

Fall 2016/Winter 2017

THE BRIDGE

PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY



CUPICH BECOMES CHICAGO'S SEVENTH CARDINAL

Feature Story

Whether in Omaha or at Mundelein, IPF helps seminarians and priests deepen their relationship with Christ

Feature Story

Teaching Parish Sundays

On Campus

Mundelein celebrates its first-ever Syro-Malabar Qurbana liturgy



FEED THEM YOURSELF!

BY FATHER JOHN KARTJE

At a critical point in the Gospel of Mark (Mk 6:6), Jesus sends his disciples out on mission on their own and in a rather peculiar fashion: They must travel in pairs, and without the ordinary provisions one would expect to carry along on a journey — no food, no bag, no money, no change of clothing. Their destination is not known in advance; whatever town they happen to find themselves in, they are to stay there and engage the people as complete strangers. One can only imagine the uncertainty — and, perhaps, trepidation — as they set out.

When they return, they are full of excitement and energy (Mk 6:30), eager to tell Jesus all that they have done, how they have healed and how they have taught. It's not long after that they're assailed by a crowd that is "hungry" to see and hear them. The disciples grow concerned about the crowd's well-being and ask Jesus to send the multitude away so that they can get food. In response, Jesus confidently tells his disciples, "You give them something to eat."

This familiar Gospel narrative perfectly captures both the vision and the mission of diocesan seminary formation. By the time Jesus sends his disciples out on mission, they already have spent a good deal of time with him. They have observed his witness, learned from his preaching and teaching, and entered into many periods of prayer with him. He is confident in their abilities and is sure that, if they are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, they will be capable of far more than they realize. They truly can and will proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the world.

As I enter my second year as rector, I am encouraged and inspired by the myriad ways our men increasingly engage in opportunities to "feed others," drawing on the preparation they are receiving in their studies, in their prayer and in their apostolic assignments. As a man makes his way through seminary formation, it is impor-

tant that he can integrate and manifest the identity of both a spiritual father and a shepherd of souls.

In this issue of *The Bridge*, you will encounter seminarians learning to grow in those identities. This semester we have been blessed by presentations from two exemplars of the highest standards of the Catholic intellectual tradition: Cardinal Gerhard Müller helped us to recognize and appreciate the true Christ-centered roots of the Church's teachings to those on the margins of society, and, Msgr. Paul McPartland led us into a deeper understanding of the mission of the Church within the vision of the Second Vatican Council. These are just two examples of how we seek to augment our standard theology curriculum to give our seminarians the ability to feed others with their evangelizing catechesis and preaching.

If a diocesan seminarian is ever to grow into the identity of Christ as head and shepherd of a parish, he must learn to move into new situations and unfamiliar surroundings, to encounter Christ in every face and in every circumstance, and to lead others through the Paschal Mystery with compassion and confidence. As you'll read in the article about our Teaching Parish Program, these are some of the objectives being addressed as our men head out into parishes. Leadership also is exercised with-

in our own community, as witnessed by our deacons' organization of a wonderful gathering to kick-off the new school year, or by the "Light the Night" evangelization event for area youth that was entirely conceived and executed by our students.

But ultimately, a disciple of Christ can only feed others if he himself is well-fed by prayer and a contemplative interior life. I am deeply encouraged when I see our seminarians deepening their prayer lives through effective use of spiritual direction, prayerful reading and study, or encountering Christ in the poor and marginalized. In these pages, you'll read about one seminarian's journey on a 30-day silent retreat, as well as the experience with contemplative prayer that dozens of our students seek out every summer through the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha.

When Jesus sent his disciples out into the towns of Israel, all they seemingly possessed was the knowledge he had taught them and

the love he had shared with them. Beyond that, they had the deep and abiding confidence of Jesus in their ability and desire to serve others and bring them to the Lord. These pages of *The Bridge* will help explain why I have no less confidence in the men of Mundelein Seminary. ■

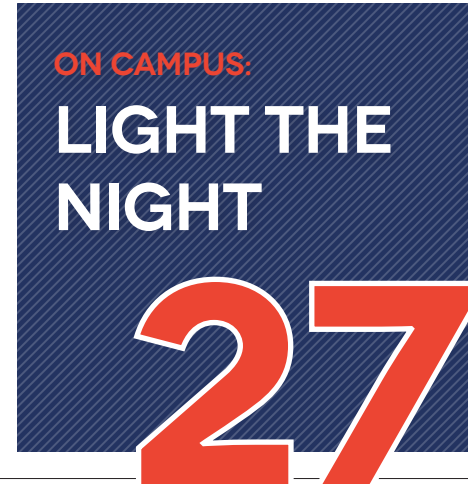
FATHER JOHN KARTJE
is the rector and president of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary.



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➤ *Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago and chancellor of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, receives his red biretta from Pope Francis — thus making him a cardinal — at a consistory Nov. 19 at the Vatican. Photo by Tom Maday/Archdiocese of Chicago.*

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THE BRIDGE
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Müller preaches during the Mass that followed his lecture.

▶ WATCH CARDINAL MÜLLER'S ADDRESS AND READ A TRANSCRIPT AT USML.EDU/MULLER/

CDF PREFECT VISITS CAMPUS, SPEAKS OF THOSE ON THE MARGINS

LOUIS CUNNINGHAM/ST. SEATTLE

BY DEACON JEFFREY MOORE | 4T, ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

On Oct. 28, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake was bestowed an incredible honor: a visit by the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), Cardinal Gerhard Müller. The CDF, originally the Office for the Inquisition during the Counter-Reformation, has the unique and important role of safeguarding the doctrinal patrimony of the Catholic faith and correcting theologians who might stray outside the limits of magisterial teaching. By most accounts, the prefect of the CDF is one of the highest-ranking officials at the Vatican, after the pope and the secretary of state.

The centerpiece of Müller's visit was a lecture to the seminary community titled "The Theology of Freedom: Encountering Christ at the Margins of Society." When he took the podium, he looked every bit the prototypical churchman: tall and strong, in a cassock with red piping, speaking in a German-accented rich baritone that exuded the same confidence as his figure. Yet, as intimidating as such a man might seem, Müller's demeanor was incredibly warm. He would often look up from his notes to make small asides, check for understanding and

crack an occasional joke. In fact, at the Mass that followed his lecture, Müller began his homily by apologizing for his weak English and expressing hope that whatever grammatical mistakes he might make would not drastically affect the underlying theological structure — a *perfectly* executed slice of humor from the head of the CDF.

The substance of the cardinal's talk was a reflection on poverty and the Church, a topic one might be tempted to think was inspired by the current pontificate. However, Müller had already dedicated the

bulk of his scholarship to liberation theology long before he was appointed to the CDF by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

Müller's talk displayed a level of deftness and nuance that did not disappoint coming from the Church's chief theologian. He began by explaining that the mission of the Church can only be the mission of Christ, who himself claimed to have come to bring good news to the poor. This mission is often frustrated by human desires for power or popularity, he said, but poverty itself is the antidote for these worldly forces. Poverty, Müller explained, is a metaphor for our contingency, forcing us to rely all the more on Divine Providence and allowing us to be a credible witness against technocracy, secularism and cynicism. Müller further explored how these ideas are present in authentic liberation theology.

The power of the cardinal's address came from his underlying incarnational theology. For Müller, Christ did not take on humanity in the abstract, but in a very concrete way, not shunning the ugliness and sin that so marks human existence. It is this fact — that God united himself to us in life and in death — which compels the Church to the margins, and which can bring hope to the poor. Only with Christ at the center of the proclamation, as the one who unites all things to himself, can the Church's solidarity with the poor take on any worthwhile meaning.

