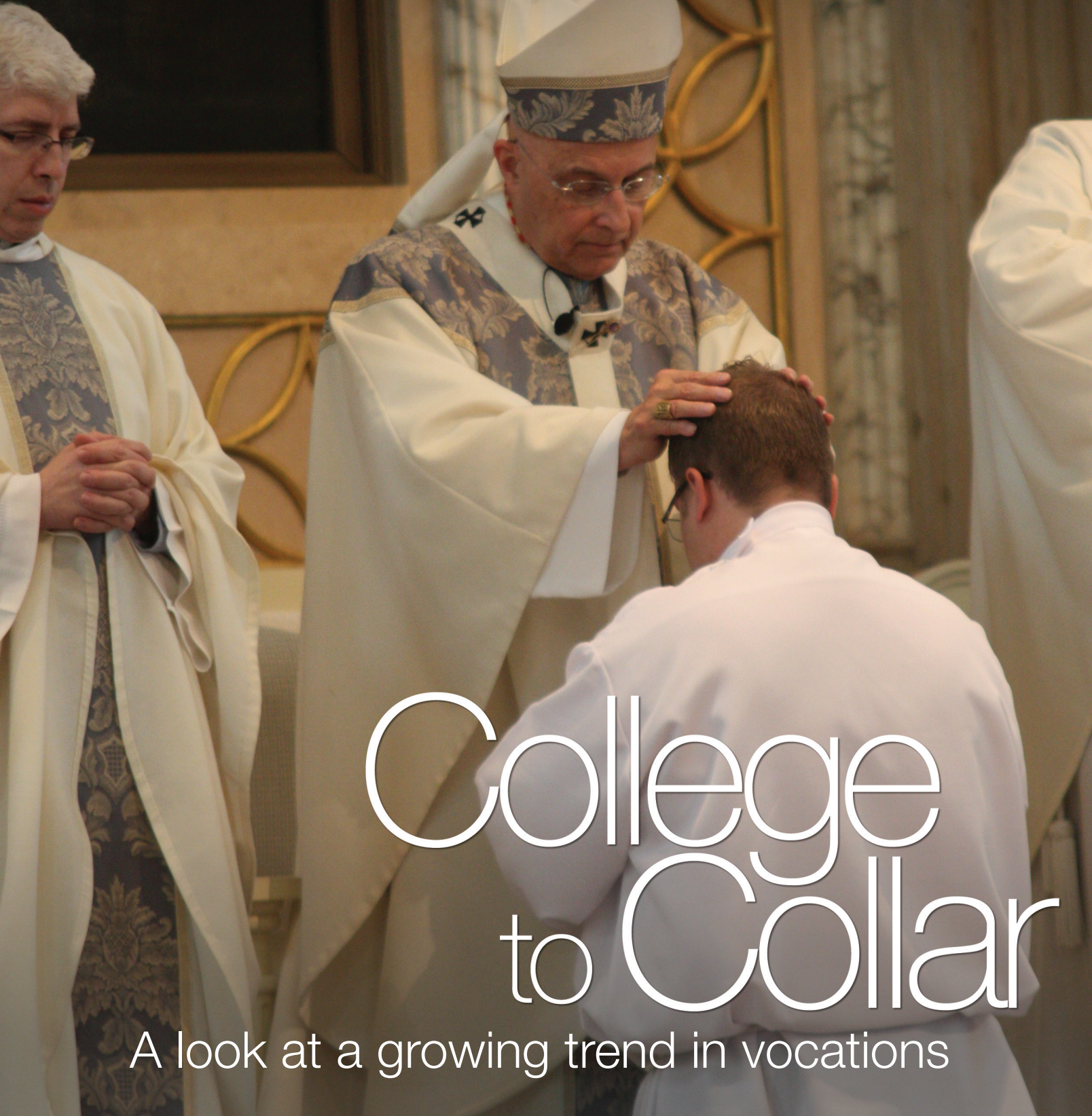




THE BRIDGE



College to Collar

A look at a growing trend in vocations

In the words of St. Paul, they begin to explore
“the breadth and length and height and depth” of the love of Christ.

A view from The Bridge

By Rev. Msgr. Dennis Lyle



For many years, the journey which led a man to priestly ordination was rather simple: he attended a Catholic grammar school, entered the high school seminary and twelve years later was ordained to the priesthood. This path was common to most priests. Over the last fifteen years that journey has taken a different path, but one which ultimately leads a man to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

In this journey, the key moment comes not in grammar school but in college. Seminary personnel have seen this trend for a number of years. A young man goes to college without ever having considered the priesthood as an option. But his college experience changes everything. Although he may have entered with little or no significant contact with a parish, he becomes connected with the Catholic community on the college campus. The young men have the opportunity to meet other Catholics and become friends with the priests serving at the university parish. This leads to a greater interest in the liturgy, an intellectual curiosity to learn more about the faith and a serious involvement in service projects. Before he knows it, a young man begins to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

At this moment in their lives young people are practicing their faith without external pressure from home. They have boundless energy and are energized by events and projects. They also begin to realize that the Catholic faith is much deeper and richer than they ever imagined. In the words of St. Paul, they begin to explore “the breadth and length and height and depth” of the love of Christ.

I believe that most rectors of major seminaries will tell you that the Catholic communities of state universities are the

source for the vocations of many of their candidates. Our most recent class of pre-theologians (those men who must complete the required hours of philosophy before they begin theological studies) at Mundelein Seminary reveals that fact. Of the twenty seven pre-theologians enrolled at Mundelein only eight or 30% attended a Catholic university while nineteen men or 70% attended non-Catholic institutions. This speaks volumes about the vibrancy and success of these university programs.

In addition to reflections by seminarians who attended Catholic centers at universities, I encourage you to read through the others articles in this issue of *The Bridge*. We continue to restore the campus to many of the original designs and concepts. For example, we have replanted elm trees along Principal Avenue. Our seminarians seek opportunities to visit different countries and pastoral realities such as China and El Salvador. And our faculty both past and present continue to make

significant contributions to the local church and beyond. In a special way I want to recognize former faculty members who gathered for a reunion organized by Bishop John Gorman and congratulate Father Alberto Rojas who was ordained as a new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am grateful for their service to the seminary community. *Ad multos annos!* Enjoy this issue of *The Bridge – From College to Collar*.

“At this moment in their lives young people are practicing their faith without external pressure from home. They have boundless energy and are energized by events and projects. They also begin to realize that the Catholic faith is much deeper and richer than they ever imagined.”

THE BRIDGE IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY.



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The Bridge™ is a membership publication of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, 1000 E. Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060. Published twice a year by the students and faculty of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Subscription requests and address changes can be sent to Mundelein Seminary, 1000 E. Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060.

www.usml.edu
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On the cover: Francis Cardinal George, OMI, laying hands upon Mariusz Manka during the recent ordination to the Diaconate at Mundelein Seminary.

The photo was taken by Colin Mulhall, a Pre-theologian from the Diocese of Grand Rapids.



College to Collar



COVER STORY

University of Illinois St. John's
Catholic Newman Center

– Deacon Bobby Krueger

12

2 • RECTOR'S NOTES

– By Rev. Msgr. Dennis Lyle

4 • MUNDELINE

6 • UPCOMING EVENTS

FIELD NOTES

8 **A Seminarian in China**

– By Derek Ho

9 **My God, What a Life!**

– By Connor Danstrom

10 **Chicagoans Go on Pilgrimage**

– By Edward Looney

FEATURE STORIES

12 **The Newman Center at the University of Illinois**

– By Deacon Bobby Krueger

14 **Q&A with Seminarian Alumni of the Newman Center**

16 **Interview with a Vocation Director** Father Brian Welter, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Chicago

– By Sarah Jane von Haack

18 **St. Lawrence Center at the University of Kansas**

Teaching the Whole Person

– By Daniel Stover

19 **The Newman Center at Northern Illinois University**

Centered on Christ

– By Kyle Manno

20 **Living Joy**
The World Youth Day Experience of Encounter with the Vicar of Christ

– By Rev. Ben Hasse

PROFILES

22 **Preparing for the New Missal**
A Sample of What Some Institute Students and Graduates have done to Prepare the Faithful

– By Rev. Douglas Martis

24 **Rose Kearney**
One of God's Great Characters

– By Mark Teresi

25 **Rev. James J. Close**
The Renewed Spirit of Fr. Edward Flanagan

– By Rev. Eugene Henrick

CLASS NOTES

26 **Interview with Bishop Alberto Rojas**

– By Jamie Mueller

28 **Afternoon of Remembering**
Former Faculty Gather on Campus to Remember Changes and Accomplishments

– By Bishop John Gorman

ON CAMPUS

30 **Pre-Theology at USML**
A History

– By Rev. Gus Belauskas

31 • FROM THE EDITORS

– By Connor Danstrom



Rev. Robert Barron launches the *Catholicism* series

Catholicism, an exciting new program hosted by Rev. Robert Barron, the Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Professor of Faith and Culture, was completed earlier this year. Four episodes have aired on public television stations throughout the United States. The 10-part program presents a fresh and exciting overview of the Catholic faith aimed at displaying the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic faith. It covers the revelation of the God become man, the teachings of Jesus, God's existence, the problem of evil, the blessed Virgin Mary, the apostolic faith, the Church, the Mass, saints, prayer, and the last things. It combines the depth of Catholic teaching with the beauty and living witness of the Catholic Church from the Holy Land to Africa, Asia, America, and Europe.



Lakers attend seminary sports tournaments

The Mundelein Lakers attended the Fifth Annual Conception Seminary Soccer and Volleyball Tournament on October 22-23, 2011. The volleyball team took second place. The Mundelein Lakers also attended the Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary Golf Tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 1-2, 2011. The four-man team took third place.



Administrative changes at Mundelein Seminary

In the spring of 2011, it was announced that there would be some changes in the administration of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary:

- Rev. James Presta assumed the role of Vice Rector for Seminary Administration.
- Rev. Thomas A. Baima assumed the role of Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs.
- Rev. Ronald Hicks assumed the role of the Dean of Formation.
- Rev. Thomas Franzman assumed the role of Provost while staying on as the Chief Campaign and Stewardship Officer.
- Also, the seminary administrators wrote an *Exhortation to Mundelein Seminarians* that was introduced during the fall formation address. The exhortation is an updating of the *Rules and Prayers: St. Mary of the Lake Seminary* (1958). The exhortation is offered to the seminarians as advice on how to best approach priestly formation in the context of today's Church and world.



Rev. James Presta



Cardinal Francis George ordains 11 men to the diaconate

On Saturday, October 29, 2011, 10 Archdiocese of Chicago seminarians were ordained to the diaconate: Francis Bitterman, Thomas Boharic, Robert Krueger, Mariusz Manka, Gilbert Mashurano, Anthony Muraya, Matthew O'Donnell, Piotr Rapcia, Krzysztof Swierczynski, and Javier Vilchez. Scott Snider was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. The Archdiocese of Chicago Class of 2012 will be ordained to the priesthood on May 12, 2012 at Holy Name Cathedral.

