites where they will minister, the class will visit veteran’s hospitals, PADS shelters, immigration centers, HIV clinics and soup kitchens. But they will not just be learning about the needs of the local community. They will also be learning about social justice on a global level as they travel to Nigeria or Mississippi for a two-week mission trip. Mundelein Seminary has strong hopes that these experiences will strengthen the class’ awareness of their call to service as they are brought face to face with the needs of the poor, challenged and underprivileged.

The men in Pre-Theology II already express excitement to be engaged in this social justice ministry. Perhaps the best way to un-



derstand their desire to learn about social justice is to hear them express some of their experiences and hopes for this program:



**“I am excited to be participating in this year’s Field Education curriculum centering on social justice.** The mission of Christ takes on a real face in serving the poor, the underprivileged and the marginalized. To ignore his face in these our brothers and sisters is to ignore him. Especially in the preparation for priesthood, we are called to be witnesses of charity in our world, following St. Paul’s call to be all things to all people. The new Pre-Theology

Field Education program gives us the perfect opportunity to practice this pastoral charity, developing a heart for the poor and fostering within us a commitment to social justice.”

“This year, I will be working with Holy Family Immigration Center in Waukegan to help prepare those seeking U.S. citizenship for the application and interview process. I have already witnessed the ways in which this apostolate can assist those who feel as though they do not belong in our country to make this place home. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to improve upon my Spanish-language skills and the increased awareness of sensitivities that are necessary surrounding the whole national issue of immigration in order to better prepare for ministry in the very diverse Archdiocese of Chicago.”

**-Bobby Krueger, Archdiocese of Chicago**

*The area of social justice is essential for a priest in training and will help us to grow in all four pillars of formation.*



## ► What the Pre-Theology II Field Education Program Hopes to Accomplish:

**1** To raise the seminarians' awareness of the social contexts and structures that limit people in their ability to live full, active, productive and free lives.

**2** To involve seminarians in the ministries of social justice and to help them identify effective pastoral strategies for promoting social justice within the communities and for the individual members.

**3** To develop new or deepen existing pastoral skills and sensitivities.

**4** To focus on the service dimension of ministry and the minister as servant.

**5** To assist the seminarians in their assimilation of lessons learned through ministry and their integration of theological understandings of ministry and priestly service with those lessons.

**6** To provide them with individual feedback on their strengths and limitations as observed by their ministry site supervisors.

**7** To further assist the seminarians in their ongoing discernment of their vocational calls through ministerial experiences.

— Pre-Theology II Field Education Program  
2007-2008 Manual.



“Tonight was our first night, so we met a few of the residents and one staff member at Harbor House, a facility that helps those with HIV transition to their next stage of life and live on their own. The

men we met tonight had past history of criminal and/or gang involvement and drug use. Most of them are working now and getting further education to improve employment prospects. They all have definitive faith in Jesus Christ and rely on him everyday.”

“As ministers to the residents, we will do some faith sharing and Bible study. Their outlook on life is, in a lot of respects, something I am trying to emulate. Focusing on this day, I am grateful for what we have and grateful for new relationships that will help us grow in the journey of faith.”

—Dave Bruener, Diocese of La Crosse



“I am looking forward to what will probably be the most eye-opening and humbling experiences of my life thus far. First, my field education takes me to the PADS homeless shelter. I hope

to have a greater understanding of the poor and marginalized both directly and indirectly assisting them in preparing meals and interacting with them. Second, many of my classmates will be embarking on a two-week mission trip to Nigeria through Catholic Relief Services. The purpose is not necessarily manual labor, but observing a new culture and having a stronger awareness of social injustice that occurs in many developing countries. I am anticipating seeing how truly global

*I consider my Field Education a blessing since I am giving so little and receiving so much. When I visit them, I see people of great faith, courage, strength and love. These are the qualities and gifts that I pray to God for my future priesthood.*

the Catholic Church is by seeing it being lived out halfway around the world.”

“The area of social justice is essential for a priest in training and will help us to grow in all four pillars of formation: through knowledge of a new culture and having theological discussions, prayer and seeing a new way of celebrating the liturgy, being witnesses to what our future ministry calls us to do, and growth in our own humanity and having a respect for all human life while promoting love, peace and justice. It truly is seeing Christ in the poorest of the poor.”

—William (B.J.) Van Dynhoven, Diocese of Green Bay

“The question I consider the most important is: What can we do as Christians to make things better? I consider

my field education a blessing since I am giving so little and receiving so much. When I visit them [residents of the Harbor House] I see people of great faith, courage, strength and love. These are the qualities and gifts that I pray to God for my future priesthood. When I visit them, I do not bring Jesus with me ... on the contrary, he is waiting for me when I arrive. Every time we do a good deed, such as giving food to the hungry, water to the one who is thirsty, or visiting someone, we are doing it for Jesus. ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ (Mt 23:35) More than a social justice experience, it is an opportunity for me to come closer to Jesus Christ.”

—Jesus Presiado, Archdiocese of Chicago

—Nathan Gohlke is a fourth-year theologian and a deacon for the Diocese of Joliet, Ill.







# THROUGH THE GATES

A student's experience

By Deacon Matthew Pratscher

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2

What is the seminary like? What do you do there? Seemingly everybody I know has asked these questions. For being such a vital part of the life of the church, the seminary can seem mysterious and complex. I hope that the following reflection helps those who are not in the seminary to enter into it with me and gain insight into its structure and atmosphere.



# HOW THE SEMINARY WORKS: OUR INSIDE EDITION



In August of 2004, passing through the gates of the main entrance of Mundelein Seminary, I looked ahead in awe and wonder at what I would call home for another four years. Admiring the beauty of the campus, I hungered to know everything about this gem hidden in the suburbs of Chicago. How did a place so majestic remain so secluded and relatively unknown by many? How did it come about? Who works there? Who studies there? What is the schedule like? What is the atmosphere like? How do they pray? Question after question, I wondered, “What will it be like?”

After being met by brother seminarians and unpacking and settling in, the orientation sessions introduced me to the seminary. There were seminarians from all over the United States as well as the world. Mundelein was a world of its own reflecting the universal church by both an international student body and an architecture that is effortlessly both Roman and American. The uniqueness of its style, the serenity of the campus, the grand architecture of the buildings, and the numerous memorials, statues, and shrines put me in a world that was larger than the one I thought I knew. Suddenly, it was as if the laws limiting space and time were suspended. In my simple experience of Mundelein Seminary and in coming to know it and its history, which aimed at communicating the greatness, universality, and particularity of the church in America, it was already having an effect on me.

During the orientation sessions and as the years progressed, I recognized the many facets of the seminary, especially regarding formation—the four pillars being academic, human, pastoral, and spiritual. Each had its own



department along with board members and representatives from the student body. Many aspects, options and procedures were placed ahead of us, and I was excited to enter into the community of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary.

The years at Mundelein flew by. The quarter system, along with many activities, produced somewhat of a rapid pace. The year was full of activities such as “cam” [our residence halls] sponsored socials, weekly “cam” nights, weekly diocesan evening prayer and dinner, the annual golf outing, the annual basketball tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Evening of Tribute and various conferences, talks, sports and clubs. I cannot forget the time necessary for classes, study and prayer! During the first year we went



to field education sites every week. I assisted the local parish in its RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), and my class and I received the ministry of Acolyte that year. The following summer I spent two months in Bolivia studying Spanish. Just before spending six months at a parish in my diocese during the spring and summer quarters of my second year, the class was instituted into the ministry of reader. After that summer, we returned with increased seriousness in our preparation. The winter quarter provided

*Mundelein was a world of its own reflecting the universal church.*

us with an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and we received Candidacy for Orders in the spring. Now, it is my fourth year, and after receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders as a transitional deacon, priesthood is just around the corner.

This has been a rather quick and simple caricature of the past four years. There is much to say about the seminary, but how does one adequately summarize it? There are many people behind the scenes who are responsible for cultural immersion programs, the ESL (English as a Second Language) program, the library, the pilgrimage, Field Education, CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education), formation sessions, the business office, technology, the masters of divinity academic program, the ecclesiastical faculty, food service, maintenance and landscaping and so much more.