"In the face of the Church, there is a reflection of the glory of God who allows all men to be illumined by the light of the Gospel of Christ," Müller said. "Clearly, however, this does not mean misleading riches, the glow of earthly glory, of luxury and of power. The Church follows her Lord. When she suffers and is persecuted, it is then truly that the glory of the Lord and the fullness of his grace shines in the cross." ■



DEACON JEFFREY MOORE

is a fourth-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Archbishop Blase Cupich makes his way into St. Peter's Basilica before the consistory Nov. 19 where he was elevated to the rank of cardinal.



CUPICH BECOMES CHICAGO'S SEVENTH CARDINAL

TOM MADAY/ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

BY MICHAEL L. LEWIS | 2T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO

The Cardinal's Villa on Mundelein's campus is once again home to a cardinal after the Most Rev. Blase Cupich became the seventh Chicago archbishop to be elevated to the rank during a consistory Nov. 19 at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

Chosen by Pope Francis to join the fraternal college that offers counsel to him and that will elect his successor, Cupich received the symbol of his new title, a red biretta, from the Holy Father along with 12 other archbishops, bishops and priests during the ceremony on the eve of the close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Father Thomas Baima, Mundelein's vice rector for academic affairs, who was in Rome for a previously scheduled meeting of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, witnessed the consistory and said that the pope's selection of new cardinals appeared intended to send a message to the world.

"Pope Francis is calling us to a vision of how the Church should live her faith, hope and charity at this moment in history," Baima said. "There's an urgency, and there's a call from the pope to join him.

Many of these appointments were about the Holy Father naming men whom he respects, whom he trusts, and whom he knows to be in sync with his direction."

Of the themes Francis stressed in his consistory homily to the new cardinals, bringing union to division was perhaps the strongest.

"We live at a time in which polarization and exclusion are burgeoning and considered the only way to resolve conflicts," Francis said. "And, without our realizing it, this way of thinking becomes part of the way we live and act. ... The virus of polarization and animosity permeates our way of thinking, feeling and acting. We are not immune from this and we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts, because this would be contrary to the richness and universality of the Church, which is tangibly evident in

the College of Cardinals."

Cupich, in an address to pilgrims in Rome who were part of a trip organized by the Chicago-based Catholic Extension, said the pope's words resonated with him.

"People were asking what I was feeling during the ceremony. I said to them that I wanted to be present to the moment," Cupich said. "It's so very important to point that out, because that is the way the Holy Father works and wants us to work. He wants us to appreciate the moment before us and the person in front of us, rather than being caught up in the ways that we allow ideas and ideology to divide us. ... I think we all, as he encourages, have to take responsibility for our part, that we don't add to that virus, that we don't allow it to be cultivated in our hearts."

Father Bradley Zamora, Mundelein's director of liturgy, was also in Rome for the consistory as part of a group of pilgrims from Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral, where he also serves as an associate pastor and lives part-time in the same rectory as the new cardinal. He said that the close bond between Cupich and Francis was evident in the ceremony.

"For me, the link between Pope Francis and Cardinal Blase is obvious," Zamora said. "They both are men who seek to renew the Church and to shepherd the people entrusted to their care into an encounter with the Risen Christ. Watching our Holy Father bestow this most intimate honor on Cardinal Blase was moving and inspirational."

Despite being named a "prince of the Church," Cupich tweeted immediately after the consistory that he was "humbled and encouraged by this honor and responsibility." Zamora said such humility is characteristic of Cupich.

"While this is a tremendous honor for him and for our local Church, I think it only intensifies his desire to be a true servant of the Church and assist the Holy Father in building bridges with all people for the good of the Church," Zamora said. "It's not about him. Rather, he is someone who knows himself and knows his mission to reach out to those who are forgotten." ■



MICHAEL L. LEWIS

is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of El Paso.

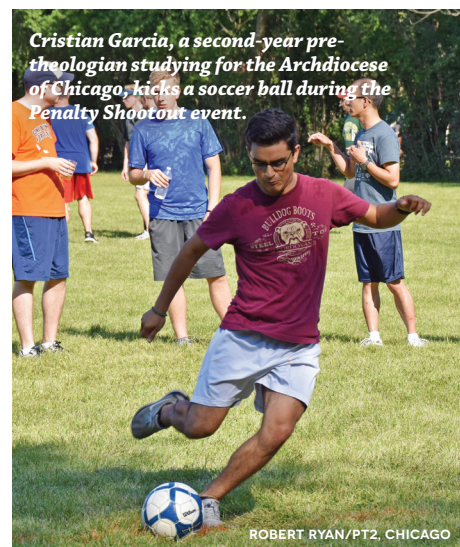


One team of seminarians attempts to outmatch another in the Tug-of-War event.

PETER INFANGER/IT, JOLIET

BY GARETT BURNS | 3T, DIOCESE OF WICHITA

During philosophy studies, seminarians study ancient philosophy and learn about the ever-changing nature of our world, which is summed up in this axiom attributed to Heraclitus: “You never step into the same river twice.” After completing five years of formation, I can confidently say alongside Heraclitus, “You never step into the same Mundelein twice.”



Cristian Garcia, a second-year pre-theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago, kicks a soccer ball during the Penalty Shootout event.

ROBERT RYAN/PT2, CHICAGO

Always in flux, the Mundelein Seminary community takes on a distinct character each new year. Returning students incorporate pastoral experiences from the summer into their discernment, while simultaneously coping with the absence of friends, classmates and faculty who have departed. Meanwhile, new students search to find their role in a new place, while longing for the comfort of what they left behind. Perhaps most of all, the community collectively watches for new leaders to emerge after the wisdom and personality of the previous year’s deacons have moved on to life in the parish.

Observing these difficulties, Father Elmer Romero, an associate dean of formation, sought a way to ensure that the entire seminary community could come together at the beginning of the year to welcome new students in a profound way. Father Brian Welter, vice rector for formation, also sought to continue the mission of creating a specific culture at Mundelein — an *esprit de corps* that endures the variations of any given year and unites the community in a deep sense of pride, loyalty and fellowship around the common experiences of life at Mundelein. With these goals in mind, the idea for the Mundelein Seminary Welcome was born.



GARETT BURNS

is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Wichita.



A water balloon bursts as a team of seminarians attempts to launch it during the Water Balloon Launch event. The winning team managed to launch their balloon more than 100 yards.

ROBERT RYAN/PT2, CHICAGO

Welter said he hoped the annual welcome event would lay a foundation for the rest of each academic year. “I believe it will set a tone of authentic fraternity which says to the new community members, ‘You are important, and we welcome you from day one.’”

Idea in hand, the formation staff sought individuals to transform the concept into reality, and Welter quickly reached out to the deacon class in order to accomplish the goal of bringing the community together in a spirit of hospitality. Deacon Tom Orlando, a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Stockton, Calif., stepped up to lead his classmates in carrying out the extensive preparation needed for such an event, held Aug. 28, the Sunday before classes began.

Father John Kartje, Mundelein’s rector/president, explained that the seminary has placed a renewed emphasis on the personal engagement and leadership of the seminarians in their own formation. So involving the deacon class as the organizers of the event seemed like a natural fit.

“At the end of the day, every seminarian is preparing to be a leader of a parish and a shepherd of souls,” Kartje said. “More and more, the formation staff is inviting them to embrace this aspect of their vocation by encouraging them to be leaders on campus.”

The deacons were asked to be creative with the event, and organizer Orlando discerned and utilized the unique gifts of his classmates. When asked how he pulled off such a large-scale event in such a short time, Orlando could only reply, “With a lot of help.”

The fourth-year men divided the seminarians into 16 teams that featured a mix from various dioceses and different years in formation. They also designed a course of multiple competitions arrayed on the seminary soccer field, which included a water-balloon launch, home-run derby, team Sudoku puzzle, Mario Kart video-game races and even a tug-of-war. The games brought seminarians together to get to know each other better and to compete for the sought-after prizes: restaurant gift cards and a year’s-worth of

bragging rights. The day culminated with a cookout, ice cream sundaes and a welcome address from Father Kartje.