Sister Kathleen Mulchay, S.S.C.M. elected Superior General

Sister Kathleen Mulchay, S.S.C.M., was elected the Superior General of her religious order, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. Sister Kathleen is the first American superior general of her order and only the 12th superior general in the order's 150 year history. She departed Mundelein Seminary over the summer to assume her new responsibilities. Sister Kathleen had been a member of the Mundelein faculty and on the formation team for the last nine years and was director of the

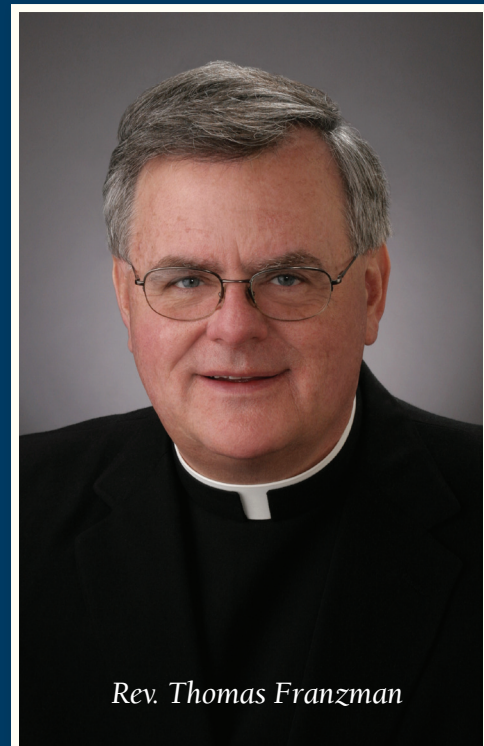
Holy Land Pilgrimage during the winter quarter. She will deliver the 2012 Convocation address and also receive an honorary degree from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake.



Rev. Thomas A. Baima



Rev. Ronald Hicks



Rev. Thomas Franzman

As we begin a new calendar year and move into the ordinary time after the Advent and Christmas seasons, we look forward to the challenges and opportunities we will encounter. Following are the many activities that will challenge and fulfill us physically, mentally and spiritually to keep us growing in our vocations to the priesthood.



JANUARY 26: PALUCH LECTURE

Our holder of the Chester and Margaret Paluch Chair of Theology, Sister Sara Butler, MSBT, will give the second of three lectures held throughout the academic year.

Sister Sara is a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity. For the past 20 years, Sister Sara has been a seminary professor of dogmatic theology, first here at Mundelein Seminary (1989-2003) and more recently at St. Joseph's



Seminary in New York (2003-2010). In addition she is a member of the International Theological Commission and in 2009 received the Cardinal Wright Award for outstanding scholarly service to the Church. Previous lectures included "Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church: Prospects for a Dialogue," "The Ministerial Priesthood: Why is it Reserved to Men?" "Women Deacons: Yes or No?" and "Inclusive God-Language: A Theological Update."

JANUARY 27-29: SEMINARY SHOOTOUT

Every January seminarians from surrounding states flock to Mundelein Seminary to compete in the annual Seminary Shootout. For this much-anticipated event,

seminarian basketball teams practice diligently to uphold their seminary's good name, and, in a spirit of charity, attempt to vanquish their opponents. With many talented and skilled basketball players, this weekend is never wanting for entertainment or excitement. More importantly, it provides the opportunity for seminarians to interact with and get to know men from other seminaries.

FEBRUARY 3: CASINO NIGHT

A night of competition, camaraderie, and fundraising, the annual Casino Night is a good time for all here at Mundelein Seminary. Seminarians and faculty alike have the opportunity to win prizes and show off their skills in various casino games. Interspersed throughout the night is a faculty-only battle for the championship title in a Wii™ boxing tournament, a contest in which the seminarians gladly place high stakes on their favorite faculty members. All the funds raised in this year's event will go to "Stepping Stones Foundation of Hope," a charity founded by Mundelein alumnus Father Dennis Kasule that helps provide clean water, education, and faith formation in rural Uganda. If you would like to help in this cause, checks should be sent to "The Dogs of Three North" at Mundelein Seminary, payable to "Three North." Also, please indicate that it is a Casino Night donation in the memo.

FEBRUARY 13: RETURN OF THIRD-YEAR THEOLOGIAN FROM HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The seminary community eagerly awaits the return of their third-year brothers in February. Having been on a 10-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land, third-year theologians return with a renewed appreciation for the Bible and the great historical sites of our Christian tradition. This once-in-a-lifetime experience to live and study in the Holy Land for over two months, to experience first hand the places where Jesus and the Apostles walked and talked, and to allow the reality of the Catholic tradition to sink in, is a highlight of a seminarian's time here at Mundelein.



FEBRUARY 24: SECOND-YEAR THEOLOGIAN BEGIN PASTORAL INTERNSHIPS

Second-year theologians will be back in their diocese, living and working at a parish as part of their internship assignment.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lasting anywhere from three to six months, for many theologians this will be their first exposure to the life and work of a parish. They will be mentored by the pastor, attend parish meetings, and help out with various ministries in the church, school, and larger community.

MARCH 22-23: MEYER LECTURE

The annual Albert Cardinal Meyer Lecture will be presented by the Reverend Kevin FitzGerald, a priest of the Society of Jesus. A distinguished scholar and researcher in biological science, he is the research associate professor in the Division of Biochemistry and Pharmacology of the Department of Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center. He also holds the Doctor David P. Lauer Chair for Catholic Health Care Ethics at Georgetown University. Exploring the Vatican Council II document, "*Gaudium et Spes: The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*," he will speak with a special emphasis on religion and science.



MAY 4: 25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS AND LUNCHEON

This annual celebration honoring alumni will honor the Class of 1987. They will celebrate their Silver Jubilee Mass with friends, family, and parishioners at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Followed by a luncheon, this is a wonderful opportunity to join once again in brotherhood and recall memories of the seminary in years past.

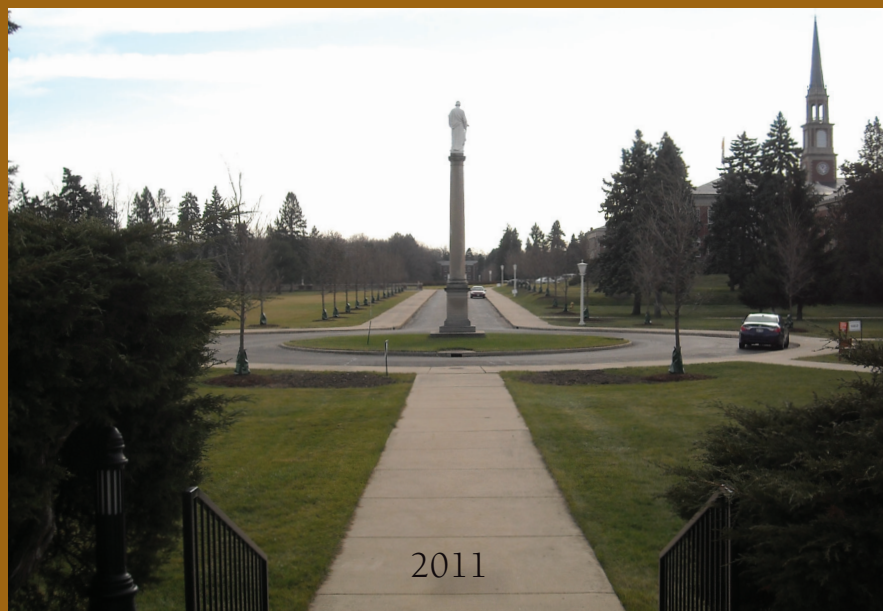
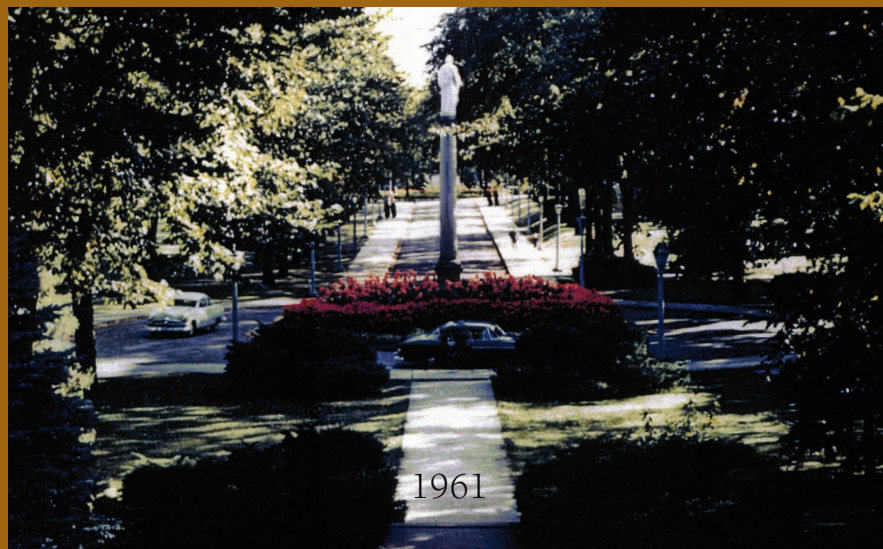
MAY 12: CHICAGO PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION

Seminarians gather with priests, families, friends, and parishioners to witness the ordination to the priesthood of the fourth-year men for the Archdiocese of Chicago at Holy Name Cathedral. We ask that you pray for the men as they finish their studies and approach ordination to the priesthood with humility and joy.

THE PRINCIPAL AVENUE TREE PROJECT

For over 90 years a great emphasis has been put on the beauty of the grounds here at Mundelein Seminary. At the seminary's beginning, Cardinal Mundelein convinced William O'Carroll, a head gardener at Lincoln Park in Chicago, to lay out the grounds, the flowerbeds, the trees, the evergreens, etc., for the entire campus and to be the first groundskeeper. Dutch Elm trees were planted along the main road of the seminary, Principal Avenue, to form an impressive archway that was truly beautiful. In the 1960's, due to the rampant Dutch Elm disease, the trees had to be removed. The Principal Avenue Tree Project seeks to restore Principal Avenue to its original beauty. Last November, 2011, new disease resistant Elm trees were planted along the road. The seminary will patiently wait, this year and many years following, for the branches to once again stretch forth into that archway reminiscent of William O'Carroll's and Cardinal Mundelein's original vision.

-David Neuschwander is a second-year theologian for the Diocese of Superior.



A Seminarian in China

Study Abroad

By Derek Ho

Chicago is the fourth largest U.S. destination city among Chinese immigrants. As a result, Chicago is among the most populated metropolitan areas of Chinese-born residents. Born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, I have realized just how important the integration of my Chinese culture and my Catholic faith is to my vocation. Since Mandarin is the most widespread Chinese language and since Chicago only has one Chinese diocesan priest, there is a great need to catechize and evangelize an already underserved and growing Chinese immigrant population. Hoping to be a priest in Chicago one day and serve this community in some capacity, I spent the summer of 2011 in Beijing learning Mandarin and immersing myself in the culture.

I spent the first half of the summer with a tutor, focusing especially on speaking, listening, and conversing in daily life. Then, I attended Beijing Normal University to focus on reading and writing. After class, I would spend time with my host family practicing what I had just learned. As the summer progressed, I noticed I would use my dictionary less and less. Throughout my time, I met with many students and young people who not only taught me grammar, writing, and pronunciation, but also about their personal lives amidst a rapidly changing culture.