What does it take to help a man discern and prepare a call to the priesthood? It takes a rector, a board of advisors, an administration, secretaries and assistants, bookkeepers, formation advisors, cam priests, teachers, spiritual directors, adjunct professors from the Archdiocese of Chicago and surrounding area... I am afraid that I cannot mention every position and every person, but I believe that it is this task that answers the question, “What makes the seminary?” Ultimately, it is the dedication of the faithful priests, religious and laypersons who tirelessly work with one another in order to build up the kingdom of God by helping seminarians to grow into good and holy priests.

— Matthew Pratscher is a fourth-year theologian and a deacon for the Diocese of Joliet, Ill.





*The continuity of the seminary is seen in its basic mission – we are preparing men to serve as priests of Jesus Christ.*

# Inside the Administration of the Seminary

*The seminary is not a one person show – it takes the church, the cardinal, and collaboration to run a seminary*

By Father Martin Zielinski

The administration of any institution exists to promote the mission and goals of the organization. The administration of the seminary exists to oversee and manage the resources – physical, financial and personnel – that are necessary to help the institution accomplish its mission and goals on a daily basis. The primary mission of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary (USML) “is to prepare candidates to be priests of Jesus Christ, priest, teacher and shepherd” (Mission Statement, School Handbook, 2007-2008, p.5). In addition to the preparation of candidates for the priesthood, USML also educates candidates for the permanent diaconate and lay ministry through a variety of degree and certificate programs. With more than 500 students in various degree and certificate programs, the administrative structures of the university are both varied and complementary. The following article will concentrate primarily on the administrative structure of the seminary program.



Since USML is the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Chancellor of the University is the cardinal archbishop of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George. His specific responsibilities as the chancellor involve his work with the board of advisors, correspondence and discussion with the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome and with bishops from other dioceses who send their students to USML. Overseeing the daily operation of the various pro-

grams is the Rector/President, Very Reverend Dennis Lyle, who was appointed by the chancellor after consultation with the faculty and board of advisors in 2006. One of the essential responsibilities of the rector/president is to ensure that the seminary programs fulfill the criteria outlined by the American Catholic Bishops in *The Program of Priestly Formation* (5th edition) and Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*.

The succinctness and clarity of the chancellor's and rector's responsibilities require a number of other people, boards and seminary committees to assist them in ensuring fidelity to and compliance with the seminary's mission. The rector relies on the advice of his seminary vice presidents (vice rector, provost, dean of formation, academic dean, ecclesiastical president, director of the liturgical institute, vice president of ministry formation, vice president of ongoing formation, vice president of facilities, vice president of finances, vice president of institutional advancement and vice president of recruitment) to assist him in the fulfillment of his varied responsibilities. The various vice presidents, deans and directors of programs oversee the fiscal, physical, programmatic and personnel resources needed in their various areas to contribute to the success of the seminary mission.

One of the recent changes in the administrative organization of the seminary happened in 2000. With the establishment of the Liturgical Institute in 1999 on the seminary campus, Francis Cardinal George placed a number of other lay ministry and diaconate formation programs of the Archdiocese of Chicago under the direction of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. The basic reason for the organizational change was to have one agency, the seminary, coordinating the ministry preparation programs for those involved in pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Although these lay ministry and diaconate preparation programs remain distinct and separate from the seminary formation program itself, the overall administrative responsibilities of the university dramatically increased with these changes in 2000.

Other key boards and committees of the seminary that contribute to the fulfillment of the mission are: board of advisors, formation board, academic board, faculty council and peer ministers. The purpose of the board of advisors is to provide advice to the chancellor and rector/president in matters such as policy development, budget and finance, fundraising, public relations, admissions, student life and the formation and educational programs. Both the formation and academic boards are policy-



# HOW THE SEMINARY WORKS: OUR INSIDE EDITION

*One of the great blessings of the seminary is the number of committed and dedicated people who have served on the faculty for 20 or more years, the long-serving chairs of the board of advisors who have served 10-year terms and the experienced staff who make this institution effective on a daily basis.*



making bodies for their particular areas. These boards consult and collaborate with the board of advisors, the faculty council and the peer ministers on a regular basis. Although the faculty council is not a policy-making body, the regular meetings of the full-time faculty allow for an effective voice in the governance and administration of the seminary. The role of the peer ministers is to be a liaison between the student community and the rector and administration on issues and matters concerning student life. In many ways, these elected student representatives have their fingers on the pulse of the community.

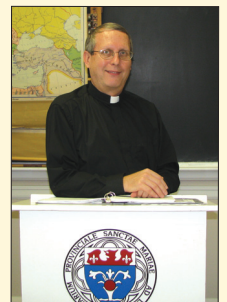
There is the brief description of the administration of the seminary. So how well does it work? What makes it unique and effective? Since I am starting my 20th year on the seminary faculty and have served for six years as academic dean (1991-1997), I certainly have a level of familiarity with the administration of the seminary. The organizational administration of the seminary has proved to be adaptive over the years. The new responsibilities of the seminary that Francis Cardinal George gave the school in 2000 required a major organizational change. In some ways, the seminary is still adjusting to these increased responsibilities as new issues related to the programs arise on a yearly basis.

Four key characteristics come to mind that should be associated with the administration of the seminary: consultation, collaboration,

commitment and continuity. Effective organizations consult with those they serve and with those who carry out the mission of the organization. This is not just good organizational management; it is one of the legacies of the Second Vatican Council. The seminary has used consultation on a wide and varied basis for a number of decades. The relationship between the various seminary administrators, boards and committees is structured in such a way that collaboration is necessary to fulfill the mission of the school. One of the great blessings of the seminary is the number of committed and dedicated people who have served on the faculty for 20 or more years, the long-serving chairs of the board of advisors who have served 10 year terms and the experienced staff who make this institution effective on a daily basis.

Finally, the continuity of the seminary is seen in its basic mission – we are preparing men to serve as priests of Jesus Christ. That is why this place was established by George Cardinal Mundelein in 1921 and why it still exists today in the 21st century. How this preparation is done certainly has changed in over 80 years, but not the goal.

– Father Martin Zielinski is a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago who is vice president for ongoing formation and department chairperson and associate professor in the Department of Church History at Mundelein Seminary.