The event organizers admit that, on paper, the event doesn’t sound like anything too extraordinary. But they said that simplicity was actually the beauty of it all. “Relationships were strengthened that day, and it made me think about how many relationships start — being with each other,” Welter said. “That goes for all relationships — with us and God, with each other, with people we serve in the parish.”

Kartje said he thought the welcome event accomplished its mission of unifying the entire community at start the academic year. He said he is looking forward to the community reaping the long-term fruits, as well. “Success always breeds confidence,” he said. “The deacons received a confidence boost in their ability to be leaders, coordinating the type of large-scale community events that will be quite common in their future parish ministry. And it showed that we can pull together to assist one another when we take on things that are more challenging spiritually or in other ways in our formation.”

Welter said seeing the event evolve from its inception to its completion made a personal impact. “My own learning was to trust in inspirational ideas from faculty, and to trust that the seminarians have the capability to lead and pull off a large event,” he said. “It would have been much easier to put the whole thing off based on a number of excuses and fears: ‘We have never done anything like that.’ ‘We do not have enough time.’ ‘We could not do it well enough.’ Instead, a group of people came together, rejected these temptations and trusted that the Spirit would use their imperfect efforts to bring about something beautiful.

They did not have it all figured out at the start,” Welter said. “But perhaps therein lies the lesson for each and every one of us — confident trust in the Holy Spirit. Whenever we are confronted with the uncertainty in the ever-changing river before us, all we can do is have trust and jump right in.” ■

“I believe [the welcome event] will set a tone of authentic fraternity which says to the new community members, ‘You are important, and we welcome you from day one.’”



Over the last few months, there's been a new face in the back of the chapel at Mass each morning. Students might have even had a chance to shake his hand or sit with him at the lunch table. He is Jim Heinen, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary's new chief operating officer (COO).

One need only look around Mundelein's nearly 100-year-old campus to see the rationale behind bringing on a COO for the campus, said Father John Kartje, Mundelein's rector/president. "When you get up close, you start to notice increasing wear on the facilities," Kartje explained. "Hiring Jim was recognizing that, if this place is going to be viable for the next 100 years, we've got to take care of basic physical plant needs. And that's going to be a huge job."

Just as the future priests educated at Mundelein will one day need to bring in outside expertise to help run successful parishes or even build new ones, Kartje said, the seminary looked to bring someone on board who knows precisely what is needed to ensure our infrastructure is lasting.

Heinen brings years of such experience to his new role at Mundelein. Before arriving at our campus, he was the chief operating and strategy officer for Goodwill Industries in Central Ohio. Prior to that, he spent

seven years at The Ohio State University running its South Campus Gateway, a city and campus renovation project that was focused on fixing up the neglected southeast corner of the campus. Before that, Heinen spent 22 years with Marriott Hotels, working in roles ranging from managing operations throughout the Midwest, to overseeing 60 hotels in Florida, to running the Marriott founder's family trust.

"I hope I can draw on this experience from my time in the private and public sectors to help Mundelein move forward," Heinen said.

First among his priorities, Heinen said, is the recognition that Mundelein is a nearly century-old campus with structures, doorways and stairs around campus that need constant maintenance and repair. "First impressions are critically important in forming people's overall opinion of a place. So, plant repair is an important topic," Heinen said.

Second, Heinen said he hopes to develop a comprehensive plan for the campus' buildings and services. "Refurbishments such as those being made on the dining hall are excellent moves, but we need to specifically budget maintenance for such spaces," he said. Additionally, Heinen is planning service improvements in the dining hall to make it more restaurant-like — individualizing service and bringing in healthier dining options for students, faculty, staff and guests alike.

Third, Heinen said that campus wayfinding needs an upgrade. "Signage is sparse and ambiguous around the campus," he said. "In line with presenting a strong first impression, this is a low-cost, but highly visible, improvement to the public's perception and experience on campus."

Heinen has already begun work on several campus improvements, and said he desires to be of service to the Mundelein community however he can. With his wealth of experience and his vision for the future, it is already clear he'll be a strong asset to the community and a positive influence on the future of this institution. ■



JOE RICHARDS is a first year theologian studying for the Diocese of La Crosse.

CANARY GRANTS SUPPORT SEMINARIANS' RESEARCH

BY TYLER RAYMOND | 2T, ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE



Academic formation is key to seminarians' growth into priests who are capable, compassionate and responsive to parishioners. But this pillar of formation requires more than just passing the required classes, and Mundelein Seminary provides both seminarians and faculty members a special opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding via the Rev. Msgr. John F. Canary Theological Enrichment Fund Grant.

Established in 2006 in honor of the former rector's three decades of service at Mundelein, the grant is awarded annually to, alternately, a seminarian or faculty member to enable them to advance the quality of theological education at Mundelein Seminary by attending conferences, conducting research or initiating projects. Past recipients of the grant have engaged in projects as diverse as studying the theology of celibacy (Father Patrick Boyle), translating and cataloging Cardinal George Mundelein's collection of letters by the saints (Father Michael Fuller) and, last year, Father Raymond Webb's research project, "Human Rights and Religion 2.0."

This year, the \$5,000 grant was split between two separate seminarian research projects chosen by the seminary's Board of Advisors.

Michael Brungardt, a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., seeks in his project to develop a process and structure of formation for pastoral care of the domestic Church.

"I was spurred on by the recent Synod on the Family and the pope's apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, to advance an authentic response to the call for a New Evangelization," Brungardt said. "I saw in the works of Pope St. John Paul II an urgent call to include in the formation of priests a central focus on the formation and accompaniment of families, empowering families to not simply be objects of evangelization, but also subjects of the New Evangelization."

Brungardt said the Canary Grant would allow him to visit other seminaries, with formators and pastors at all levels of the Church and engage with other denominational and secular institutions to explore not only the theology behind the evangelization of families, but also the practical processes and examples of such evangelization.

The other project awarded this year was submitted by Michael Lewis and Iván Montelongo, both second-year theologians studying for the Diocese of El Paso, Texas. Aiming to understand better the mission-

ary and evangelization efforts of the first priests to establish churches in what is now their diocese, Lewis and Montelongo sought to research Spanish-language primary sources related to the first forays of Catholicism in the Southwest.

"Our first missions were established in the 1600s by Franciscan friars in what was then the northernmost reaches of New Spain," Lewis said. "But not a lot of research has been done on their writings, mostly because all the original manuscripts are in archives in Mexico that have only recently been cataloged, if at all."

Thanks to the Canary Grant, Lewis and Montelongo were able, during Fall Break, to visit archives in Mexico City and Durango, Mexico, where El Paso's cathedral was located from its founding until 1850. They were able to photograph more than 500 pages of handwritten letters, reports and testimonies, which they've begun to transcribe and translate back at Mundelein.

"We probably wouldn't have been able to investigate this foundational period in our diocese's heritage of faith without this grant," Montelongo said. "The knowledge we're gaining from it will help us preserve and teach others about our historic missions in El Paso. But we've also gained a lot of important insight in how our predecessors spread the Gospel hundreds of years ago." ■



TYLER RAYMOND is a second year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.



ROBERT RYAN/PT2, CHICAGO

FATHER DENNIS SPIES NEW PRE-THEOLOGY DIRECTOR

BY JACOB MCDANIEL | 1T, DIOCESE OF GARY

Some of the most crucial moments for men preparing for the priesthood occur in the first year of seminary. Men who arrive at Mundelein without the requisite coursework in philosophy often enter into the two-year Pre-Theology Program. It is no surprise for them to discover that they need a guide and a mentor to help them with their transition into seminary life.