The Church in China has a very complex relationship with the Chinese government. During the Cultural Revolution in 1965, the government had destroyed much of the ancient culture and suppressed all religions, closing churches or turning them into warehouses, hospitals or schools. After the Cultural Revolution had ended, China experienced a period of economic openness along with a huge increase in seminarians and priests in the 80s and 90s. However, the government still monitors the religious activity of all religions through the establishment of patriotic religious associations. Today, the Catholic Church's freedom changes from region to region. At the Beijing Cathedral, there are five Sunday Masses said in Chinese, English, and even Latin. It is very active with Bible studies, RCIA groups, and other faith-sharing groups. However, in other parts of China, the local government has much more control over the local church and may intervene in such gatherings. Thus, it was necessary for the Chinese Church to go “underground” in



Derek at the Great Wall.

these areas so that the faith could be taught and shared among the community.

When not in class or doing homework, I was able to explore one of the world's oldest civilizations by touring Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall. I also visited three Catholic churches and two seminaries: the national seminary (run by the Patriotic Church Association) and the diocesan seminary (run by Beijing diocesan priests). I met with seminarians who desire to surrender their lives to God as priests and work to relieve the tension between the Church and the government. I deeply felt the common bond of living a life of love for God despite having grown up halfway around the world.

With other language immersion programs in Poland, Mexico, and other Spanish-speaking countries, Mundelein Seminary recognizes the importance of full language immersion as a means to becoming effective communicators. Aside from obtaining a good grasp of the Mandarin language, I have come to appreciate how blessed I am to live in a country which recognizes the right to religious freedom. Please join me in praying for those who work tirelessly for the flourishing of the Catholic faith in China.

– Derek Ho is a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Connor stops in for a visit at the “Baby House”

My God, What a Life!

A Summer in El Salvador

By Connor Danstrom

Late on the night of June 3, I arrived at the San Salvador airport, but to my dismay, my bags did not. In broken Spanish I explained my situation to the people working there and then emerged flustered into the humid night air of Central America, equipped with nothing but a laptop, a book, and the clothes on my back.

Thanks be to God, I found a friendly face waiting for me on the other side of the gate. José Juan was the man assigned to take me to my destination: the orphanage of *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos* (Our Little Brothers and Sisters). After a two-hour drive I arrived at my home for the next two months, which I would share with over 400 orphans from the ages of two to 22.

After hearing about the experiences of other seminarians who had spent their summers at *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos* (NPH) in El Salvador, I thought that God was calling me to that remarkable place as well. The orphanage, founded 12 years ago by the late Rev. William Wasson, is not merely a charitable institution — it is a real family. Children of all ages and backgrounds work, play, and live there, supervised in large part by their older brothers and sisters.

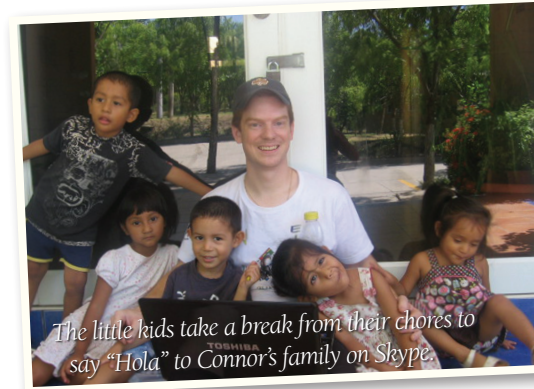
My bags eventually arrived, but only after a few days of depending on the generosity of my young hosts. Besides providing me with soap and toothpaste, the children were also happy to teach me the new skills I would need to survive at NPH. They stared in wonder

and delight as I struggled to wash clothes by hand and eat beans and rice with only my fingers, things they imagined everyone was capable of doing.

After my Spanish lesson each morning, I was free to visit with the children and practice what I’d learned. I presided at several Liturgies of the Word, where I had the opportunity to conquer my fear of preaching in a language not my own. After one such liturgy, dressed in an alb, I was greeted by a throng of young children who surrounded me with hugs exclaiming, “Padre Connor!” My heart broke, and I was moved nearly to tears as I realized for these little ones, “Father” is not merely the priest’s title, but who he really is.

My experience at NPH has helped me to understand a new language and opened to me a whole new culture and way of life. More importantly, though, it helped me discover a deep desire to be a father to the fatherless and a friend to the poor and abandoned. The love and affection I experienced at NPH left these words of Henri Lacordaire echoing in my head, “My God, what a life! And it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ.”

— Connor Danstrom is a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago



The little kids take a break from their chores to say “Hola” to Connor’s family on Skype.

Chicagoans Go on Pilgrimage

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

By Edward Looney



Edward standing in the crypt, near the site where Mary appeared to Adele Brise on three occasions.

For a long time Chicagoans have taken their annual vacation in the Door County Peninsula in Northeastern Wisconsin. Tucked away in the Door Peninsula, for many years, was the best kept secret of the Diocese of Green Bay — the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. That was, until December 8, 2010.

In 1859, a 28-year-old Belgian immigrant named Adele Brise claimed on three occasions she received apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After the apparitions, chapels were built so the faithful could pray at this holy location. In 2009, Bishop David Ricken launched an investigative commission to examine the life of Adele Brise and the ensuing history of the shrine. On

December 8, 2010, Bishop Ricken released a declaration of moral certainty that the apparitions were worthy of belief, although not obligatory, for the Christian faithful. This humble shrine was elevated to the same status as Lourdes and Fatima, given Church approval; and now pilgrims from all across the country and even the world have converged upon the small, unsettled, country township of Champion, Wisconsin. The regular crowd of less than 100 visitors a day was surpassed tenfold this summer by both group pilgrimages and individual pilgrims.

Early in October 1859, Adele received her first vision of the Blessed Mother. Then, on October 9, 1859, the Blessed Mother appeared to her on the way to and from church. On that day, she was accompanied by her sister Isabelle and a neighbor, marking

Our Lady's second and third apparitions to Adele. On the third occasion, the Lady spoke to Adele because she asked her who she was. Mary identified herself as the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners.

The Blessed Mother entrusted to Adele a twofold mission — prayer and catechesis. Adele was told to pray for the conversion of sinners, especially by offering Holy Communion for that intention, and to make a general confession. By utilizing the sacraments, Adele was preparing herself to be sent out as a missionary. She was then told to teach the young children their catechism, how to make the Sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments. After the apparition, Adele went on to found a lay tertiary order of Franciscan sisters that disbanded after her death, in addition to a school on the shrine property.

On the eve of the 12th anniversary of the apparition to Adele, a horrific event unfolded in Northeastern Wisconsin. During an extended drought, fire broke out in the small lumber village of Peshtigo. Igniting on the same day as the Great Chicago Fire, the Peshtigo Fire has been regarded as the most devastating fire in the history of the United States. A fire tornado that began in Peshtigo leapt across the bay and penetrated the Door Peninsula. It then spread to Robinsonville, where Adele Brise, her sisters, and the wooden Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help stood in the fire's determined path.

The people of the area, staring death in its eye, took refuge at the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help. Trusting in the intercession of Our Lady who had promised help to Adele, they begged for aid at the hour of their death. The faithful who gathered there to pray took a statue of Mary and began to process around the grounds asking Mary's intercession to spare their land, property and their lives. On the morning of October 9, the 12th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's apparition to Adele, rain came and extinguished the fire. It was soon realized that all the properties surrounding the chapel and school had been burnt by the fire, but the chapel property had been spared from destruction. As Rev. Peter Pernin wrote, it stood out like an emerald island amid a sea of ash. It was truly a miraculous preservation.



Edward shows some visitors around the grounds of the Shrine.

The story of Adele and the apparition she received have gone mainstream since its official recognition by the Church. This past summer, I had the privilege of serving as a guide for the summer pilgrims, giving daily talks on the shrine's history. I had the opportunity to welcome pilgrims from all over the United States — from Florida to New Jersey and everywhere in between! There were also international pilgrims from Canada, Mexico, and the Netherlands, to name only a few places.

Rev. Christopher Ciomek, Rev. James Presta, and Rev. Brian Welter of the Chicago Archdiocese brought the Chicago seminarians to the shrine as part of their seminarian convocation. The seminarians were joined by Bishop Ricken for the celebration of the Eucharist. Earlier in the summer, Rev. Tim O'Malley, a priest at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Round Lake, Illinois, walked 168 miles with a handful of parishioners to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

Here in the United States, we are blessed with this beautiful place where Mary touched the earth in 1859. If you are unable to pilgrimage to Fatima or Lourdes, consider coming to Champion, Wisconsin, to seek the good help and intercession of the Mother of God as pilgrims did many years ago and still do today.

— Edward Looney is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Green Bay. He is the author of the children's story "The Story of Sister Adele" and "A Self-Guided Tour of the Shrine: Frequently Asked Questions."

University of Illinois

St. John’s Catholic Newman Center

By Deacon Bobby Krueger



The summer of 2002 played witness to many changes in my life. I graduated high school; I got my first part-time job; I packed up for college; and I saw Blessed John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto. The conversion I brought back with me from the shores of Lake Ontario was to be the most definitive moment in my life. I loved Jesus, I loved my faith, and I wanted to learn more about both.

Enter St. John’s Catholic Newman Center. I arrived in August as a bright-eyed, innocent young freshman at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. On Quad Day, I found myself amid a sea of new faces, meandering the maze of student activities and organizations which all had booths recruiting new members. Coming across the Newman Center booth, I asked for Mass times, retreats, and any other activities they might offer. Surprisingly enough, a Freshman Retreat was happening that very weekend. What better way to begin a college career?

When Friday rolled around, some 30 freshmen were shuttled all the way out to St. Mary’s Church in Pesotum, Illinois, for an overnight retreat. Though I felt like I was in the middle of nowhere (to a suburbanite like myself, St. Mary’s seemed like an ideal location

for filming a movie like “Signs”), I made friendships on that retreat which would carry me through my college years and beyond. It became a retreat filled with connections, as each student group and ministry from the Newman Center talked about various ways to get involved, and older students shared their personal witness of lives transformed by Christ.

In some ways, the real gift of St. John’s Catholic Newman Center is the relationships that are formed there. One friendship that became particularly important to me was with a young religious sister from Italy named Sister Raffaella. Meeting on the Freshman Retreat, we had some significant conversations about my experiences in Toronto and my desire to take my faith deeper. Her community, the Apostles of the Interior Life, provided spiritual direction to students at the Newman Center. I had no idea what that meant, but it sounded exactly like what I was looking for. And this sister seemed harmless enough! A relationship started that would transform my world. Over the next four years, Sister Raffaella would help me detach from sinful behaviors, teach me to pray, help me to be open to the Lord’s will, give me tools for discernment, and offer me support and advice as I began to feel called to the priesthood.