## ► Mundelein Seminary Board of Advisors

Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett  
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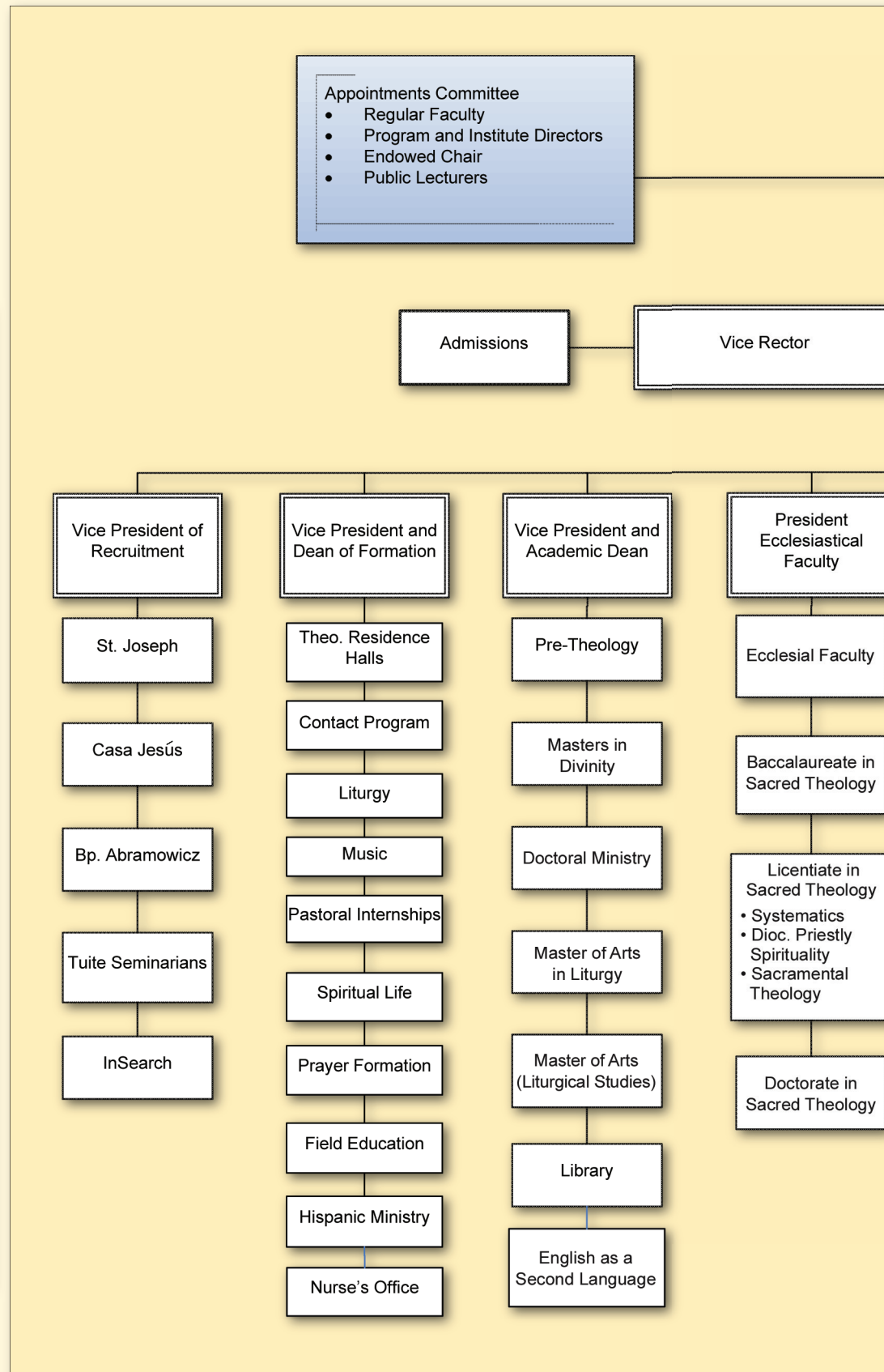
The priest's and seminarian's life is about interiorizing Paul's conviction: "You have died; your life with Christ is hidden in God." In the act of lectio divina, that life, now our life, becomes realized.

# A Different View: Mundelein Seminary

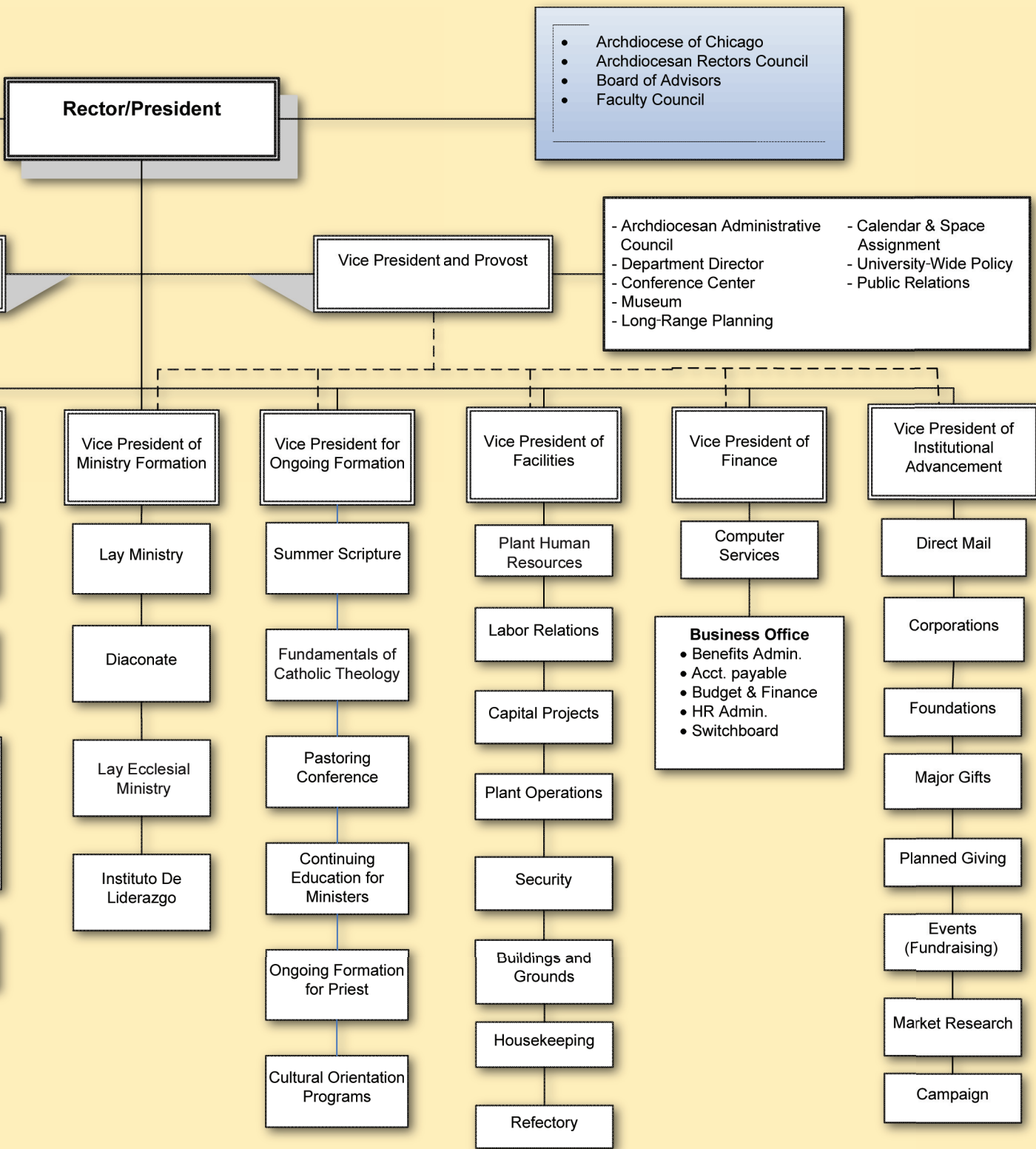
*A working diagram of the  
current seminary system*



► Edited By Deacon Nathan Gohlke



# HOW THE SEMINARY WORKS: OUR INSIDE EDITION





# An Interview with the Former President of the Board of Advisors

*The Bridge speaks with the former president of the seminary's board of advisors about his vision of the seminary and the board*

By Andrew Liaugminas

Over the past decade, Mr. James Dowdle has served the community of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary as president of the board of advisors. Over those years, Mr. Dowdle brought to the board his extensive experience in business leadership, managing many different media outlets before serving as President/Chief Executive Officer of Tribune Broadcasting Company from 1981 to 1997. He served on the board of directors of the Tribune Company from 1985 until he retired in 1999. Mr. Dowdle has served the boards of many non-profit organizations and has received numerous awards for his leadership and service.

In Mr. Dowdle's time as president of the board of advisors at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary he has overseen many projects on the university campus, including reconstruction of the bridges, replacement of all the windows on campus and development and construction of the new McEssy Theological Resource Center annex to the Feehan Memorial Library.

*The men in the seminary today are very dedicated. Over the past 10 years, service has become a more major component in their vocations.*

On Friday, Sept. 14, the board of advisors joined Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. and the entire university community for the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit. Following the Mass, Cardinal George and Father Lyle, with Father John Canary, presented an award to Mr. Dowdle to honor him for his years of leadership on the board and all the service he gave to the community in that time. *The Bridge* had a chance to talk with him briefly after the dinner.

## 1. How has being involved in the board of advisors shaped your vision of the church?

Being on the board has given me a pause to think about the future. Whatever happens in the church today is not going to affect

my faith, but I'm thinking about the faith of my grandchildren [...].

## 2. Looking back over your involvement with the seminary over the past decade, what has struck you the most about the nature of the seminary today?

I believe that the men in the seminary are indicative of society. As society has changed in the past decade, so too have the men who have come to the seminary. The men in the seminary today are very dedicated. Over the past 10 years, service has become a more major component in their vocations. While my generation was much more religiously indoctrinated, the men today in seminary have a greater focus on service than my generation did. We are really indebted for their service.