At Mundelein Seminary, Father Dennis Spies, a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., and the newest member of the formation faculty, has the task of guiding, mentoring and forming first-year pre-theologians. As he puts it, “I want to give men a solid foundation to properly

respond to the challenges they will face as future priests.”

As the primary formator of the PT1s, as they are known, Spies holds one-on-one and classroom-style meetings with his students to guide them through their first year of seminary life. From the very start of the year, Spies said he always reminds them, “You are preparing yourself to let the Lord develop you into the best possible man God intends you to be.”

New seminarians truly hit the ground running. They learn the ins and outs of seminary community life, how to pray with the breviary and how to adjust to studying philosophy, Latin and basics of the spiritual life.

While Spies comes to Mundelein as a seasoned pastor, he said priesthood wasn’t always on his radar. Spies grew up on a family farm in rural Illinois, coming from a family that includes four sisters. Seeing the success of his father’s agriculture company and as the only son of the family, Spies studied agricultural finance at Southern Illinois University in Car-

bondale, and prepared to enter the sales side of the farming world. Little did he know that God would call him to harvest in different fields.

After a period in the workforce and then working for the family business, Spies answered the call to the priesthood and began studying for the Diocese of Joliet. He spent his first year of seminary studies at Mundelein in a pre-theology program similar to one he now leads as a priest. After ordination, Spies served in two parishes as an associate pastor while working on a licentiate in sacred theology degree focused on spirituality of the diocesan priesthood. Both assignments kept Spies quite busy as a priest, since both communities had several thousand families and schools with several hundred students. A very rewarding part of his ministry was working with seminarians, which lead him to become a trained spiritual director through the Institute for Priestly Formation.

Following his passion to support seminarians, Spies became an active member of his diocese’s vocations team. Part of his responsibility was to interview candidates applying to study for the priesthood. But he also invited various seminarians to work with him in the parish, learning the busy, yet rewarding, life of a priest.

“Seminarians were often shocked by my schedule,” Spies mentioned with a smile.

Having been a part of all facets of seminarian formation, Spies said he knows and understands the skills needed to be



JACOB MCDANIEL
is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Gary.

a priest in the world today. He also said he was very grateful for the opportunity afforded to him by his bishop to serve on the formation faculty at Mundelein.

“It is a blessing and a pure joy to be able to help seminarians grow in the image and likeness of God to best serve their future parishioners,” he said. ■



PALUCH LECTURER: 'RADIATE A JOY WHICH IS INFECTIOUS'

BY ROBINSON ORTIZ
3T, ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

This year, Monsignor Paul McPartlan, as the Chester and Margaret Paluch Lecturer, will deliver three lectures on the theme “A Sure Compass: The Continuing Reception of Vatican II.” McPartlan is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster in England and is a professor of systematic theology and ecumenism at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He also served for two terms on the International Theological Commission.

In October, after speaking to the seminary community about “*Dei Verbum* at the Heart of Vatican II,” he answered some questions exploring the implementation of Vatican II and how to be effective in the New Evangelization.

What does the Church still need to implement from Vatican II? Vatican II fundamentally wanted to renew the Church in its mission, especially in light of the new millennium, to make the Church aware that the gifts we have been given by Christ are to be shared with the world. There is always a danger or temptation for the Church to keep the good news to itself. Thus, every day we should be asking: What can I do today to share the good news and proclaim the salvation that Jesus has won for us? The news we see each day — showing so much conflict and violence in the world — should prompt us to evangelize and to do as much as we possibly can to bring Christ to the people of today.

Some polls have found that many Catholics don't agree with part of the moral doctrine of the Church. Should the Church change her doctrine if it is not supported by the faithful? I'd like to highlight a very interesting document we produced in the International Theological Commission: “*Sensus Fidei* in the Life of the Church” (2014). One of the points we make in that document is that the *sensus fidei*, the sense of the faith, is not the same as popular opinion. You can't determine the faith of the Church by opinion polls. The *sensus fidei* is a spiritual instinct for the authentic faith that we believe the Holy Spirit gives to the faithful. Like any gift of grace, it needs to be nurtured. We can't just presume that all

the baptized have an authentic *sensus fidei*. That gift is like a seed that is planted, and it might just sit there in somebody's heart or it might be nurtured by prayer, sacramental life, charity or devotion before it flourishes. And those are the people whose instincts in matters of faith you can trust.

Some people don't trust the Church today, perhaps because of a bad experience with priests or what seems to be a contradiction between faith and science. How can we help people recover confidence in the Church? I think we respond to those problems by being genuine people ourselves. And we have to show that there are really good answers to questions like faith and science. We have to encourage people to have an adult faith. We have to show them that we understand real adult questions, that we ourselves live in the real world, and know the pressures, the temptations, the dangers and everything, and that in the midst of all that we have joy, peace, and hope, because we believe that the whole world is loved by God and has been saved by Christ, and that we are in the hands of God.

Mundelein Seminary's mission is “forming parish priests.” How can we, seminarians and priests, evangelize in these modern times, especially to young people? By radiating a joy which is infectious. Many people today, especially young people, don't feel very joyful. They feel rather bored or anxious. The world can be a very difficult place, a very hostile place. If they encounter



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priests and seminarians of their own generation who have joy in their hearts and a genuine hope, they will say: Where does that hope come from? How can we have that joy? Then, we introduce them to Jesus. It's that companionship with Jesus that we ourselves must learn to treasure, and that we must then invite others to share. ■



Participants in IPF's spiritual directors' training program gather in front of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Mundelein Seminary's campus in 2014.

A TIME TO LET THE SPIRITWORK

WHETHER IN OMAHA OR AT MUNDELEIN, IPF HELPS SEMINARIANS AND PRIESTS DEEPEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

BY HANK LYON | 1T, ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Seminarians on the road to priesthood receive many opportunities to serve a community, grow in affective maturity, study hard and also pray. These aspects are often summarized as the four pillars of formation: pastoral, human, intellectual and spiritual.

But the spiritual pillar has a characteristic that is, perhaps, unique. The first three pillars can be successfully experienced in the everyday business of the seminarian's life — from classes, to service projects outside the seminary, to recreation. However, to give proper attention to the spiritual pillar, Christ invites us to, “come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.” There is a need for seminarians to take time away from the good work they are pursuing and come away for a while to let Jesus nourish them with his word and presence.

One such place that has become a popular summer experience for Mundelein seminarians and faculty members alike is Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., the home of the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF). There, seminarians and priests have the opportunity to come away from

the hustle and bustle of their ministerial lives and rest with God.

IPF is officially a public association of the faithful focused on aiding in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests. It received this status in 2008 when the institute was formally recognized by the Church through the archbishop of Omaha. In addition to the summer program for seminarians on Creighton's campus, IPF also trains diocesan priests interested in being trained as spiritual directors in a program conducted on the campus of Mundelein Seminary.

"IPF simply provides and facilitates an environment that is intentional and conducive for receiving the Holy Spirit," said Father Jim Rafferty, IPF's director of communication and mission.

A SUMMER FOR SEMINARIANS' REFLECTION

In explaining the institute's origins, Father Richard Gabuzda, IPF's executive director, said what began in prayer became intended for prayer.

IPF got its humble beginnings from four humble founders: Father John Horn, SJ, a Jesuit of the Maryland Province; Gabuzda, a diocesan priest from Scranton, Pa.; Kathy Kanavy, a consecrated laywoman; and Father George Aschenbrenner, SJ. When Horn was directing Gabuzda and Kanavy in a 30-day silent retreat in the Ignatian spiritual exercises, they felt guided by the Holy Spirit to address the spiritual needs of both seminarians and diocesan priests. After the retreat, they developed the initial program that, combined with the generosity of lay faithful and support from devoted priests and bishop, is now in its 20th year.

The hope of IPF, Rafferty said, is for seminarians to enter into a "deeper, more intimate and personal relationship with Jesus."