During my time at St. John’s, a staff of six priests served the Newman Center. Each of these men showed a radical degree of self-sacrifice and personal holiness and a great priestly witness. It was their zeal and their example that attracted me and many

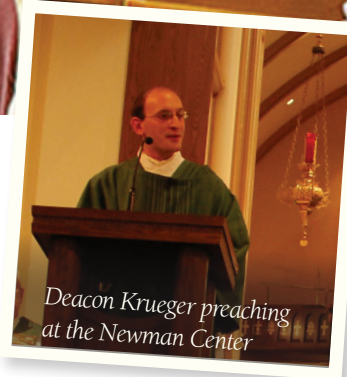


Monsignor Greg Ketcham, head chaplain of St. John's Catholic Newman Center, celebrates Mass at the chapel.

others to consider the priesthood. Their lives revolved around serving the students and challenging them to grow in their relationship with Christ. Spending time with the priests, seeing them around the Newman Center, and serving with them on retreats and in other ministries helped to crystallize priestly life for many of us, offering us a glimpse of how exciting a vocation to the priesthood could be.

After the beauty of the chapel, any visitor to St. John's is immediately impressed by the sacramental ministry of the Newman Center. As a student, I had an opportunity to attend Mass every single day of my college career. With Sunday Masses offered at all hours of the day and even into the night, along with multiple daily Masses, it is hard to make an excuse for not attending Mass. Daily Mass frequently has over 200 students. Confessions were also offered every single day, and seeing lines that daily extend out into the street is an inspiring testimony to the students' desire for holiness.

Unique to St. John's among Newman Centers is the full-service residence hall which is attached to the Chapel, housing over 600 students. The camaraderie developed among Catholic young people, living and praying together, supporting and challenging each other to overcome the temptations prevalent on college campuses, and the communal striving to live holy lives is enough to nourish any vocation. Saint John's has seen countless young people



Deacon Krueger preaching at the Newman Center

discover vocations to priesthood, religious life, and holy matrimony as a result of such a committed Catholic community. This fellowship certainly helped strengthen my courage and resolve in answering the call.

Though the face and faces of St. John's have changed since I graduated college, its mission and effectiveness remain the same. Meeting recent alumni (we have two who just entered Mundelein Seminary this year) and current students, I am still impressed with the depth of spiritual life and the maturity of faith of those who pass through those sacred doors. College students are encountering Christ and choosing to give themselves to Him in radical ways. Saint John's currently has at least 17 men who have entered seminary and four women in formation for religious life. At least one priest alumnus was ordained from Mundelein last year. Many more graduate and serve the Church as FOCUS Missionaries or in other capacities. The Holy Spirit is powerfully at work on campus and we continue to pray for all the young people who are involved and whose lives are being transformed by the witness of God's holiness present in the world.

– Deacon Bobby Krueger is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He will be ordained a priest in May 2012.

“I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart,
who will shepherd you wisely and prudently.” (Jeremiah 3:15)

The Newman Center at University of Illinois

Question & Answer with Seminarian Alumni



What person most inspired you in college to consider priesthood?

Monsignor Ketcham, who is the head chaplain of the St. John's Newman Center, inspired me. He lived out the priesthood of Jesus Christ in such a profound and genuine way that I looked to him as the most excellent example of a holy priest. His mere actions and love for our dear Lord inspired me to consider the priesthood. I remember asking Monsignor what he enjoyed most about being a priest. He responded immediately with so much affection saying, “Tim, there is nothing in the entire universe that even compares to confecting the Eucharist and bringing souls back to a loving relationship with Jesus through confession.”

Tim Anastos is a first-year pre-theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in linguistics. Before entering seminary his envisioned career was as an Arabic Linguist for the FBI. Tim is due to be ordained a priest in 2017.

How were you specifically involved at Newman?

I served as a sacristan at the Newman Center for three years. Working as a team with other college students, I helped to plan and prepare for Masses and all the other liturgies at the Newman Center. We also took care of training other students to assist as altar servers, lectors, ushers, and ministers of Holy Communion. With over 2,000 people coming for Mass each Sunday, being a sacristan was a big job! This was a great help to me, though, in discerning my vocation to priesthood, especially because of how closely I was able to work with the priests and get to know them as people, and not just as priests. I could clearly see their love for the Lord and their care for his people. Even more importantly, though, I was able to see myself doing what they were doing.

Tom Byrne is a third-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 2006 with a double major in economics and philosophy. Before deciding to become a priest he planned on going to medical school or becoming an engineer. Tom is scheduled to be ordained a priest in 2013.



Tom at the Orphanage of Nuestrros Pequeños Hermanos in El Salvador.



Diocese of Joliet

What were some benefits to receiving a public university education prior to seminary?

I believe that attending a public university for my undergraduate degree really built up my perspective of the world and gave me interesting opportunities that I may never have otherwise experienced. My involvement at the Newman Center was one of the experiences that has most impacted and shaped me in my life so far. It truly made me resolute in my hope for the Catholic Church both now and in the future. More than anything, my time at university and at the Newman Center marked for me a period of growth, and as Blessed John Henry Newman stated, “Growth is the evidence of life.”

Michael Friedel is a first-year pre-theologian studying for the Diocese of Springfield. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 2011 with a Bachelor’s degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering. Before entering seminary, he envisioned a career in the research and development branch of a pharmaceutical, consumer products, or a food service company. Michael hopes to be ordained a priest in 2017.

What from your undergraduate experience will you carry with you into priesthood?

I carry many experiences from Champaign into my priestly ministry. These include the skills learned working on design teams in chemical engineering, the problem solving skills and deductive reasoning from chemistry lab, a desire for truth that is fundamental to all of science, the importance of relationships when it comes to ministering to others, and a sense that I am never alone in this ministry. I also find that, when looking back at the experiences the Newman Center provided me in my formation, the most important aspect was the community’s devotion to the Eucharist and the understanding that my relationship with Christ is critical to any other relationship that I will foster in the future.

Rev. Steven Borello is a priest of the Diocese of Joliet. He graduated from Mundelein Seminary and was ordained a priest in June 2011. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 2005 with a Bachelor’s degree in both chemistry and chemical engineering. Before deciding on priesthood, he planned to work as a chemical engineer for three years, earn an MBA, and then enter corporate management.



Interview with a Vocation Director

Reverend Brian Welter, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Chicago

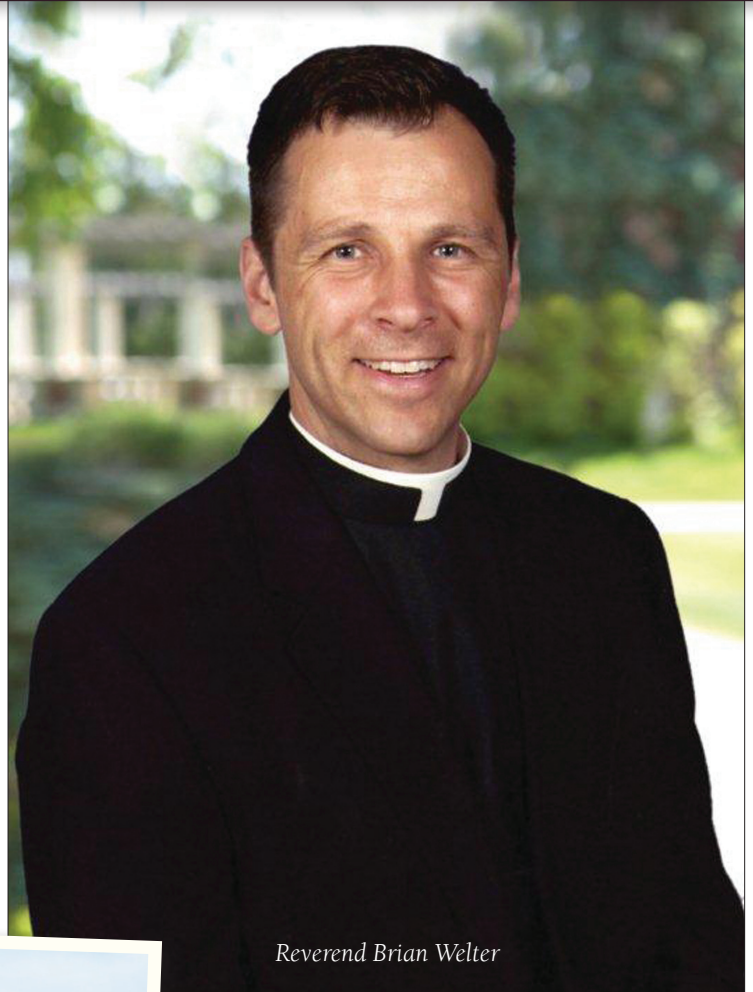
By Sarah Jane von Haack

Every man who enters the gate of Mundelein Seminary had to enter the office of the diocesan vocation director. Who is this director? Where does he come from? And how does he see the trends in priestly vocations in the Archdiocese of Chicago? *The Bridge* sat down with Rev. Brian Welter, vocation director for the Archdiocese of Chicago, to find out more about his own vocational call, his work, and how he helps seminarians and his brother priests to inspire men to consider the priesthood.

Father Welter attended Mundelein Seminary and was ordained in 2005. After five years at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Orland Hills, he was appointed vocation director. With the help of eight assistant vocation directors, Father Welter guides local men through their discernment process. An assistant vocation director is in charge of each of the six vicariates (a geographic region of the archdiocese which contains 50-60 parishes and is overseen by an auxiliary bishop). There is an assistant vocation director that is on faculty at St. Joseph College Seminary, and an assistant vocation director that works with a post-collegiate discernment group called INSEARCH. The archdiocese also has two houses of formation for seminarians; one from Poland, the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary, and one for seminarians from Spanish speaking countries, Casa Jesus.

What trends do you see in terms of the men who are considering priesthood now? Are more going to a four-year university before entering seminary than before?

According to CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) in their yearly study of newly ordained, it seems that in the last 5-6 years, the average age of the newly ordained man is trending to be younger — on average 34 years old. It does seem that there are more men coming right out of four-



Reverend Brian Welter



year universities. However, there are still a good number of men whom I speak with who have worked after college and then chosen to enter the seminary, or who are at least discerning the priesthood.

Do you find that it is easier to speak to young men as a young man about the seminary?

I do find it easy. I still remember the particularities of the time when I was discerning the priesthood. Now, as a priest and vocation director, I find there is definitely a fatherly quality to my relationship to the men in discernment. I have also found it is helpful to utilize our seminarians. I find that the seminarians themselves are good connections for the men in discernment to speak with. A man who is discerning the priesthood sees in the seminarians someone who was in their shoes just a year or two ago. Most of the seminarians are very joyful and when they speak from their own experience, sharing both their struggles and joys, the men see the fraternity at Mundelein. They see that there is a change happening in those men and that they are taking on the identity of a priest.

Three times a year we have a weekend up at Mundelein Seminary called “Exploring Priesthood Weekend.” The bulk of the weekend is spent with the seminary community — at social events in the evening and at Mass — and then we have a few panel discussions. The men who come on these weekends always say the same thing — that it was beneficial to them to meet the seminarians and find out they have similar interests. They find a lot of comfort and encouragement in that.



What do you feel are some of the benefits or challenges that men who have gone to college prior to entering seminary experience? What does experience in another field besides philosophy and theology contribute to a man’s readiness for seminary?

If a young man goes right from high school into the college seminary, he is able to enter the formation process earlier. It is helpful to sometimes start younger, a younger man can be more adaptable. It is harder as a man gets older, especially if he needs to sell a condo, or house, or has been out of school for a long period.