## 3. Was there a particular defining moment of your years as president of the Board?

Yes, it was building the new building of the McEssy Theological Resource Center. Before that, we were strictly an advisory board, but building the new library building took a lot a time and effort since the board was responsible for about 65 percent of it. It's a contribution that will endure for years to come, and this made us become much more of a full-fledged board than strictly an advisory board.

## 4. What would you like to say to the seminary community as you step down from the board?

I don't think most seminarians realize how many people here are behind them – staff, faculty, the board. So many people keep the seminary in prayers every day; they pray that the seminarians may achieve their goals in life. I want to remind the community that so many support them by being here or by keeping them in prayer.

– Andrew Liaugminas is a second-year theologian for the Archdiocese of Chicago.





## Just an Ordinary Day

*A behind the scenes look at what keeps Mundelein functioning normally*

By Alejandro Flores

As the seminarian wakes up in the morning to go to Mass, he steps out into the hallway and sees...nothing. There is no grime in the corners, he does not choke on dust, and there is not even a candy wrapper on the floor where someone hurriedly missed the trash can. In fact, the hallway is remarkably unremarkable. However he is used to not noticing the unremarkable and has already forgotten that his sheets and pillowcases are washed weekly by the laundry crew, and he may be further tempted to assume that these hallways just “don’t get that dirty.” Behind the scenes though, there is a dedicated and relatively unseen housekeeping staff that keeps our classrooms, common areas and more than a mile of hallway in Mundelein Seminary clean.

Outside the classrooms and dorms are the beautiful Mundelein grounds, which are kept in order by a dedicated grounds crew operating a fleet of lawnmowers, leaf blowers and, in the winter, snow blowers and shovels. There are more than 838 acres that make up the property and five miles of road surrounding it. All these paths are kept free of snow and debris by our maintenance and grounds crew who work tirelessly to keep our seminary grounds the most beautiful for miles around as evidenced by the many visitors enjoying the sights on the weekends.

It may come as no surprise that our staff and seminarians consume more than 45 gallons of coffee each week and we thank our kitchen staff for preparing it. The staff also provide over 300 pounds of rice and 300 pounds of vegetables weekly in addition to our entrees. And after each meal, they wash and dry the plates and utensils we used in order to prepare for our next meal. This way our stomachs do not distract us from our studies or prayers.

Speaking of studies, our enthusiastic library staff and volunteers offer help and guidance as we work through the maze of shelves and books that is the McEssy and Feehan Memorial Libraries. If a student wishes to do research he could peruse over 180,000 volumes of books



and encyclopedias or search through over 430 periodicals, all of which have been catalogued and tracked through the efforts of the library staff.

But the seminary is more than academics and there are many areas in which a student could get involved. Almost every one of these



departments, from the liturgical office to the Field Education Department, has a secretary who keeps the many meetings in order and who is happy to do whatever is in her power to make sure the experience at Mundelein is as uncluttered as possible. Let us not forget the administrative offices that make sure this seminary can support so many vocations and keep us all in good order.

This is just a small sampling of what goes on behind the scenes at Mundelein Seminary. A talented and committed staff of groundskeepers, cooks, dishwashers, secretaries, librarians, housekeepers, gardeners, mechanics and custodians keep the seminary running smoothly. Though at times they could go unnoticed, it is because they do their jobs so well. So, next time you see one of these professionals as they go about their business, be sure to thank them for keeping the ordinary day of a seminarian so ordinary.

—Alejandro Flores is a third-year theologian for the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas.





*The seminary honors Father Patrick O'Malley at another successful Golf Outing*

By Mark Teresi

On Thursday, September 13, the 16th Annual Golf Outing and Dinner was held at Pine Meadow Golf Course and the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. We welcomed 102 golfers and over 300 dinner guests.

Board member Joe Guinan, chairman of the event, and his committee, raised over \$200,000 for the seminary's English as a Second Language Program Endowment Fund.

This year we were proud to honor Father Patrick J. O'Malley with the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin "In Service of One Another – Catholic Humanitarian" Award.

Father O'Malley was ordained at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in 1957. He recently celebrated 50 years of priesthood, and continues by teaching at the seminary and serving at St. Mary of the Annunciation in Fremont Center (enjoying his "retirement"). His pastoral assignments have included: Maryville Academy, St. Sebastian, St. Jarlath, Old St James in team ministry and St. Celestine as Pastor.

Father Patrick O'Malley, a priest of Jesus Christ for over 50 years, has exemplified a life of service to the faithful. We are grateful for his dedicated years of priesthood.

*Ad Multos Annos!*

-Mark J. Teresi is Vice-President of Institutional Advancement.



## A Charitable Bequest May Be Your Answer So That Others May Serve

Designating a portion of your estate to the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary will enable you to make a substantial gift to honor the many fine priests who have served you and your parish throughout your life. By doing this, you will leave a measure of the blessings God has bestowed upon you in your lifetime so that others may serve. This level of giving will ensure that, throughout this new century, seminarians will acquire the skills to meet the challenges of the priesthood so that they may enthusiastically serve future generations of the faithful.

► **Gifts through wills are easy to arrange and may be changed at your direction.** When properly drafted by a qualified attorney, a will minimizes estate settlement costs and taxes, arranges for your property to be managed as you wish and provides for your friends, family, church and others you wish to remember.

► **If you are interested in learning more** about leaving a gift from your estate to Mundelein Seminary, please contact Mark J. Teresi at the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary Office of Institutional Advancement (847.970.4817) or mteresi@usml.edu.

► **If you already have named the University of St. Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary as a beneficiary of your estate,** please let us know so that you can be appropriately thanked for this most generous commitment and become a member of our Legacy Society.

- From the office for institutional advancement





“Father Rector you should be a Knight.” As abrupt as these words were to the former rector and now adjunct professor Archbishop James Keleher, the man they came from said them with such authority that it was hard to refuse. That man was Robert Wagner, a Knight of Columbus from the Council of Barrington just 30 minutes outside Mundelein. What was planted that day, would eventually grow into a long and fruitful relationship with the Knights of Columbus and Chicago priests and seminarians, and through that, the Church in Illinois as well. Bob’s reasoning was simple, since the Knights of Columbus worked hard at supporting bishops and priests, it only seemed natural that they should do all they could to support seminarians as well and foster in young men vocations to the priesthood.

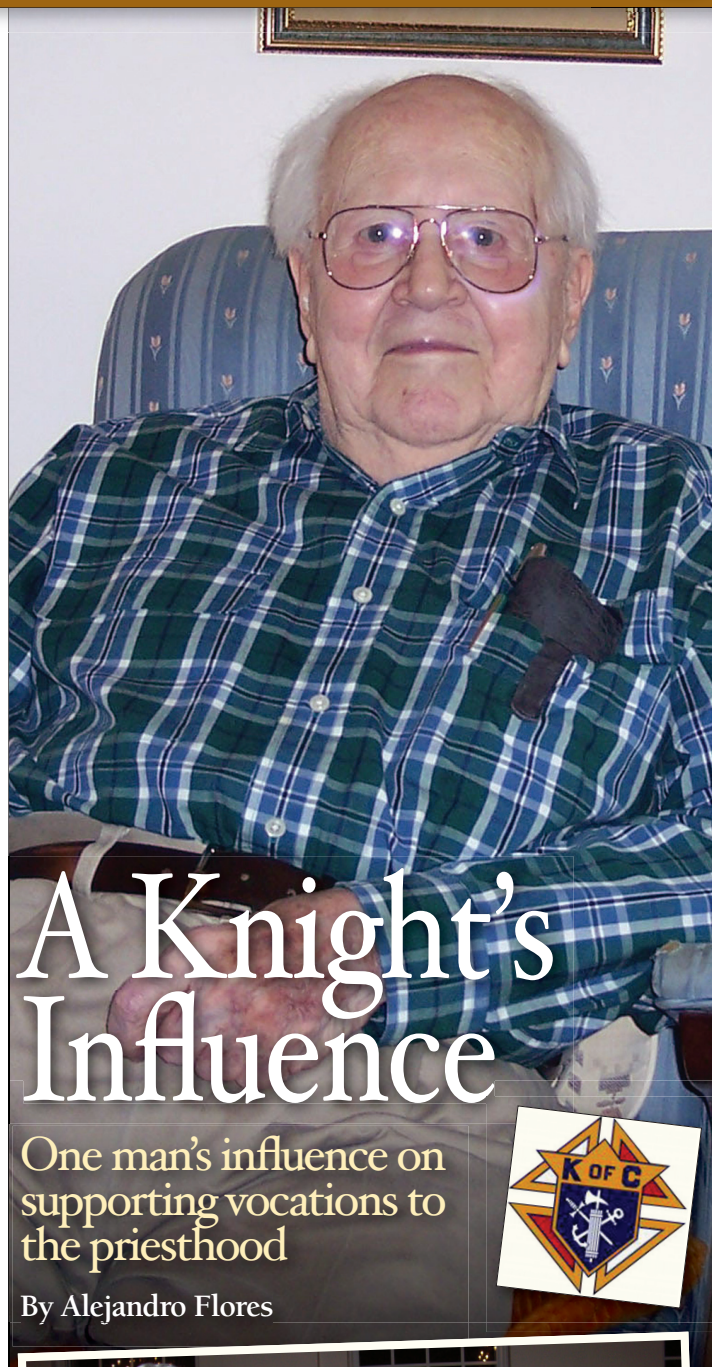
In a letter to the Knights of Columbus Illinois State Council, Bob states: “Vocations are our most important mission in the Knights of Columbus.” He realized that in working together to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life, the Knights’ dedication to charity and the family could only increase because they had willing and loving co-workers in the building of the kingdom.