"The essential task that IPF strives for is that seminarians may know the fullness of God's love for them and live in that knowledge of his fidelity," Rafferty said. "Living in that love as a beloved son of God, which is a contemplative union with God, is at the heart of the charisma and spirituality of a diocesan priest."



Mundelein seminarians visit the Holy Family Shrine outside of Omaha during their IPF program last summer.

CARLOS OROZCO/2T, SEATTLE



The Institute for Priestly Formation's summer program for seminarians takes place on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Here, seminarians celebrate Mass during the program in St. John's Chapel last summer.

MICHAEL L. LEWIS/2T, EL PASO

The summer program for seminarians was launched in 1995, one year after the institute was founded, with just six seminarians. Last summer, the summer program hosted more than 170 seminarians from nearly 80 dioceses in the United States and Canada. It is estimated that more than half of Mundelein seminarians have attended the program, usually before or after their first year of theology.

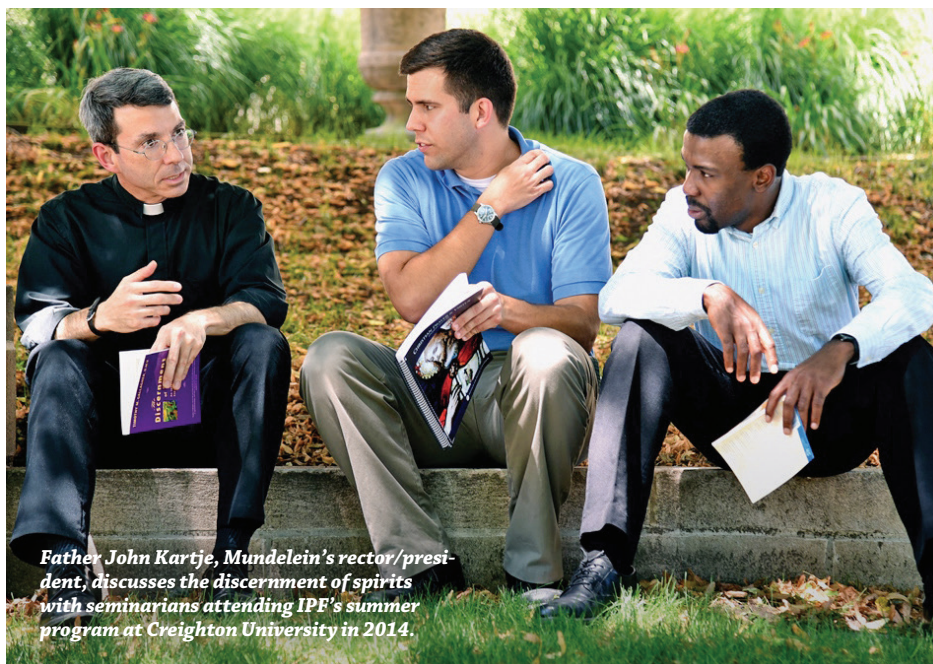
The nine-week summer program begins with a week of introduction to the program and preparation for an eight-day silent retreat, which follows the week after. The remaining six weeks are dedicated to allowing the seminarians to unpack their experience from their eight-day silent retreat. The seminarians are also engaged in academic courses that further explore the dimensions of being a priest.

Michael Groth, a first-year theologian

at Mundelein studying for the Diocese of Joliet, described IPF as an indispensable component of his formation. "It's a program that strengthened the bedrock of my prayer life through encounter, the Examen and other various forms of prayer," he said. "The eight-day silent retreat, which in my opinion is the pinnacle of IPF's summer program, provided ample time to reflect upon how the Lord has worked in my life. In seminary, there is a lot that happens, and it's necessary to step back and see what the Lord has done. IPF provides this."

TRAINING FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Inspired by Christ's words, "I will give you shepherds after my own heart," IPF also presents a three-year program that trains diocesan priests to be spiritual



Father John Kartje, Mundelein's rector/president, discusses the discernment of spirits with seminarians attending IPF's summer program at Creighton University in 2014.



Seminarians from Mundelein and other seminaries listen as counselor Ian Butler teaches a course on priestly celibacy during last summer's IPF program for seminarians.

directors. After launching the program in Florida, IPF's leaders said they quickly realized that, to accommodate more priests, it would be more effective if they moved the program to the Midwest. Mundelein Seminary became the new home for the program in May 2002.

Ever since, three times each year, priests gather for week-long sessions at Mundelein. They are engaged in seminar-style presentations, small-group practice sessions, communal Mass, spiritual direction and time for personal prayer. The program begins with a silent retreat, whose prayerful atmosphere is carried through each session of the program. That atmosphere is easy to cultivate on the beautiful campus of Mundelein Seminary, Rafferty said.



HANK LYON
is a first-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Father Brian Welter, Mundelein's vice rector for formation, said as a newly ordained priest, he heard about the program from one of his classmates. In 2007, he made an eight-day silent retreat through IPF.

"It left me with a very real sense of the Lord's presence in my life and not just a notional one," Welter said.

One year later, Welter began the spiritual direction training program, which has been a huge asset to his ministry, he said.

"In it, I see more visibly the hope that comes from the Church and the hope offered in Jesus — the remedy for moments of suffering and hardship," he said.

Today, Welter teaches and offers spiritual direction during IPF's summer program for seminarians.

Also very grateful to be a part of IPF is Father John Kartje, the rector/president of Mundelein Seminary. Kartje, who took part in IPF's seminarian program before his deacon year at Mundelein, is also a teacher and spiritual director in IPF's summer seminarian program. He praised the tools IPF gave him to engage in spiritual direction.

"I could not imagine my priesthood surviving without being able to serve as a spiritual director. It has been a wonderful foundation of my vocation," Kartje said. "I've been able to witness God's mercy, the transformative power of that beauty and the humility that comes with it."

IPF's success with seminarians and faculty members is more than just good luck, Kartje said. "The meteoric rise of the institute, for me, is a sign of the Spirit at work," he said. ■



Mundelein seminarians Carlos Orozco (left), a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Seattle, and Hank Lyon, a first-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago, look out over the Platte River during an excursion to Platte River State Park near Omaha while attending IPF's seminarian program last summer.



MICHAEL A. LEWIS / 2T, EL PASO

30 DAYS OF SILENCE

BY MICHAEL STEFFES | 3T, DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Mundelein seminarian Michael Steffes attended IPF's 30-day silent retreat last summer at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Here, he reflects on its impact to his spirituality and vocation. — Ed.

When I told people that I was doing a 30-day silent retreat, many could not believe that I would not have a cellphone, be in contact with any family or friends or know what was happening around the world for an entire month. But it was understandable to me, because we live in a world with constant noise, and we typically move from one thing to the next.

Honestly, it did take me a little while to get into the retreat. I had just interned at a busy parish back in my home diocese that I loved, and I had been going non-stop. But once I was able to slow down, it was very fruitful.

I was first attracted to the idea of doing a 30-day retreat when I attended IPF's summer program for seminarians in 2014. This year, there were 11 other seminarians and three priests who made the 30-day retreat with me. We each had our different schedules, but the two things we had every day were individual spiritual direction and Mass. The rest of the day was open. It was balanced with time for prayer, meals, exercise or just enjoying nature and the small things in life. That is one of the benefits of having 30 days to retreat: One is really able to slow down and be thankful for the many things that are often overlooked in our day-to-day life.

The Lord speaks to us in many different ways, and one of the primary ways is in the silence of our hearts. We may search for God in many different places but as it says in 1 Kings 19:12, Elijah did not find God in the earthquake, hurricane or fire, but in the quiet breeze.

God speaks to us in the silence, and it is often in a way that we would not anticipate. I enjoyed my time of prayer in the silence and allowing the Lord to speak to me. It wasn't always easy, because it is so easy to get distracted in prayer. But that is the nice thing about having an extended amount of time set aside for prayer, whether it is one day or 30.