However, an older man brings a richness of life experience. Some of the background of these men entering the seminary from the working world is incredible. They bring with them so much knowledge from their own professions — tradesmen, health care workers, businessmen, musicians — and they have a developed maturity. They have built up an understanding of what life is about. Some of the skills that they bring are put to use for the greater good at the seminary. Those gifts never fade away; they are always used for the benefit of the community.

Is one of these backgrounds more advantageous once a seminarian becomes a priest?

Both have their advantages. Everyone develops in the context of the environment in which they are placed. You can’t deny that an older man is bringing more life experience. He has probably dealt with various struggles in life, but you cannot say that a younger man has not experienced those struggles as well. For everyone their life experience is very different. We have a couple of men who were married before and now their marriage is annulled. They bring a whole different understanding into the priesthood.

What would you say to a college student who is open to a call to the priesthood? What should they be doing now in terms of discernment?

I would speak with him and listen to hear how long the call has been there and what direction it is going. I would encourage him to stay rooted in his own personal prayer and attend daily Mass. I usually find that a man who has a call awakening in his heart is attending daily Mass already. That is where he finds his call — in front of the Eucharist.

I would also encourage him to get a spiritual director, because you can’t discern this call on your own. You need someone to listen with you. He should also be in touch with his vocation director. Sometimes, to gain perspective, he could stay at a parish for an extended period of time.

How do you work with the seminarians to understand that they are vital to helping men discern their calling to the priesthood?

I give a talk at Mundelein on the topic “Priest as Inviter.” Two main points which I bring up in the talk are:

- Trust your gut as a priest. If you have a sense that a man has a call, trust that instinct. The Lord uses priests as an instrument to invite. The Lord uses all people to invite, but the CARA report shows that 70-80% of newly ordained priests said that it was a priest who encouraged them to consider the priesthood.
- Just be yourself. You don’t have to be extraverted to inspire. Be that fatherly example to a man and in a reverent way lay out why you think he might be called. Trust that instinct.

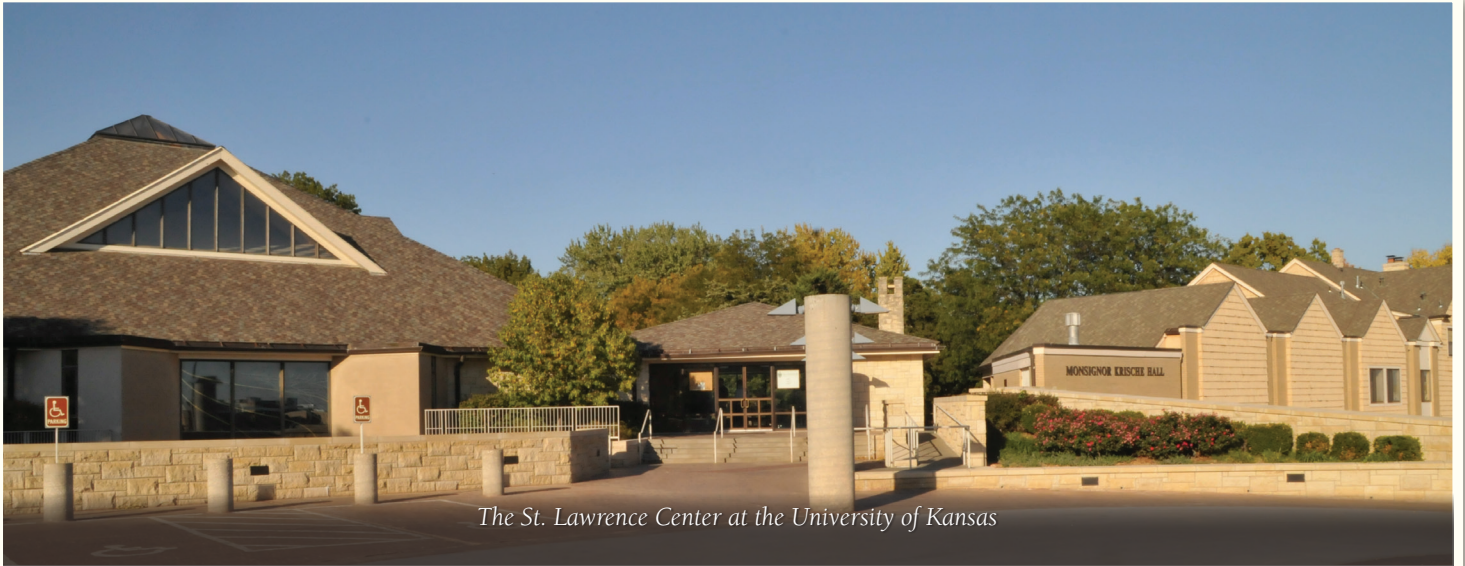
There are vocations out there. There are men who are feeling the call to the priesthood. Encourage them to consider the priesthood. Even if a man is on another path, he will find your comment to be a compliment. Most importantly, show them that it is joyful to be a priest.

– Sarah Jane von Haack is the Managing Editor of *The Bridge*.

St. Lawrence Center at the University of Kansas

Teaching the Whole Person

By Daniel Stover



The St. Lawrence Center at the University of Kansas

The St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center is a mission church to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. Its mission is to form the students, faculty, and staff of the university in the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Catholic intellectual, moral, liturgical, and spiritual tradition.

My involvement with the St. Lawrence Center started during the first few weeks of my freshman year. I began going to Sunday Mass and attending the catechetical classes that were offered. This program is a response to the large number of students who were raised Catholic, or those who attended Catholic schools, but had minimal knowledge of their faith.

This intellectual engagement moved me to become more active with my faith. My freshman year I served at Mass for the first time. Over time I participated in a variety of other offerings at the St. Lawrence Center: a mission trip to San Miguel Mission in Saltillo, Mexico, weekend retreats, and pilgrimages to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. I also began to develop habits of prayer through spiritual direction with the Sisters of the Apostles of the Interior Life, who serve at St. Lawrence.

During my junior and senior years at the University of Kansas, I served as the sacristan responsible for a particular Sunday Mass, as well as a particular liturgical ministry, in

my case the servers. At that time in my life, it was a very powerful and influential experience to be so closely involved with the Sacred Liturgy. A privilege of this role was that the archdiocesan consultant on the liturgy instructed the sacristans.

After graduation, I did not have particular plans. I was tired of school and swore that I was never going back again. This illustrates that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. I worked for two years for SE2, a service provider for annuities and insurance, in Topeka, Kansas.

My involvement with the St. Lawrence center gave me an appreciation for the comprehensive teaching of the Church on the human person. The mission statement refers to the intellectual, moral, liturgical, and spiritual traditions of the Church, and the Center engages students on all of these levels.

There were two major firsts that happened at St. Lawrence that influenced my vocational discernment. First, I was around other men who were considering the priesthood and entering seminary. Secondly, I got to know priests personally, particularly Monsignor Vincent Krische and Rev. Steven Besseau, two remarkable and inspiring examples of diocesan priesthood.

Currently, there are 14 men in formation for the priesthood for various dioceses and religious communities who were involved with St. Lawrence.

– Daniel Stover is a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

The Newman Center at Northern Illinois University

Centered on Christ

By Kyle Manno



Kyle at the Newman Center at Northern Illinois University with his pastor, Monsignor Glenn Nelson.

In 2005, I started my college career at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois. I had the aspiration of becoming a music educator and the idea of priesthood was not even a thought in my mind. I began my studies as a music education major, with an emphasis on trumpet and I started attending Mass at the Newman Center on campus. It was the first time in my life that my faith was truly my own. As I sat in the pews every Sunday, I began to feel a yearning to become more involved with my faith and the Newman Center. In no time, I was involved in many aspects of the parish. I became involved with the high school youth ministry, was an altar server, hosted college game and movie nights, gave talks on our Koinonia college retreats, and played piano for Mass. In my senior year I was the co-leader of the student ministry team.

As I attended the Newman Center for Mass and various activities, I found myself there constantly and never wanting to leave. I found such joy in seeing people come to events and grow in their relationship with God. The Newman

Center was also the first place I truly got to know and see happy priests who wanted to give everything for the service of others. One of these priests, Monsignor Glenn Nelson, a Mundelein alumnus, helped me on my journey to priesthood.

Through its activities and spirituality, the Newman Center has helped shape who I am today and helped me find the true vocation that God has laid out for me. It was also great to see a parish that is unique since it is not only for college students, but also for permanent parishioners with families of their own. As I saw people grow and changed by God, I found myself wanting to contribute to the salvation of souls. In my senior year of college, through prayer and relationship with God, I realized that I wanted nothing more in my life than to bring people to Christ and save souls.

The Newman Center is where I found my vocation. The students who attend Newman also want to know who God truly is and want to know what God wants for them in their lives. The heart of the Newman Center at Northern Illinois University is in the love of the students, staff, and parishioners centered on Christ.

– Kyle Manno is a second-year pre-theologian studying for the Diocese of Rockford.

“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

Living Joy

The World Youth Day Experience of Encounter with the Vicar of Christ

By Rev. Ben Hasse

On April 22 in 1984, Blessed John Paul II entrusted a large wooden cross to young people gathered in Rome for a youth meeting on the occasion of the Holy Year of Redemption. From that small beginning, the whole rich history of the last 27 years of World Youth Day has unfolded. The following December, Blessed John Paul II announced the institution of World Youth Day (WYD). While the day is celebrated every year at the diocesan level, the attention of the world's youth has been riveted by the pageantry and deep conversion elicited by the international gatherings held every two or three years.

Despite widespread skepticism about the events, even from the world's bishops, young people have responded with joy to the Holy Father's challenge to gather, to pray, to celebrate, to be converted, to be sent on mission. The image of the Holy Father in his final years, physically limited by age and sickness, yet surrounded by hundreds of thousands of young people, boldly affirms that the Gospel is still alive and viable, even in a hostile cultural environment. Despite little experience with youth before his election, Pope Benedict XVI has continued this vibrant tradition in Cologne, Sydney, and Madrid.

In 1993, when WYD was held in Denver, I was just beginning to awaken to my faith. A number of my friends went, and I heard about the crowds, the excitement, the heat, and the encounter with Blessed John Paul II. Two years later I was deeply impacted by a retreat experience and returned to confession and a more active life



A group of our WYD pilgrims, just moments after seeing Pope Benedict XVI pass by us. We had to wade through a big patch of thorn bushes just to get to a vantage point where we could see him!

of prayer. That was also the moment that a call to the priesthood began in my heart — although it took me nine years to respond to that call!

In 2004, I finally found my way to Mundelein Seminary, studying for my home diocese, Marquette. In the years that followed, many of my brother seminarians attended WYD in Cologne and then in Sydney. By God's grace I was ordained a priest in June of 2009 and assigned to be associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Marquette, Michigan, which also serves Catholic Campus Ministry at Northern Michigan University. It was a great source of joy to serve as the chaplain of the campus ministry — I was deeply grateful to be able to begin to give back what I had been given by the campus ministry at Purdue.

When our diocese announced that a diocesan group would be going to WYD in Madrid and that the group would be led by our bishop, Alexander Sample, I was elated! After some months of recruiting, fundraising, and beating the bushes, we had assembled a group of over 50 pilgrims, led by Bishop Sample and our diocesan youth director along with five priests, five seminarians, and youth and chaperones from all over the diocese — a good number of which were university students!