Many can see how the Knights support the seminarians financially, enabling those among us to provide for personal need and for creating opportunities for fellow seminarians to share in their spirit of camaraderie. In fact, the yearly basketball tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus has become a major event that draws seminarians from all over the Midwest (and some beyond), to engage in friendly competition and to grow in the fraternity that is the

priesthood of Jesus Christ. More importantly however, the Knights and their families also support us morally and spiritually. Those of us who are not able to go to our home diocese for short breaks are welcomed with open arms by the Knights. Letters of encouragement and opportunities for socials also build up the seminarian and encourage his vocation.

All this began to take shape when Bob Wagner, a faithful Knight encouraged the then Father Keleher to share in this fraternity. Reflecting on his experience now, Archbishop Keleher declares, “Throughout my experience, there has not been a more family-conscious men’s network than the Knights of Columbus. They are a very strong asset for any diocese or parish.” And so we may add, “any seminary” as well.

– Alejandro Flores is a third-year theologian for the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas



## A Knight’s Influence

One man’s influence on supporting vocations to the priesthood

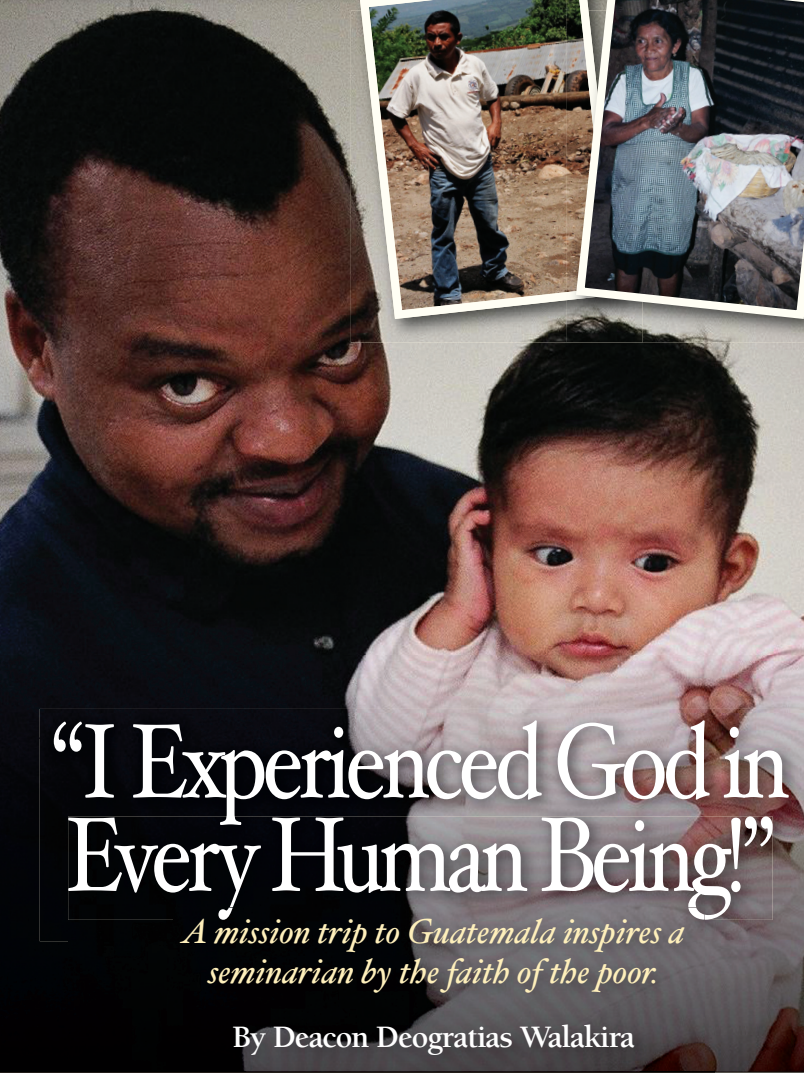
By Alejandro Flores





“If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,’ but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?”

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:15-17



## “I Experienced God in Every Human Being!”

*A mission trip to Guatemala inspires a seminarian by the faith of the poor.*

By Deacon Deogratias Walakira

Communion with Christ impels us to the service of our neighbors in need simply because the face of Christ shines forth in every human being. In light of this understanding, the summer experience for Augustine Mahonge in Guatemala (2007) made him a first-hand witness to the spark of God residing in every human being. Augustine Mahonge is a third-year theology student for the Archdiocese of Chicago, who was born in Tanzania, arrived in the U.S. two years ago to learn, nurture and continue his priestly vocation.

Augustine has this to say, “When I reached in Guatemala, I learned a lot. I learned that the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) focuses on meeting critical and immediate basic needs (i.e. health services, emergency aid, clean water and sanitation, support to orphanages, HIV/AIDS and immigrants’ centers, etc.) while at the same time addressing the long-term, structural factors that make poverty a chronic problem in the country [and the world].” In his witness, he continues to say that “the Catholic Relief Services complements their humani-

tarian and developmental activities with policy analysis and advocacy that seek to address root causes of poverty, conflict and marginalization.” In this way, the CRS examines issues with a “justice lens,” assessing social, economic, cultural and political structures in the context of justice, based on the principles of Catholic social teaching. Augustine says, “For me, I realized that the work of the CRS is a call for faith with works; it is a living faith.” As I reflect on Augustine’s words, the teaching of St. James comes to mind: “If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,’ but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:15-17). Our faith in God should draw us into seeing God in all human beings, mostly those who are traumatized by war, poverty, disease and the injustices of the world. It is in this way that the church becomes the voice of the voiceless.

I asked Augustine how the CRS does this tremendous work, and these are a few of his insights: “CRS uses food aid to address locally identified needs when it can be obtained and distributed in an efficient, timely and effective manner without distorting local markets or production.” He continues, “CRS distributes food aid directly to beneficiaries and monetizes a small amount of its food aid to generate cash to carry out other food security programs.” In addition, “CRS-sponsored food aid programs are carried out through networks of Catholic, faith-based, secular and governmental counterparts, and partners overseas.” Augustine also witnessed the

CRS working with immigrants. It is well known that the Catholic Church has a long and rich history of promoting and protecting the dignity and basic rights of refugees and migrants throughout the world; in Guatemala, the “CRS is currently responding to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), immigrants and victims of human trafficking.” In his own words, “Poverty, injustice, and armed conflict continue to forcibly displace millions of people across the country. CRS supports programs that combat human trafficking through prevention, protection, reintegration and public awareness.” At the same time, “CRS and many international partners of the CRS work together to increase understanding of and respond to the factors that sustain these injustices of society.” In his last words to me after we talked, Augustine said, “It is important to know that as I was in Guatemala, I experienced God in every human being. It was a great experience for me spiritually, a challenge morally and an inspiration pastorally.”