I did not know what to expect from my 30-day retreat, but I can say it met all of my expectations and a lot more. The Lord did more for me than I expected, and it was a time that I know I can always draw upon. It was an experience that I will be able to look back on for years.

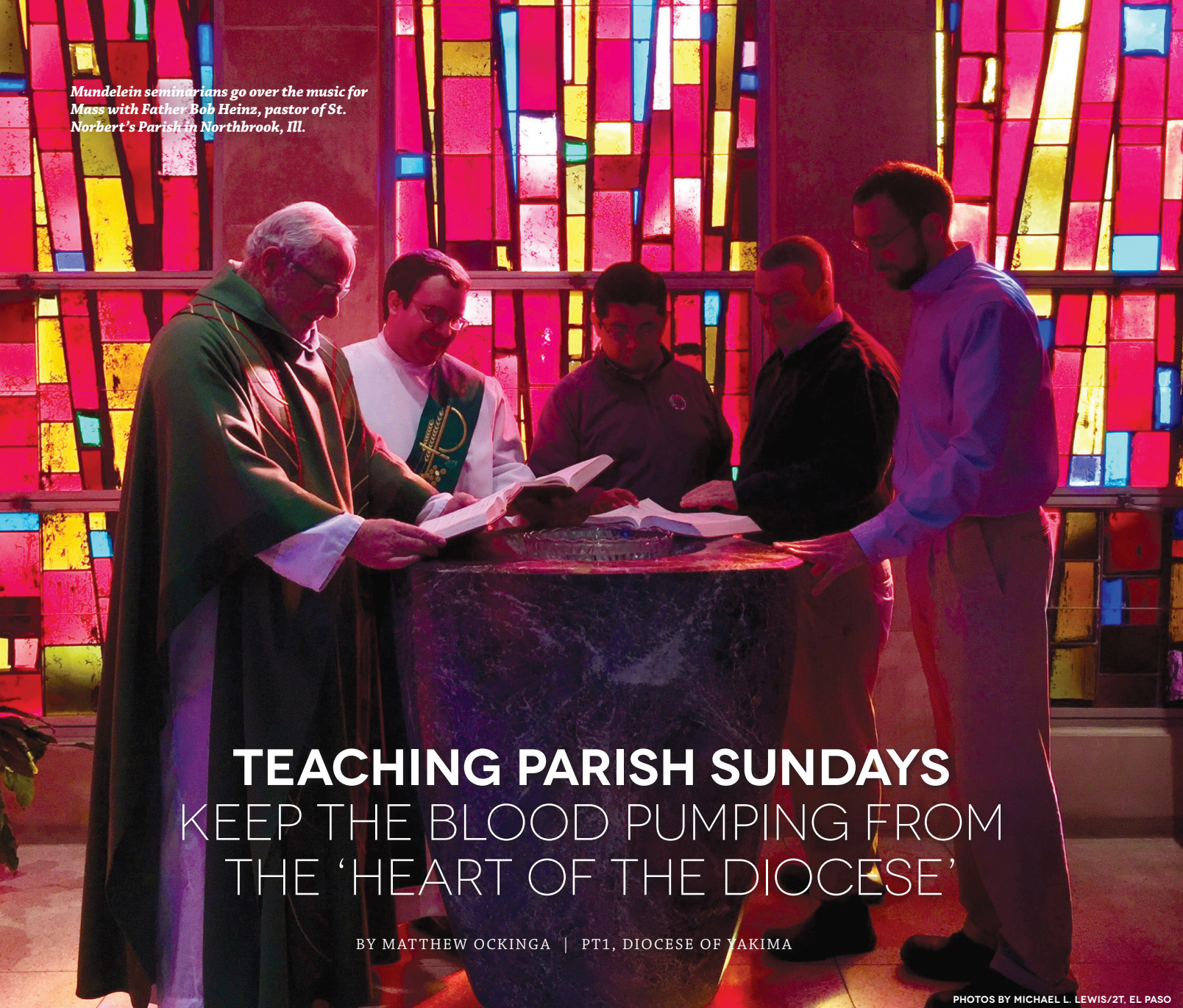


MICHAEL STEFFES

is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

I realize that a 30-day retreat is not possible for most people due to life's circumstances. But I do encourage finding that time of silence. The silence is refreshing, and the 30-day retreat was spiritually enriching for me; it gave me an extra boost. So whether you are a priest who has been in ministry for a while or a seminarian discerning his vocation, I would highly encourage doing a 30-day retreat and spending some extended time with the Lord. ■

Mundelein seminarians go over the music for Mass with Father Bob Heinz, pastor of St. Norbert's Parish in Northbrook, Ill.



TEACHING PARISH SUNDAYS KEEP THE BLOOD PUMPING FROM THE 'HEART OF THE DIOCESE'

BY MATTHEW OCKINGA | PT1, DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL L. LEWIS/2T, EL PASO

Any healthy person needs a healthy heart. The same holds true for a diocese. To thrive at its fullest, its heart must be fully functioning, pumping blood in and out at the proper rate. Documents from the Second Vatican Council state that “the seminary is the heart of the diocese.”

Father John Kartje, rector/president of Mundelein Seminary, appreciates that excerpt from Vatican II's writings, which lends itself as a natural rallying cry for seminarians. But he wonders: What does that phrase mean?

Mundelein's seminarians are providing a

partial response to that question via the new Teaching Parish Sunday program that began in September. Still in its early phases, the program sends groups of four to seven seminarians led by a transitional deacon to local parishes in the Chicago area. This initiative is meant to be more

than a spiritual pit stop; it aspires to be a genuine communal relationship between seminarians and parishes, for if the seminary is truly the heart of the diocese, it must perform a heart's purpose.

“What I always like to say is, if you see a heart by itself, someone's in a lot of trouble,” Kartje said. “A heart is not the stopping ground. If all it does is pump out, eventually it's empty. If all it does is take in, eventually it explodes. What happens in the heart? Well, it gives oxygen, life, but we need to draw on that from the folks in the diocese.”

Now all of Mundelein's seminarians have become that fresh blood, providing

additional oxygen to communities that will resemble their final pastoral destination: a diocesan parish.

Patricia Klein, an associate dean of formation at Mundelein Seminary, serves as a site representative for the Teaching Parish Sunday program. She helped develop the program with Father Brian Welter, vice rector for formation; Sister Judith Anne Haase, another associate dean of formation; and Linda Couri, director of the Institute for Lay Formation.

Speaking about the program's goal, Klein echoed Kartje's sentiments about the words of Vatican II.

"The main goal is to create living relationships between the seminary and the parishes of the archdiocese," Klein said. "So what does that mean? Blood comes in from the parishes into the seminary through the seminarians. They come from a parish, and then they're formed here and then the blood goes out again to the parishes."

More than 25 parishes have become teaching parishes and are now committed to helping seminarians prepare for ordained ministry. But just like in any ambitious endeavor, the program's core team had to flesh out the details before incorporating the seminarians.

Haase, Klein and Couri began this task in early summer. Last academic year, certain classes made simple visits to parishes in April. This was going to be different. The core team partially modeled Teaching Parish Sunday off a similar program by the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minn.

"It's definitely good to get experience doing things in parishes," Kartje said. "But we're trying to move a little bit beyond seminarians simply showing up at a parish to be part of a ready-made program there. It's really trying to get guys a little more direct experience in seeing what leadership looks like."

Before informing the student body, the program staff selected participating parishes in the greater Chicago area, a task completed by Father Marty Barnum, who

is in charge of the semester-long parish internship program for second-year theology students. In addition to Welter, Haase and Klein, other site reps were faculty members Father Brendan Lupton, Father Ed Pelrine and Father Dennis Spies.