One of the rich gifts of these first years of priesthood has been the first tastes of spiritual fatherhood. I have found that it brings an even deeper and richer joy to my heart to see young people experience prayer, encounter the Lord, and enjoy the Christian community. The WYD trip to Madrid was a rich experience of joy for me and for the young people. We had a number of prayer sessions reflecting on each day's events, and I heard them articulate the reality and richness of the Faith that they had already known intellectually. The universality of the Church and the Pope as the living successor of St. Peter the Vicar of Christ were now something they had lived and touched and tasted.

I interviewed a number of them some weeks after our return, with the theme of faith moving from head to heart already in mind, but the theme that came out even more clearly was JOY! We had experienced and shared joy — the joy of encountering Christ vividly present and real in His Body, the Church, the joy of sharing that knowledge and faith with friends and with young people from every nation on earth. To be at WYD is to know in your flesh that you are not alone, that God is real, that the faith is alive, and that the Church is young.

As I looked at the pictures after the trip, I was astonished by how much of that joy was captured even in the photos. The light of vivid shared faith shines! Praise be the Holy Spirit that moved Blessed John Paul II to begin this movement of living faith; blessed be God for Blessed John Paul II's humility and docility to that inspiration, even in the face of doubt and opposition. All honor and glory to Jesus Christ for fanning into a flame the spark of faith in so many young hearts!

— Rev. Ben Hasse is a Mundelein graduate and was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Marquette in 2009. He is currently working on his S.T.L. at USML.

The Experience of WYD



This pilgrimage was such an awe-inspiring experience for me. Being a military child I have had the opportunity to see many different countries and experience many things. I can honestly say this was the best experience of my life. It struck me on so many different levels words; could not begin to explain the joy the Lord blessed me with on this pilgrimage. This trip has changed my heart. It has placed the Lord permanently first in my life. Down the road when I encounter challenges and even triumphs, I hope that the feeling that keeps me strong in my troubles and humble in my victories is that feeling of joy — the joy that overwhelms me whenever I reflect on this pilgrimage. — Mario, 21



I still think and pray about the trip every day. The impact of my experience keeps growing. I hope through this experience I can live the Gospel messages and inspire others to do the same. I have also noticed that the Lord is calling me to pray more often. Nothing in particular that is out of the ordinary but even in simple daily decisions I ask the Lord for help. I know he's listening and his presence I can feel. It is not just my conscience leading to those decisions. The Lord is there with me. — Brittany, 23

A Sample of Liturgical Ins and Graduates Prepare the New



Kambra Cappelle serves as campus minister and religion teacher at Carmel Catholic High School in Libertyville, Illinois, where she provides resources regarding the new Missal to the teachers

and advisors who are working with students on what she calls “the front lines.” She is also collaborating with her school’s music director to develop a new hymnal for the all-school Masses, which will be ready for their first Mass using the new Missal.



Fr. John Paul Erickson, Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, has emphasized preparation for the forthcoming Missal as “a chance to re-dedicate

ourselves as an Archdiocese to making the liturgy the source and summit of our life as Catholics.” To this end, he has provided leadership through workshops, regular articles in his diocesan paper, and visits to parishes, deaneries and archdiocesan associations.



Fr. John Muir, assistant director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Phoenix, has appeared in several widely-viewed videos produced in association with LifeTeen and meant to explain the implementation of the new Missal to teens and parents. With the Office of Worship he has organized day-long, diocesan-wide sessions intended to train leadership teams to go back to parishes and lead others in

their understanding of the Missal and its translation. In his second role as assistant director of the Arizona State University Newman Center, he has helped prepare an intensive eight-week catechesis supported by videos made on site. He has also been using homilies as an opportunity for liturgical preaching on the new Missal and writing bulletin articles. His series of articles has appeared in the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Sun*, and he has been interviewed on Relevant Radio, Ave Maria Radio and local television.



In addition to speaking at numerous conferences and workshops, **Adam Bartlett**, a church musician in the Diocese of Phoenix, has published a book entitled *Simple English Propers*, which combines scriptural texts with straightforward melodies of the new Missal’s proper texts, a book proven to be the first generally-accessible book of chanted propers in

English intended for use by every parish. The settings have been met with widespread acclaim for the beauty and versatility of the music, providing complete entrance, offertory and communion propers in English for all Sundays and feasts, with Psalms in modal chant with four-line notation. The contents of this book may be downloaded, printed, used and shared freely by all since they are published in the Creative Commons.



Deacon Don Warner, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, began preparation for the new Roman Missal by hosting a regional *Mystical Body, Mystical Voice* workshop. His office also hosted a diocesan Day of Communion on the Missal for clergy, religious and lay ministers. He has also organized workshops for the clergy and lay ministers in various deaneries, for the faculties of Catholic schools, and in parishes throughout the diocese.



Dr. Claudia Maria Dado assisted with a training session with her pastor for parish choir members about the third edition of the Roman Missal. She prepared a handout answering the basic questions for the assembly, including the reasons for the third edition of the Missal, quoting from instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*. She will also be writing bulletin articles for the liturgical education of the parish.



Msgr. Bill McCumber, director of the Office of Sacred Worship for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, has been conducting workshops on the new Missal on the archdiocesan, deanery, parish and school levels. He reports that over 3,000 participants have attended including priests, deacons, musicians, parish liturgy committees and the general public. He has used his diocesan web site and printed resources from various publishers to inform the public of the upcoming changes.



Claire G... tor of At Worship training for the n parish le opportunity of the imple on the parish level. Her many original resources a pre-packaged worksho and a video of Atlanta’s speaking about the new





What Some Institute Students Have Done to Be Faithful for the New Missal



Fr. Geoffrey Kerslake is the designated Catholic correspondent for the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper, answering submitted questions in the weekly religion feature, including those about the new Missal. Father Kerslake was asked to write a series of bulletin inserts specifically introducing the new Missal which have been featured as a key resource for the new Missal by the National Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Fr. Ignatius Yeo of Singapore serves as professor for Sacred Liturgy at his major seminary, Chairman of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission and member of the Regional Liturgy Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. In these capacities he has consulted and drafted pastoral letters for his region's dioceses. Most recently, he has conducted archdiocesan workshops for all priests, seminarians, catechists and parish liturgy committee heads.



Fr. Joseph Lionel, a faculty member of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in Bangalore, India, has published a book in American and Indian editions entitled *New Missal, Same Mass*, which was distributed by the Indian National Committee for Liturgy to all the bishops in India. He also published two articles on the Missal in the Indian theological journal *Word and Worship*. He has presented talks at a renewal program sponsored by National Center for Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy; given presentations at the regional meeting on Liturgy for southern India; and is a member of the team translating the *Missale Romanum* into the local language of Tamil. In his home diocese of Bangalore, Fr. Lionel has organized nine training sessions in the diocesan deaneries and has given training sessions in several parishes. He has also been invited to give similar workshops in the Dioceses of Mysore and Bellary. As professor at St. Peter's Seminary, he has planned several training sessions for the student and faculty community and has been designated to celebrate the first community Mass using the new Missal.



As Director of Sacred Music and Liturgy at Stella Maris Church in Philadelphia, **Sister Marganne Drago, SSJ**, presented workshops on the implementation of the Missal for school faculties and retired religious. She also developed a curriculum for teachers of young children, which she shares free of charge. The curriculum provides illustrated questions for reflection with the intention of educating both teachers and the children in their care.



Fr. Donald Richardson, Episcopal Master of Ceremonies and Director of Worship for the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia, has addressed a gathering of all the Sydney clergy on aspects of the new Missal and has given a major seminar to several hundred educators from Sydney's large Catholic school system. He has also written a series of articles on the new translation for the Sydney *Catholic Weekly* newspaper, making them available as a series entitled "Remembrance and Discovery: 18 Short Essays on the New Translation of the Roman Missal," available for download on the Sydney Liturgy Office web site at www.liturgy.sydneycatholic.org.



Billigan, assistant director of the Office for Divine Liturgy, has provided formal training events in preparation for the new Missal, training leaders to utilize the new translation. The Office for Divine Liturgy has put together a curriculum for parish use, including a booklet on the new translation of the Roman Missal.

Evan Stricklin, a pastoral associate in New Jersey, helped design a program called *Glorify the Lord by Your Life: Finding the Way in the Sacred Liturgy*, a training session using the format of the Institute's *Mystical Body, Mystical Voice* presentations. With the pastor, he has presented to parishioners, catechists and parents of children preparing for first communion. He also developed bulletin articles and a 10-week program of presentations before the start of the weekend Masses.



Fr. Cosmas Aina, a faculty member at Good Shepherd Major Seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria, has been teaching seminarians about the new Missal and also leading practicum courses on its use on a weekly basis. He has also traveled to speak and provide catechesis at several parishes in his diocese: the Naval Chaplaincy in Lagos and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in his home diocese of Ilorin, Nigeria.



Rose Kearney

One of God's Great Characters

By Mark Teresi

Rose Kearney was truly one of God's great characters! She and her husband Mike were two souls married for over 50 years who were totally connected to their faith, their families, and their community, which included their active involvement in our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

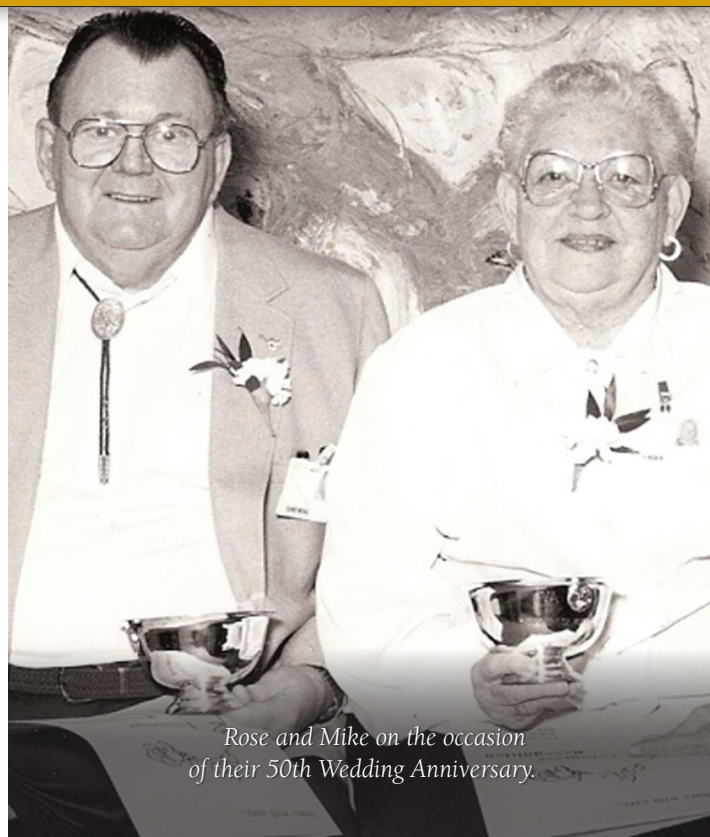
In the best sense of the phrase, they were truly “church people” who were exceptionally generous to their parish and Mundelein Seminary. They always supported their faith community and this seminary community.