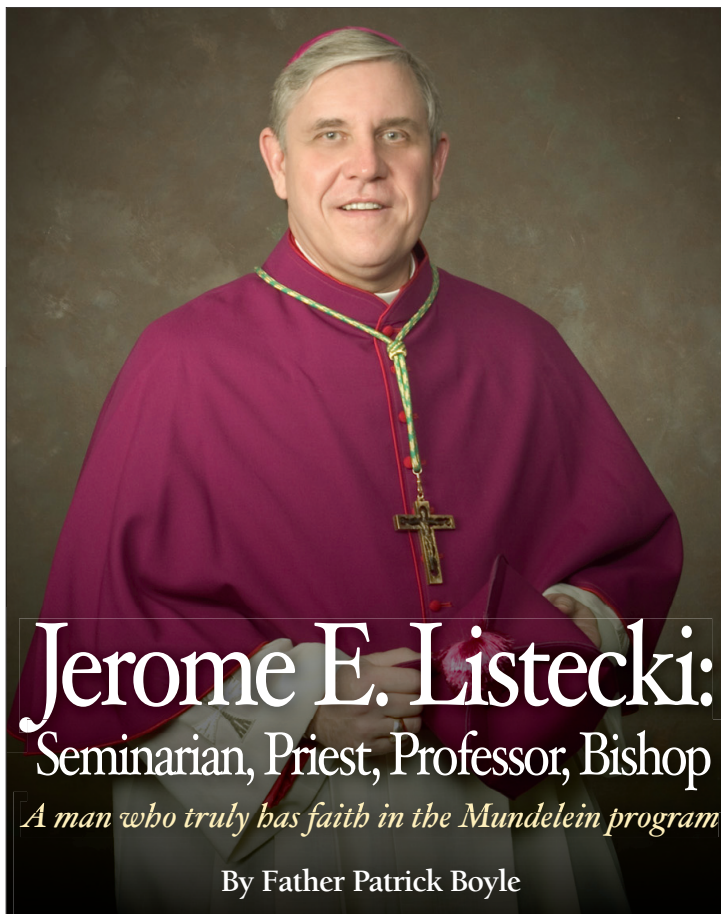
Augustine mentions that even though in the places he visited he saw desperate people and their various needs, these people never gave up; they are very happy, comfortable and loving people. They are highly religious, faith-filled and industrious. It is only in appreciating who people are and by supporting their efforts to what they can be that we realize the love of God through them. CRS, using different projects, supports people’s projects to nurture sustainable and happy living. Augustine says, “If we are attentive enough, we can see God in every instance of our daily living as well.”

—Deogratias Walakira is a deacon and a fourth-year theologian for the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda.



Bishop Jerome Listecky began his theological studies at Mundelein Seminary in September 1971. He was ordained a priest in May 1975. After finishing graduate studies in Rome, Bishop Listecky returned home and was appointed by John Cardinal Cody to the Mundelein Seminary faculty in 1983. He taught Moral Theology in the seminary for 17 years. In the summer of 2000, he left the seminary and became pastor of St. Ignatius parish in Chicago. Four months after his appointment as pastor, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago. On March 1, 2005, Bishop Listecky was installed Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse.

As Bishop of La Crosse, Bishop Listecky chose Mundelein seminary as one of the seminaries to form and train his seminarians. When one asks "Why do you send your seminarians to Mundelein?" he responds that it is the logical choice. As a former faculty member, he is very familiar with the members of the faculty and with the formation program. He has the greatest respect for both. He sees the academic faculty members as professional and highly qualified. He



By Father Patrick Boyle

knows that they are well-acquainted with the teachings of the church and are completely orthodox in their teaching of church doctrine. He knows that the members of the faculty are not only teachers but also take a personal interest in each of the seminarians. Bishop Listecky is confident that, when the seminarians complete their theological training and return to his diocese as priests, they will be theologically competent, firmly grounded in the teachings of the church and skilled in pastoral practices.



Bishop Listecky is well-satisfied with the four aspects of the formation program at Mundelein: spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral. As a seminarian and as a member of the faculty, he saw and experienced the workings of the program first hand and has the highest respect for it. The centerpiece of spiritual formation at the seminary is the Eucharistic celebration. Eucharistic adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, devotions to the Blessed Mother and other devotions are part and parcel of daily life at the seminary.

One of the more important aspects of Mundelein Seminary and what also impresses Bishop Listecky is the moral quality of the members of the faculty.

There is a great rapport between the members, and each member has a great love for the church. The priests, the nuns and the lay members are men and women of prayer and are dedicated to their work because they realize that they are training men for the church of the future. Bishop Listecky is personally acquainted with most of the faculty members and recognizes that they are outstanding examples of Christian witness to those studying for the priesthood.

*The centerpiece of spiritual formation at the seminary is the Eucharistic celebration.*

In his diocese, Bishop Listecky has a number of priests and men and women from foreign countries. Because of this ethnic diversity, he realizes that developing the sense of community in a diocese is a pastoral necessity today. He knows that at Mundelein Seminary because of its ethnic population, there is a great opportunity for such development, and great emphasis is placed on the faculty to develop community among the seminarians. As part of the formation of the foreign seminarians who will minister in the United States, there is a concerted effort to familiarize them with the North American culture as well as a well-organized program for teaching them the English language.

Bishop Listecky is very proud of having had a part in the development of the Mundelein Seminary Christian life department, which is composed of moral theology, spiritual theology and canon law.

— Father Boyle is a Jesuit priest and Professor of Moral Theology in the Christian Life department at Mundelein and a close friend of Bishop Listecky.



# The Oblates of Jesus the Priest: In the Heart of the Seminary

*The Oblates of Jesus the Priest, a community of religious sisters, are an inspiration to the seminary community and an encouragement to live in charity and holiness.*

By Deacon David Schalk

They begin their day with morning prayer in their chapel on the south side of campus. The celebration of the Eucharist follows, then time for personal prayer and silent meditation. They take their breakfast together and ready themselves for the work the day has to offer. Preparing food in the kitchen or caring for sacristy laundry will occupy the rest of their morning and early afternoon. At 15 minutes to 3 they are found once again in their chapel: a daily holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament offered specifically for priests and seminarians. They come together again later for evening prayer and the rosary before they retire for the night.

Who are they? They are the Oblates of Jesus the Priest, four consecrated religious sisters living within the Mundelein Seminary community. As the name of their congregation suggests, these religious sisters spend their lives as an oblation (sacrifice) to the Lord. Their spirituality is intensely Marian, modeling themselves after Mary the Mother of Jesus the Priest. They seek to unite themselves intimately



with Jesus Christ and offer support to his priestly ministry.

The University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary has had the privilege of having the Oblates here since 1983. In the eyes of many, the sisters are the very heart of the seminary community, pumping grace into its members by means of their constant prayers to Jesus the Priest. Their mantra, "My life given to God through his priests," is lived out humbly and discreetly on the seminary grounds every day.

"It is difficult to live up to this calling, to live authentically this vocation," admits Mother Celina Cruz Benitez. She has been an Oblate sister for almost 52 years and now serves as the Superior of the Oblate community here at

*Their mantra, "My life given to God through his priests," is lived out humbly and discreetly on the seminary grounds every day.*

Mundelein. The Oblates' witness to committed love is powerful indeed. With a look, a word or simply by their joyful presence, these women instantly energize Mundelein's priests and seminarians and encourage us in our vocations. Seeing their selfless service and devotion to Jesus the Priest, we catch sight of a concrete example of how we are to offer our lives as an oblation to the Lord.

—David Schalk is a fourth-year theologian and a deacon for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.