Next, the pastors of participating churches formed parishioner committees. The Mundelein team met with them in August to describe the program's objectives. After several meetings, the team decided that each Sunday visit would last an average of four hours and would contain a quartet of components: Mass, ministry, reflective dialogue and fellowship. The groups would visit the parishes five times in the fall semester and engage in a wide form of ministries, including baptism preparation classes and leading Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults catechesis. Afterward, reflective dialogue takes place with the parishioners about the seminarians' experience and insights.

Welter said that an ancillary benefit of the Teaching Parish Sunday program is that it gives a human face — or several — to Mundelein Seminary for local Catholics. Rather than parishioners seeing the seminary as a remote, isolated fortress, they are able to see living, breathing seminarians discerning their priestly call.

Jerry Wester, who has attended St. Emily's Catholic Church in Mount Prospect, Ill., for 26 years, serves on the parishioner committee there. While acknowledging that the program is still new, he said St. Emily's parishioners appreciate seeing the potential future priests in their church.

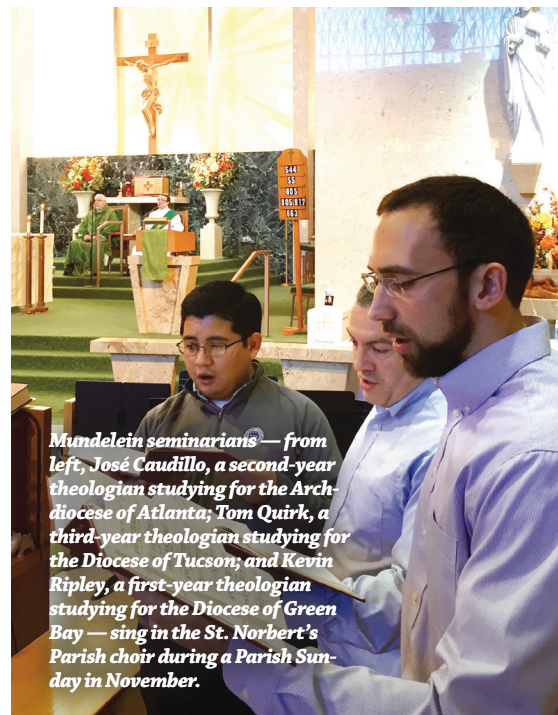
"I think it's always good for the parishioners to be aware of the seminary," he said. "When I went up there to the meeting, it's the first time I'd been to Mundelein and it's been there forever. I think it's kind of inspirational from the parish's point of view to see that there are young men who are devoting their lives to serving our Lord in this capacity."

Haase echoed Wester's early assessment of the program.

"The parishioners are absolutely thrilled to have seminarians in the parish," she



Deacon Wayne Stock, a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., greets parishioners outside of St. Norbert's Parish after a morning Mass.



Mundelein seminarians — from left, José Caudillo, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Tom Quirk, a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Tucson; and Kevin Ripley, a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Green Bay — sing in the St. Norbert's Parish choir during a Parish Sunday in November.

said. "Most of the people may have only seen a poster of seminarians in the lobby, so many have never met a seminarian. They don't know what that means and they don't know why you're doing it. It's such an education for them to hear vocations stories; it's just so enlightening for them."

Kartje explained that the point men for each group of seminarians are the transitional deacons who lead them. For the program to work effectively, they must shepherd their small flock of fellow seminarians



Father Bob Heinz converses with Mundelein seminarians at St. Norbert's Parish after Mass on a Parish Sunday in November.

into the larger flock of the parish. The seminarian small groups were chosen with an intentional mix of ages, classes, hometowns and ethnicity.

A product of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., Deacon Mark Bernhard has enjoyed bringing fellow seminarians out to his assigned parish, St. Rafael Church in Naperville. Bernhard touted the program's multilayered benefits, saying that it not only helps his personal priestly formation and that of his group, but inspires the parishioners and potentially inspires vocations to the priesthood.

"When I was growing up, I didn't come across a seminarian ever," Bernhard said. "Here, we're throwing seminarians into parishes where they may never have had a seminarian before. Now, they may have eight. It's a lot different than just seeing one guy."

Deacon Tom Orlando, who is studying for the Diocese of Stockton, Calif., is assigned to St. Joseph's Church in neighboring Libertyville, where ample ministerial opportunities exist. He, too, has seen the parishioner's gratitude for the seminarians' presence.

"They've really appreciated the ministries we have visited there," Orlando said. "They're really praying for us and are so excited that we're there."

Haase sees the reflective dialogue component of the ministry as a way for seminarians to gain further appreciation for

both the parish life and the parishioners themselves.

"Seminarians are able to do some sort of ministry and then reflect on it," she said. "That could be, 'I was so moved when this mother brought in six little kids and she was so patient with them. To think that here they were at the 8:00 Mass, and what time they had to get up, and what faith that must have shown.' Or, 'An older person came up to me and put \$20 in my hand.' It's ministering, meeting with the people and then reflecting on what occurred."

Teaching Parish Sunday is a pilot program that will be evaluated. The seminarians, on the other hand, are not being evaluated during their Teaching Parish Sunday visits.

Since seminarians live in an environment full of necessary scrutiny and assessment, Welter wanted to allow them to minister without being graded.

"Sometimes in the seminary, there is this feeling that everything is evaluative," Welter said. "It's a school, you're being graded on things, there's reports being written on you. We want the parish experience for them to be natural and organic and just a regular human interchange of ideas, encouragements and critiques or challenges. So there's more of a freedom there."

Welter acknowledged that while the program will change and even expand, it is a new staple of Mundelein's formation process. If the seminary is the heart of the diocese then the seminarian blood needs to be pumping in and out of parishes, helping add additional vitality to the faithful both now and after ordination. Bernhard agreed.

"I think the biggest benefit for the parishioners is just to see the livelihood of the Church," he said. "Seeing young guys studying to be priests gives hope, because, what you see on the news about the Church can be discouraging at times. So when you have nine young guys visiting who are seven months to four years away from being a priest, it brings a lot of hope and encouragement and lifts up their hearts." ■



MATTHEW OCKINGA is a first-year pre-theologian studying for the Diocese of Yakima.



Mike Berg, a Saint Norbert's parishioner (left), talks with Kevin Ripley, a Mundelein seminarian, during a Parish Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Saint Norbert's Parish in November.

Ministers take part in the Anaphora part of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana liturgy Nov. 9 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.



BY MICHAEL L. LEWIS | 2T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO

The Chicago Cubs winning the World Series wasn't the only event this fall that Mundelein Seminary had never before witnessed. On Nov. 9, the seminary community gathered in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the campus' first-ever Holy Qurbana, the Eucharistic liturgy of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.

The Syro-Malabar Church, with more than 4.6 million believers, is the second largest of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with Rome. Originating with the evangelical activity of St. Thomas the Apostle in South India in 52 AD, the church gets its name from the Syriac liturgical and spiritual patrimony that developed on the Malabar Coast, in what is today Kerala, India.

Bringing the Qurbana to Mundelein was the brainchild of Joby Joseph, a second-year pre-theologian studying for the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, which ministers to Syro-Malabar

Catholics across the United States.

"I had a strong desire to share the beauty and richness of my liturgical tradition with my seminary community," Joseph said. "The word 'Qurbana' literally means 'offering.' It is the offering of Christ, but also our offering to Him and each other. I was overwhelmed to experience the community's offering of love shown through their openness, active participation and reverence during *our* Holy Qurbana."

Father Vinod Madathiparambil, the director of the Syro-Malabar diocese's office for formation and vocations, was the celebrant. He was assisted by Father Thomas

A. Baima, Mundelein's vice rector for academic affairs, and Father José Cadena, a recently ordained S.T.L. student from the Diocese of Laredo, Texas.