Some years back after Mike had passed away, Rose's home continued to remain one of hospitality and welcome. She would relish the phone calls and visits from her dear friends, now Bishop Kicanas and Monsignor Canary both of whom as rectors of the seminary, enjoyed many a meal and visit with Rose. After explaining clearly to them the problems with the Church, she set the table and provided either the best breakfast in town or possibly a homemade delicacy of spaghetti with neck bones, ox tail stew or homemade chicken soup.

In her later years, due to physical limitations, she left her beloved Mundelein home and lived with her wonderful family in her final years. Though Mike and Rose had no biological children, it became very clear that many of our priests and seminarians became beloved sons in whom they took great pride.

Rev. Dan Brandt, former pastor of Nativity Parish and presently chaplain of the Chicago Police department, was a favorite seminarian visitor at Christmas time. Rose directed

“Coming to Rose's house was coming home. Now I had the privilege of accompanying her with her family on her last journey to her heavenly home, reunited with her beloved Mike.”



Rose and Mike on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

meticulously as he dutifully hung her many decorations. They were dear friends and Dan was the main celebrant at Mike's funeral.

Msgr. Dennis Lyle, Msgr. John Canary, and I were honored to represent the seminary at Rose's funeral Mass. I was particularly honored when called by the family to be a pall bearer at Rose's funeral last year as we took her to her final resting place. You see, coming to Rose's house was coming home. Now I had the privilege of accompanying her with her family on her last journey to her heavenly home, reunited with her beloved Mike.

Rose and Mike are graciously remembered by this seminary community for their generosity, prayers and kindness to Mundelein Seminary. Their final gesture of kindness was their estate gift designated to continue to educate our future priests, their dear seminarians.

May Rose and Mike Kearney rest in the peace of Christ and may the community at Mundelein Seminary always be grateful for these blessings.

– Mark Teresi is the Vice President, Office of Institution Advancement for USML/Mundelein Seminary.

Rev. James Close

The Renewed Spirit of Rev. Edward Flanagan

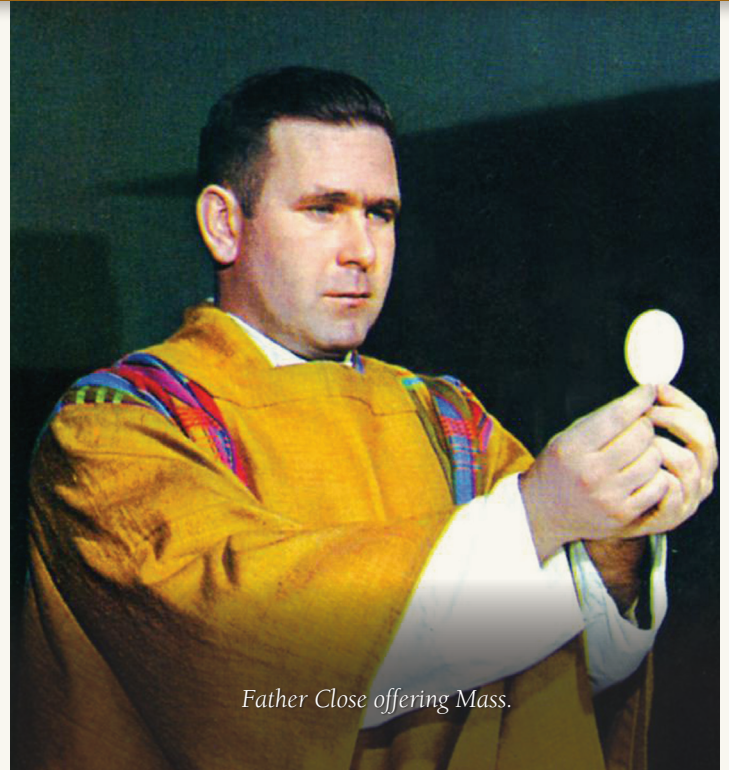
By Rev. Eugene Hemrick

In 1938, Hollywood produced the movie “Boys Town,” an inspiring story of Rev. Ed Flanagan’s work with homeless boys. Many vocations to the priesthood were the result of this movie. Not only this, but it inspired millions of donations aimed at helping abandoned boys experience the wholesomeness of a welcoming home.

It would do Hollywood and our Church well to produce another such movie on Rev. James Close, who served for 33 years as the superintendent and president of Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago. Jim, my seminary classmate, died in August of this year.

When asked by Cardinal John Cody to head Mercy Home, Jim felt he would rather continue being a parish priest. He had just completed 10 great years at St. John Brebeuf in Niles and was transferred to St. Ferdinand as his next pastoral assignment at this Northside parish. This was not to be his fate. Rather, it was to help more than 9,000 boys and girls get a break in life. Some of them eventually ended up in universities like Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. Others who were put on their feet ended up with self-respecting jobs, loving homes, and wonderful families.

When Jim first became superintendent, Mercy Home was a rundown institution funded by the government. He soon realized that the government was sending boys to Mercy Home that he could not handle properly, and who also threatened its stability. To rectify this, government funding was stopped overnight and Jim, keeping all these boys in tow, began raising



Father Close offering Mass.

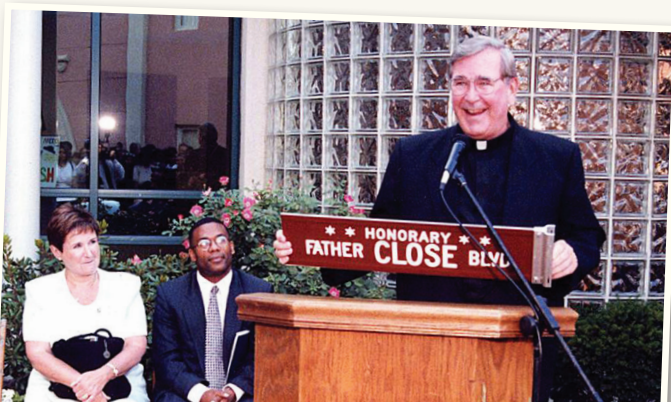
private dollars to care for these boys the way he knew would help them become successful in life. Through his fund-raising efforts he turned Mercy Home into a self-sufficient operation. Lacking a background in administration, he went to the University of Notre Dame and obtained a Master’s degree in administration. Later this education would lead him to not only minister more effectively to boys and girls while at Mercy Home, but to also create a follow-up program to help them once they went on to college.

Most crimes can be traced to psychologically distressed children, broken homes, and a lack of inspiring role models. Troubled children will always be with us, but thanks to Father Jim Close, we were made to realize one person’s power to reverse what is often seen as irreversible. Jim also taught us that, in the end, success depends on dedicated, God-driven persons who have a keen sense of purpose and a generous heart that will not stop beating until lives are saved and changed.

The inspiration of Father Jim Close goes beyond Mercy Home. If priests could cultivate ever so little more of his spirit of daily dedication, drive, creativity, and a compassionate heart for the ill-fated, we would find that we possess the best coping mechanism for raising the image of the priesthood. The models for success are already there in persons such as Father Jim Close and Father Ed Flanagan. May they both continue to be our priestly inspiration and may they now rest in the peace of Christ.

“Well done good and faithful servants!”

– Rev. Eugene Hemrick, alumnus, University of St. Mary of the Lake



“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”

(1 Samuel 4:9)

Interview with Bishop Alberto Rojas

By Jamie Mueller

It's not every day that a bishop is ordained for a diocese, and not many can say that they knew a priest before he was a bishop. Yet, all who were part of the Mundelein Seminary community from 2002-2010 were so blessed to be able to know, live, and work with now Bishop Alberto Rojas. The Holy Father could not have chosen a more humble, holy man and we, at Mundelein Seminary, are proud to say that we know and love him. The following is a brief interview with Bishop Rojas, which took place during his return visit to Mundelein Seminary to celebrate the Mass for All Souls Day.

What was your first reaction to hearing that you were named a bishop?

As you know, it was a total shock! I was not expecting it at all and felt very unprepared. I had just been named a pastor and only been in the parish for a year and then asked to be a bishop. For a few moments, I truly thought it was a prank from a friend and not really the Vatican Ambassador! After praying and speaking with the Cardinal, I said, “Yes, if that’s God’s will, then let it be. I trust that God will provide the means for me to respond to his call. I pray that he will use me as he wants and that I will be open to learn and to collaborate with Christ and his mission on earth.”

What do you enjoy most and least about being a bishop thus far?

Thus far, I like celebrating confirmations and speaking with the young people. I think that I can have a large impact on them because they are the present and future of our Church. I also like the fact that people listen better to what I am saying now. I am not saying anything different than I had the last 14 years, but it seems like for the first time, they are listening a little better; that’s great!

I have to say that the administration part is something I don’t particularly enjoy. To worry about new roofs and building maintenance and even the idea of having to close a parish or school is terrible for me. I haven’t had to do so yet, but I know it will come someday and I’m not looking forward to it.



What is the greatest challenge, in your opinion, to the Church in the United States?

A big challenge for the Church today is to remain Catholic in a secular society, and in a culture that is devolving almost against it. This is a time where our faith and our commitment to Christ are tested by different forces. The state seems to dictate what we should be about as a religion, and that is not right. We cannot take the state’s opinion as our moral or spiritual guide; we belong to God and Christ is our Shepherd and our only guide. It would be wise for the state and for all of us to listen better to Christ. We should not be afraid to stand up for the faith and proudly say that we are Catholic Christians! Like Rev. Bob Barron says, our story has been told by the wrong people, so it is time for us to tell our own story. I highly recommend Father Barron’s Catholicism Project.

Who do you look to for inspiration and example in your own life as a priest and now bishop? Who is your favorite saint?

Well, there are lots. The saints have been great teachers to me, and they come in and out of your life at different periods. I have to say that right now the Apostles are forefront on my mind. I have thought a lot especially of St. John, being the youngest. I am the youngest bishop in Chicago right now and one of the youngest in the country. So, I have thought a lot of



how he must have felt and taken inspiration from Christ.

Definitely Blessed John Paul II played a huge role in my life, and also Mother Teresa of Calcutta! The Mexican saint priest martyrs inspire me very much. There are about 25 of them who never gave up, even to the point of giving their lives for Christ. People like Sts. Pedro Esqueda, Cristobal Magallanes, and Toribio Romo are strong pillars for inspiration, especially during these times when the Church seems to be under a more deliberate attack.

How do you feel being back here at the seminary? What do you miss most and least about the seminary?

I have to say that there is a lot of emotion in my heart being back as a bishop to celebrate the Eucharist. After being here on faculty for eight years, the buildings, the rooms, the community — it all becomes a part of you, it becomes your home. I have to say that I was a little afraid to come back for the first time, especially after leaving so abruptly the year before to become a pastor, but I am so happy to be back. It feels like home. I miss the community and the fraternity at the seminary. I learned much from everyone here; I miss the faculty, especially the formation team and cam Three Center. In terms of what I miss the least, I would say the routine at the seminary. Sometimes it seemed like the same thing day after day and it could get a little boring after a while. But, when you love the seminarians and care that they be prepared well for the priesthood, time flies without even feeling it.