## Las Oblatas de Jesús Sacerdote: En el Corazón del Seminario

*Las oblatas, una comunidad religiosa, inspiran al seminario y les animan a vivir en amor y santidad*

Por el Diácono David Schalk



¿Quiénes son ellas? Son las Oblatas de Jesús Sacerdote, cuatro religiosas consagradas que viven dentro de la comunidad

“Es difícil llenar las expectativas de este llamado; el vivir auténticamente esta vocación,” asegura la Madre Celina Cruz

*Su mantra: “Entrego mi vida a Dios a través de sus Sacerdotes” se vive a diario humildemente y discretamente en los terrenos del seminario.*

Comienzan su día rezando laudes en su capilla localizada al sur del Seminario. Continúan con la celebración Eucarística seguida por oración personal y meditación en silencio. Toman el desayuno juntas y se alistan para el trabajo que les espera durante el día. La preparación de la comida en la cocina o el cuidado de los ornamentos litúrgicos les tomarán gran parte de su mañana y su tarde. Un cuarto de hora antes de las tres de la tarde estarán reunidas una vez más en su capilla para dedicar una Hora Santa a los pies del Santísimo Sacramento especialmente por los Sacerdotes y seminaristas. Al finalizar su día y antes de retirarse a descansar se reúnen una vez más para rezar vísperas y el santo Rosario.

del Seminario de Mundelein. Como el nombre de su Congregación lo sugiere, estas hermanas religiosas dedican sus vidas en oblación (sacrificio) al Señor. Su espiritualidad es intensamente Mariana, moldeando sus vidas bajo el modelo de María la Madre de Jesús Sacerdote. Ellas buscan la unidad de sí mismas con Jesucristo al ofrecer apoyo a su ministerio sacerdotal.

La Universidad de Santa María del Lago ha tenido el privilegio de contar con la presencia de las Oblatas desde 1983. Muchos aseguran que las hermanas son verdaderamente el corazón de la comunidad del seminario, que nutre a cada miembro de la comunidad con la Gracia de Dios a través de sus oraciones constantes a Jesús Sacerdote. Su mantra: “Entrego mi vida a Dios a través de sus Sacerdotes” se vive a diario humildemente y discretamente en los terrenos del seminario.

Benitez. Ella ha sido una hermana Oblata por casi cincuenta y dos años y ahora sirve como Superiora de su comunidad aquí en el seminario. El testimonio de amor fiel que las Oblatas nos dan es verdaderamente inspirador. Con una mirada, con una palabra o simplemente con su presencia llena de alegría, estas mujeres alientan instantáneamente a los sacerdotes y seminaristas de Mundelein, y nos apoyan en nuestro camino vocacional. Al ver su servicio desinteresado y su devoción a Jesús Sacerdote logramos ver un ejemplo concreto de cómo debemos ofrecer nuestras vidas en oblación al Señor.

– El Diácono David Schalk, de la Diócesis de Columbus, Ohio, está en el cuarto año de teología. El Diácono Manuel Dorantes es de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago y está en el cuarto año de teología.







## Humility: The Key to Priesthood

*A reflection given by a jubilarian to the seminarists and guests on the occasion of a reception honoring his class in celebration of their 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood*

By Father Donald Meehling

Ahern, Antonik, Balke, Barr, Bresnahan, Cain, Caplis, Cassidy, Collins, Courtney, Daly, Demey, Dempsey, Egan, Ehrens, Fenske, Flaherty, Gorman, Harnett, Headley, Keleher, Koch, Lally, Laske, Lion, McCaig, McClory, Meaney, Meehling, Millin, Murphy, Nallen, O'Grady, O'Mara, Peters, Rebert, Roche, Rosemeyer, Sayers, Seitz, Sloan, Sohm, Tuite

These are the 43 names that appear on the roster of the class composite picture of the ordination class of 1958 at Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary. We arrived on these hallowed grounds in the fall of 1951 some 65 strong, and 42 were ordained to the holy priesthood in the spring of 1958 and one in Rome a few months earlier.

I was asked to say something inspirational and helpful to the seminarists, as Cardinal Stritch used to call us, with no small amusement on our part, a term presumably derived from his more formal Roman training.

I have, near my favorite chair in the rectory, a copy of a beautiful glossy picture brochure of the seminary, prepared while Father Canary was rector and sent to all the alumni. It is entitled: A Dwelling Place for the Lord. Often I take it down and reminisce about the years spent here in formation, about the people and experiences that marked that special time. We are what we experience in a very true sense, and much of what I am and what we all are is graphically recalled by the photos displayed there.

One time when I was attempting to write a thesis for a degree under the direction of the awesome Father Thomas Motherway, I selected, with his concurrence, to do my research and writing on a question from the *Secunda Secundae* of Saint Thomas' *Summa Theologica*, on the question *de humilitate*. After agreeing that this would be a fitting area for my study, he promptly reminded me that I had chosen the best possible of all topics for my study. He described it as a win/win situation: "You will win no matter what the outcome may be." He said, "You will either learn much more about the theoretical understanding of humility by your research, or you will learn maybe even more about it by the practical experience of failing in this endeavor." Presumably I learned enough to satisfy some minimal requirements for the degree, and what is even more important, I

have spent the greater part of the rest of the next 50 years learning the practical understanding of humility by numerous reversals, humiliations, put-downs, sadness, fears, and all those other bug-a-boos that haunt the human heart and mind. For consolation I often recalled the remark of Father Peterman who used to tell us over and over again that there was no true humility without humiliations! Believe me, I and everyone in this room have been exposed to their share of this experience along the line.

My admonition, my encouragement to you young men here now studying and praying in anticipation of sharing in the Priesthood of Jesus, is to stay forever humble! Do your very best and walk humbly with the Lord, all your days. In doing so you become invincible; nothing can destroy you. Stay humble. In this you have the surest pathway to holiness and the impregnable shield against slight or injury, real or imaginary. Others may think you are not doing very well or that you are not good at all. They may question you in lots of ways, but if you can always answer that you are doing the best you know how, you will indeed come out a winner in the only place where it really counts! Don't get discouraged, stay close to the Eucharist, and also very close to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and believe from the bottom of your heart what it is those sacraments have to say and you will be OK, you really will! God really does very often write straight lines with crooked pencils, to witness: the class of '58!

As a downstater, among the eight in our class, I know we

came to Mundelein in 1951 amidst a great deal of uncertainty and no little fear and trepidation only to experience a most cordial welcome and a ready assimilation by the Quigley alumni. They were plenty ready to meet some new faces and to hear some new stories different from the ones they had been re-digesting for the previous five years over and over again...

These men were and remain forever our dearest of brothers and most wonderful companions on the journey. One cannot say enough good things about the jubilarians gathered here today and the quality of men and priests they are. I know that I personally remain forever indebted to them for their many years of exemplary priestly service that found its pattern amidst this splendid

*Don't get discouraged, stay close to the Eucharist, and also very close to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and believe from the bottom of your heart what it is those sacraments have to say, and you will be OK; you really will!*

garden (seed patch-seminary) of Saint Mary of the Lake. I cannot imagine anyone having a greater gift than to be literally handed seven years with nothing more to do than to study and pray!!! Few human beings have ever had such a rich gift! I remain forever indebted to the great Archdiocese of Chicago and its many good people for offering us the opportunity to join in the rewards of spending that time in our lives among these shaded walks and beautiful buildings! I

“Leaving or staying, wherever or however things may come to pass, I will neither forget nor neglect you ...  
because truly I desire your good forever.” Saint John of the Cross



Father Donald Meehling pictured far right of first row.

am sure, however, that our own dioceses paid the going rate at the time, and for that we owe a great thanks as well.

Along with the Chicago, Peoria, Belleville and Springfield components, which have stayed the course of priestly service in their respective dioceses, we have some who have ventured in the service of the church into religious communities. Some have left earlier or later to pursue other avenues of achievement, some were never ordained, although they spent many years together with us as students. To all of them, whoever and wherever they may be, I offer a most heartfelt and cordial appreciation for your having assembled here in such great numbers today. Let us take one another wherever we may be and help one another grow in the pathways of holiness and virtue toward the goal that awaits us all, in the fullness of life with our master, the divine teacher, Christ Jesus the Lord. As in the picture that graces the wall of this refectory, “Christo É Passato”, may we long continue to cast shadows

of his living presence for all to share, and may you young men become proud partners with us on this great journey.

Believe me, gentlemen and guests, it has been but a blink of an eye, as surely you will not believe until you come to stand in our shoes a half century somewhere in the future. It has been a wonderful experience and we would do it all over again. It is the greatest gift that can be accorded to a man in this vale of tears to be invited to share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Ad multos annos!

– Father Donald Meehling is a priest for the Diocese of Springfield, Ill. and is the parochial vicar of Saint Aloysius Catholic Church in Springfield, Ill.

*It is the greatest gift that can be accorded to a man in this vale of tears to be invited to share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ!*



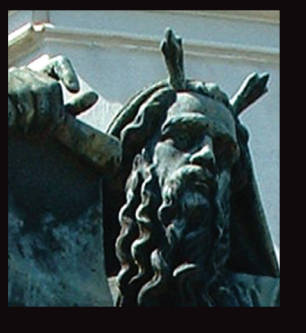
“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ...” Luke 1:46-47



*“The Most High has sanctified his own tabernacle”*



*“I will put enmity between you and the woman”*



# Restoring the DIME

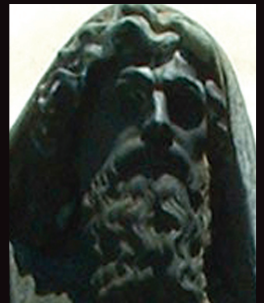
By Ken Halbur Jr.



# PHOTO ESSAY



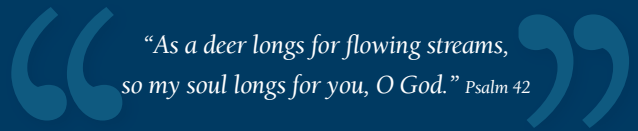
*“On her head was a crown of twelve stars”*



*“Behold a virgin shall conceive”*

*“This Gate shall be shut”*





“As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.” Psalm 42

## Surprises along the Trail

*While forging the trail, seminarians stumble across a treasure for years to come ... his name: Uncle Buck*

By Ben Hasse

When Cardinal Mundelein began to build Mundelein Seminary, he intended to construct a comprehensive Catholic university, one that would compete with the budding Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was so bold as to call it the “Versailles of the West.” Fortunately for CUA, this dream was never realized — the Great Depression hit, and he was able to finish the schools of philosophy and theology that have persisted down to the present day. However, the very ample 838-acre campus, including the 300-acre golf course (Pine Meadow) continues to serve as a testament to his never-small plans! While the full “Versailles” never took shape, the large campus has been a source of joy and adventure to seminarians for some 80 or more years.

Up until the 1960s, the seminary had a very large and, at times, famous grounds department that created a wonderland of annual flower displays and manicured pathways. At one time these extended around much of the lake. However, as budgets tightened and labor costs rose, this eventually became impossible to maintain. The area immediately surrounding the seminary buildings has been maintained, but much of the remaining woods have grown in, largely swallowing up the former manicured parkland.

In our own time, a small group of seminarians has attempted to tame the brushy wilderness and open up greater opportunities for recreation here at Mundelein by building trails. This started with now Father Ed White from the Archdiocese of Seattle. With the help of many fellow seminarians, they hewed and hacked their way around the lake, opening up at least a narrow path all the way around. Recently, I and others have worked to maintain these trails, as well as open up new ones. In this case, this transplant from the wintry northern climes of Upper Michigan has cross-country skiing in mind. I have found enthusiastic support from Father John Szmyd, director of liturgy, who also enjoys braving the Chicago winters whenever the snowfall cooperates. The grounds to the north and east of the soccer and softball fields have some more interesting topography, providing the opportunity for some mildly exciting downhill runs.

Hacking out these trails through the buckthorn jungle is no mean task. This exotic and invasive species from Eurasia has taken over the understory throughout much of the campus. It grows very thickly and has small spurs. Although they are not true thorns botanically speaking, they can still be plenty sharp. This small tree also resprouts aggressively, requiring that all the little stumps be chopped right out of



the ground. Up to this point, far more hours have been spent chopping and hewing than skiing!

One unexpected “windfall” was encountered as this newest trail was built. In early 2006, Matt Joost, then a seminarian for the Diocese of Belleville, and I were trudging into the woods in the snow to work on the ski trail a little. As we entered the woods immediately north of the horseshoe pits, Matt spied something unusual almost drifted over with the cold dry snow. “What’s that?” As we went closer, it became apparent it was a large but emaciated deer carcass with a very large 9-point rack! We brushed the snow away and saw the very skinny body. As it had been very cold the previous days, it was frozen solid. I, however, saw immediate opportunity! With the help of some other outdoorsman, we hung it up in a tree to keep any large scavengers off. That weekend, with permission from the grounds crew, we hung it up in one of the garages to thaw. After it had softened up sufficiently, we skinned off the cape, the part of the upper shoulders and hide necessary for a taxidermist. It appeared to be in good enough condition to mount. Fortunately the cold weather held out, and with appropriate DNR permission, the head was transported to a taxidermist. It arrived after the big fall rush, but by the fall of 2006, Uncle Buck was ready to adorn the walls of Mundelein Seminary!

After a ceremonial tour in the rector’s office (staring directly across at the rector’s secretary, Dianne Giovannetti), Uncle Buck traveled across campus to his final resting place on the wall next to the fireplace in the Theology Recreation Hall.

And so, besides providing exercise and enjoyment, the developing seminary trail system has also providentially provided suitable manly adornment for the recreation hall! Who knows what fruits the trails may bear in the future!

— Ben Hasse is a third-year theologian for the Diocese of Marquette, Mich.



## From the Editor's Desk

By Nathan Gohlke  
and Matthew Pratscher

After several pots of coffee and countless hours of debate and discussion, the editors had finally arrived at this issue's theme: "How the Seminary Works: Our Inside Edition." Sometimes it's like stabbing in the dark, but we try to determine what our readers might enjoy hearing and learning about. Some issues are more academic, while others are more informative. This is one of our more informative issues.

We realized that while many of you have experienced seminary formation, the seminary has gone through its fair share of changes and there are still many people who have never stepped foot on a seminary campus. So in this issue we hoped to construct a presentation of how the seminary functions. We tried to examine every nook and cranny of the seminary program, from faculty and housekeeping, to secretaries and staff, in order to find out how this place really works. After gathering all of the articles, we realized it takes much more than a faculty of priests and religious to run a seminary.



The Bridge Editorial Team: (left to right) Deacon Matthew Pratscher ('08), Deacon Nathan Gohlke ('08), Kenneth Halbur Jr. ('09), Greg Michaud ('09), Father Patrick O'Malley, Alejandro Flores ('09). Not pictured: Andrew Liaugminas ('10).

We wish there was more room in the magazine to pay tribute to all of the hard-working men and women behind the scenes. These dedicated people work tirelessly to keep Mundelein running smoothly and looking beautiful. But in all honesty, writing about them does not do their work any justice. One would have to come and see the secretaries plugging away at their desks, the men manicuring the grounds on hot summer days, the kitchen staff paying careful attention to every meal and the men and women pushing the brooms down the halls. That's not to mention the maintenance workers fixing the tired appliances, the security guards driving countless laps around the lake and the receptionists answering the endless calls. It's quite remarkable. We only wish that you could see them in action.

After compiling this issue, we have grown in a deeper awareness and appreciation of all that is involved in forming men to be priests for Jesus Christ. It is no easy task in this age and society. It takes time, space, financial means and resources to keep Mundelein going. But more importantly, it takes people. Dedicated people ... people who offer prayer, guidance, service, direction

and vision for the future of the church. These people are vitally important for the success of any seminary program and, by the grace of God, Mundelein has been blessed with many such people.

So we hope that you have enjoyed reading our presentation about how the seminary works. If there is another topic that you would like to hear about, please mail us your suggestions. Thank you for choosing to peruse through this issue of *The Bridge*, and thank you for keeping Mundelein Seminary in your thoughts and prayers.





## UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

Men interested in the priesthood can contact Father Ken Carlson, 847.970.4845.

**All it costs is a loving heart and a willingness to learn.**



**THE BRIDGE**

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