What advice can you give to the seminary community, particularly the seminarians as we continue our formation and journeys toward the priesthood?

Well, as I said many times when I was here on faculty, remember who you are as Christians and what you are here for. Remember that once you entered the gates of Mundelein Seminary, you were willing and open to change and, somehow, leave behind your past. Don't fool yourselves; focus on what you came here for; because what you do here, you will be able to do in the parish and what you don't do here, you won't do in the parish either. But also, don't be afraid. Consecrate every part of your life to Christ every day; gradually let yourselves be transformed by Christ. Maintain a good balance between academics and spiritual life; don't minimize time spent in prayer even when exams are pressing. Remember that what you are preparing for is not about you, but about Christ. God uses dust to build great things, and he is in charge; allow God to do his work with you.

May God always bless you and keep you. May the Holy Spirit continue to pour his light and strength upon us so that everything we do may be inspired as God's will for us. May our blessed Mother continue to intercede for us especially in our times of trial. Keep the prayers coming as I do for you. Viva Cristo Rey!

– Jamie Mueller is a second-year theologian for the Archdiocese of Chicago and a Master of Ceremonies for Bishop Rojas.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)



Former faculty members gathered for the “Afternoon of Remembering”.

Afternoon of Remembering

Former Faculty Gather on Campus to Remember Changes and Accomplishments

By Bishop John Gorman

Msgr. Dennis Lyle graciously hosted an “Afternoon of Remembering” on May 26, 2011 to honor the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary faculty from the years 1965-1973 and me as former rector. In the wake of the Vatican II and Pope John XXIII’s call for *aggiornamento*, the faculty and I introduced significant changes to the seminary. In a 1965 address to the seminarians, Cardinal John Cody announced many of these innovations, which reflected changes in the church at large.

The afternoon included two talks and time for reflection. Reverend George Dyer, the academic dean from the time, recounted some of the academic changes. Concerning the curriculum, the Neo-Scholastic method was replaced by a “return to sources.” Semesters were replaced by quarters and electives offered along with the required foundational subjects. All the course work and teaching in the areas of dogma, morals, homiletics, liturgy, and music emphasized pastoral implications. Professors introduced the process of theological reflection. A theological laboratory for deacons offered a multi-disciplinary

look at parish experience. Additionally, a confessional case study approach was implemented.

During this time the seminary applied for accreditation in the American Association of Theological Schools, now ATS. The association required an accepted program and faculty resources. One of the many related changes was the move from a mostly Jesuit faculty to one composed of mostly diocesan priests and women religious. Faculty and students also began interaction with thirteen other theological schools in the Chicago area. Many professors published regularly, and “Chicago Studies” became a well-respected theological journal. Together the academic and formation faculty worked to integrate the requirements for Sacred Orders.

Reverend George Kane reviewed some of the formation program changes which took place. An ecclesial spirituality based on knowledge of and commitment to the Risen Christ and His mission as carried out by the Church in today’s world was emphasized. Students met with a spiritual director once or twice a month. Daily Eucharist was expected and bi-weekly mass introduced. Community conferences were given and consistent

reflection on ministry was expected. Responsible freedom and accountability were valued.

The cam system also underwent transformation. Cam group identity replaced silence in the residence building. Cam priests underwent group dynamics training. Cams met regularly to share experiences and interests, prayer, Eucharist and accountability. Seminarians offered help as ministers in parishes, schools and the Lake County Jail. Upon return from these experiences, seminarians spent time in reflection. The Clinical Pastoral Experience (CPE) was also introduced. CPE consists of three months of service in a certified location with both Protestant and Catholic seminarians of both sexes under professional supervision.

Formation for the deacons also changed. A six-month internship in a parish was introduced. The internship was supervised by trained parish priests and a seminary professor who visited the deacon in the parish. Further reflection by the deacon occurred upon return to the seminary.

A new evaluation process for the candidates for priesthood was introduced. Everyone who had contact with the seminarian, except the spiritual director, was asked to submit an evaluation. This included teachers, parish staff and CPE supervisors, among others. Students met with a faculty evaluation team at a regularly scheduled time in a three-step process. The first step involved sharing the positive points mentioned in the evaluations. In the second step, concerns, limitations and problems mentioned in the evaluations were discussed. Finally, prescriptions and requirements to improve were shared.

Those who attended the “Afternoon of Remembering” were: Jack Clark; Sister Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M.; Rev. George Dyer; Rev. John Foley; Rev. William Goedert; Most Rev. John Gorman; Rev. Willard Jabusch; Rev. George Kane; Rev. Charles Meyer; Rev. Joseph O’Brien; Rev. Richard Schroeder; Thomas Ventura; Raymond Wicklander; and Rev. Richard Wojcik.

Those unable to attend for various reasons were: Rev. Joseph Brackin, S.J.; Jerry Broccolo; John Fahey; Most Rev. James Keleher; Rev. Edward Konerman, S.J.; Sister Mary Peter McGinty, C.S.J.; and Rev. John O’Callaghan, S.J. All sent letters of regret and salutations that were shared with the group.

Prayer was offered for the deceased members of that faculty: Rev. John Dedek; Rev. Bill LeSaint, S.J.; Jerry O’Brien; Gene Slania; and Rev. Ed Stokes, S.J.

Time for comments, reactions, and memories interspersed the afternoon. The assembled felt pride in being able to serve the Seminary at an important time in its history. The faculty and I are confident that many of the changes introduced were beneficial and we wish we had more time to talk about them. The assembled were humbled by mistakes made. All have been rewarded by meeting with many former seminarians who are now fine priests serving the Church.

The “Afternoon of Remembering” concluded with the presentation of a crystal paperweight to each faculty member. Etched with a picture of the main chapel, the paperweights are inscribed with the words “In Gratitude.”

– The Most Reverend John Gorman is a retired Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago.

Attendees enjoying lunch together in the Faculty Building on campus.



"I searched with my mind...till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven during the few days of their life." (Ecclesiastes 2:3)

Pre-Theology at USML

Rev. Gus Belauskas

Recently, I ran into a priest who studied here at Mundelein. He reminded me that he was in the last group of seminarians who went through our two-week express version of Pre-Theology. That would have been in 1985. For several years already, I had been conducting this whirlwind review of the history of philosophy during the summer for this new phenomenon — increasing number of men who wanted to study for priesthood but had never been in a seminary before. Besides classes, we had Mass, prayer, and some formation together. It became obvious to the rector, Rev. James Keleher, and then later Rev. Gerald Kicanas, that this trend would continue and Mundelein needed some kind of permanent and organized program for these applicants.

I was asked to come to Mundelein and start a Pre-Theology program for the fall of 1986. By mid-summer, we had 17 candidates. They were all college graduates, with such careers as teacher, pianist, and even a cook on a lake barge. They were a great group and a wonderful collection of seminarians to

get the Pre-Theology program off the ground.

This year we started our 26th group with 16 guys in Pre-Theology I. It's now a two-year program, requiring 30 hours of philosophy. Each entering class of pre-theologians brings an array of personalities, backgrounds, ages, and talents. Every member is challenged to follow a call he feels to be a priest, or to at least see what this is all about. I have a great job, working with fine and sincere men from interesting backgrounds, teaching them, for the most part, a subject that stands at the opposite end of what they were previously doing.

A total of 514 men have started the Pre-Theology program here at Mundelein, not counting those entering Pre-Theology II for their first year. Of these seminarians, 250 were ordained out of 399, not including the six classes currently at the seminary. My own impression is that they have fared well in theology, that they "caught" the spirit of what it means to follow out a vocational call, and that they have gone on to be fine priests, making valuable contributions to the life of their dioceses.

What started as a two-week program is now a two-year program. Pre-Theology will continue to grow over the next years, I'm sure, and we'll keep adjusting and strengthening it to continue to meet our original goals: to help men make a transition into the seminary; to lay a good foundation in academics, spiritual life and some pastoral experience so they can enter theology and to give men time and space to continue to discern God's will for them. I look forward to what the years ahead will bring.

— Rev. Gus Belauskas is chairperson of the Department of Pre-Theology at USML and is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"Each entering class of pre-theologians brings an array of personalities, backgrounds, ages, and talents."



Rev. Gus Belauskas and the first Pre-Theology class in front of the Philosophy residence in 1986.

From the Editors' Desk

By Connor Danstrom

In a way this issue of *The Bridge* is an image of its editors. Both Brandon and I graduated from secular universities and were involved at Newman Centers. I studied biochemistry at the University of Illinois in Champaign and planned on pursuing a career in scientific research before hearing the call to priesthood. Brandon earned a degree in business from the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, but chose to enter seminary after college.

As a college student, I was heavily involved at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign, Illinois. When I arrived on campus as a freshman, I was struck by the life and vigor of the place. I was also attracted to the many opportunities Newman afforded to learn about and practice my faith, such as Bible studies and student retreats. Mass, confession, and Eucharistic adoration were offered daily, sometimes more than once a day, which made it easy to immerse myself in the sacramental life of the Church.

But as the articles in this issue have attested time and again, for me it was the example of faithful, enthusiastic priests that first made me recognize the possibility that God might be calling



The Bridge Staff (pictured from left to right): (first row) Connor Danstrom, Kevin McCray, Albert Miranda, Reybert Pineda, Adam Droll; (second row) Brian Bufford, Dcn. Dan Oudenhoven, Brandon Barlow, Matthew Clarke, Lalo Barragan (not pictured) Bob Regan, David Neuschwander, Dan Morris

me to something else. Like most college students, I was not only seeking a university education, I was also working out who I was and what my life would be about. I am thankful that God placed examples of generous, joyful priests in my midst at that most formative stage of my life.

We speak often in the Church of a “vocation crisis.” To be sure, the priest shortage in the United States will have grave effects in the life of the Church in the years to come, but I believe the problem goes even deeper. Growing up I was frequently asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” but only when I got to the Newman Center did anyone ever ask me, “Who does God want you to be?”

Little did we know, my peers and I were hungry to know what God wanted for our lives. It seemed like we had the whole world at our disposal – endless career options, a free and casual dating culture, and all the time we wanted to make up our minds – but all this so-called “freedom” only left us confused and indecisive. Our ambivalence was only surpassed by our boredom. We were members of a generation of bored people. That is until we met Christ.

You see, the “vocation crisis” is not only a matter of fewer men deciding to

give their lives to Christ and the Church as priests, it is a matter of fewer people giving their lives to Christ at all. When I realized that God had given me a vocation to the priesthood, I discovered what freedom really meant. I no longer felt paralyzed by the plethora of options I had at my disposal. What is more, I was liberated from a futile struggle to attain personal happiness that was reminiscent of Sisyphus pushing his boulder up the hill. My vocation was not about me primarily, but others. Only in giving my life away have I ever been able to find it, and this has given me great joy.

It is our hope as editors that this issue of *The Bridge* serves as encouragement to our readers that, even in this culture so characterized by consumerism and endless entertainment, young people have not become deaf to God's “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12). They are hungry for the good news that God loves them, and that He has a purpose in mind for them. We humbly ask your prayers for the whole Mundelein Seminary community, and may God bless you.

– Connor Danstrom is a second year theologian for the Archdiocese of Chicago and serves as co-editor of *The Bridge*.



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