"The most important aspect in our liturgy is the aspect of mystery," Madathiparambil said. "That aspect is really brought out in Eastern liturgies, especially in the Syro-Malabar liturgy. Everything from the arrangement of the church, to the signs and symbols used, is a reflection of that."

Madathiparambil explained how the area where the congregation sits in the church is symbolic of the earth; the sanctuary is representative of the earthly Jerusalem, and the high altar is the symbol of heaven.

"A beautiful moment in the liturgy is when we bring down the book of Gospels from the high altar to the table of the Word in the sanctuary, called the bema," Madathiparambil said. "The celebrant covers his face with the Gospel and becomes Christ, because the proclamation of the Gospel is Jesus' own words. The entire action symbolizes the Incarnation, for the Word is coming down from heaven to the earthly Jerusalem."

A special choir of seminarians led the community in the liturgy's music, for the entire Qurbana is sung from start to finish. Though the liturgy was largely in English, several of the hymns were sung in Syriac Aramaic.

Afterward, Madathiparambil reflected on the impact Mundelein's celebration of the Holy Qurbana would have on both the seminary and the Syro-Malabar diocese, which was founded barely a decade ago.

"Our existence as a diocese is due in large part to the generosity and support of the Latin Rite archdiocese of Chicago," he said. "One way we can give back is in the beauty of the liturgy. It's a privileged moment, as well as a moment of validation, to be here celebrating with our brothers and sisters. Though we are a small group, here we feel like we are equals and are appreciated." ■



MICHAEL L. LEWIS

is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of El Paso.

JUSTICE, MERCY, AND LOVE

BY JUSTIN T. AGBIR

O Wisdom! Let your light illumine
The darkness created by sin.
Singing in the wilderness
The pilgrim questions You.
The desert horizon keeps increasing.

Oh Pentecost!
Why is humankind still confused;
Going through the Babel experience?
After your great day!
Is the problem not yet fixed?

Many languages of confusion,
Languages abound!
Your people refusing to speak,
The one language of love.
What is happening?

Wisdom, Voice, and Word,
Clean the ears for understanding.
Let your presence be acknowledged.
Your breath still needed for your language.

The pilgrim needs tears to cleanse the eyes,
For a better view, as his due.
Yet You open your arms,
And mix his tears with smiles!
What is going on here?

Perfection! Perfection! Perfection!
We are not there yet!
No one, no one, no one!
Only He; He alone.
Yes only He, but no one else!

The one who broke the relationship,
The same one compares it to a glass.
“It has become pieces that cannot be fixed”
He whose precious gift and heart is broken
Sees the possibility of something new!

Peace! Peace! Peace is my desire.
Peace is all I want, not piece, not pieces.
Listen to me and pick the words correctly,
Do not misinterpret what I mean.
No more, no more, please understand we are family.

Justin Agbir is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Tuscon.

THE MAN, THE KING AND THE RING

BY SISTER JESS LAMBERT, FE

Written on retreat, August 2016

Some letters flow to make the words
To bring to dawn the tale
Illustrious war not won with swords
But from the lowly hail

The Story starts when One inher'ts
The object so abhorred
It ruined men yet lives to mer't
Its power so adored

The carrier of burden grand
Three lowly sidekicks picked
Around his neck he fixed the band
The ring for whom time ticked

Though riders in the dark brought fear
Yet Grace would not aband'n
A Strider rose, in shadows mere
To fight and so defend them

At river's source a fellowship
Swore fealty 'til days done
Immortal lover gave the light
Of love to might the Son

Yet soon the Devil struck with might
The Shepherd fell to hell
The band was scattered in the fight
The traitor dead as well

The low One fell but rose again
To trek the road with Vice
A two-faced guide; his ways defend
Since they to hell suffice

Through simple acts of bread and brawn
And friendship fall'n but true
Th'disciple helped him carry on
Through strife his love shined through

In pairs went out the broken band
Of those self-promised loyal
To give the Christ the upper hand
By making evil toil
The King elect himself the head
Of man and beast and tree
All fight, e'en those with debts, long dead
Then King's word set them free

A stab of pain, another fall
The suff'ring servant slipped
A Simon carr'd the low One tall
Though thrice near death He dipped

With Simon, then, He carried on
The ring to Mount of Doom
One final strike of Vice: He bled
But only Death met ruin

At three days' dawn, on eagle's wing
The Shepherd rose again
The low One raised, now choirs sing
To Him esteemed by men

The Shepherd parts for rivers' end
The Son is honored King
The Virgin Bride to Him ascends
And wears her wedding ring

Sister Jess Lambert, FE, is a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago studying at Mundelein Seminary for an M.A. in Pastoral Studies.

TINIEST BREAD

BY RYAN ADORJAN

What is it I am seeing
when I look there, at you
hidden so perfectly in tiniest bread?

The better question is not what, but whom.
At whom do I gaze when I gaze there, at you,
disguised so cleverly in tiniest bread?

You call me little,
but you, O King, are littler.
You spurned divine equality, without spurning a womb.
Yet you, O King, are littler.

I call you 'Master' and 'Lord' and indeed you are.
You call me friend.
You are Mighty God and Prince of Peace.
You call me friend.

Who am I that you care for me?
Or why do you keep me in mind?

"I have known you and blessed you
since the day I created you.
Fear not little lamb."

"Come, my beloved," you say unto me,
"let us go forth into the fields.
Arise my fair one and come away,
for I have made all darkness cease.

"Come away with me, O fair one,
for today we catch the foxes.

"Let us go, beloved,
to the dwelling of light
and meet the Father of the rain."

Now I know, O lover, who it is I am seeing
when I look there, at you
hidden so perfectly in tiniest bread.

In half-light, as at evening;
in sadness that isn't sad, and in joy that isn't joy
he brings me to the lilies.

And he breathes day into this meadow
and makes flee the shadows
and now I know who this:

The King, the Lord, the Lover, the Friend
the Fulfillment and Sustenance

Out of his sighs, too deep for words,
come whispers of love.

He is here, at the center of the cosmos,
disguised so cleverly in tiniest bread.

Ryan Adorjan is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Joliet.





1. “Wait with Me” (black charcoal on white paper) by Carlos Orozco, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

2. Untitled (photograph) by Declan McNicholas, a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Gary.

3. “Ecstasy of St. Teresa” (colored pencil on white, black paper) by Jay Suero, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

4. Untitled (photograph) by Carlos Orozco, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

5. “Crucified Cosmos” (digital) by Hank Lyon, a first-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

An artwork in the Spring 2016 issue of The Bridge was misattributed. Image 6 on Page 23, “The Seraphim Project,” was created by Jay Suero, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago. We regret the error.

CHAMPIONS OF EVERY TOURNAMENT

A UNIQUELY SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN SPORTS



BY HAYDEN CHARLES | 1T, DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Each month, Pope Francis publishes an intention that he asks the universal Church to pray for. It may sound strange, but in August 2016, he invited Catholics to pray “that sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.”

Although sports can be reduced to mere games that have no real importance in and of themselves, they can also be sources of authentic community and virtue, as the Holy Father pointed out in

asking us to pray that sports throughout the world may serve a greater purpose. Seminarians throughout the country are blessed with the opportunity to experience this through various tournaments

hosted by different seminaries over the course of the year. Many seminarians from Mundelein get to participate in these tournaments and even host a number of other seminaries in the annual basketball tournament that takes place at Mundelein each winter.

In the 2015–2016 academic year, Mundelein seminarians took part in the annual soccer and volleyball tournaments hosted by Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo.; the golf tournament hosted by The Athenaeum of Ohio—Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati; and Mundelein Seminary's own O'Malley Invitational basketball tournament that takes place each winter. And for the first time in memory, Mundelein com-

A collection of the trophies won by Mundelein teams last year surrounds the coat of arms of the seminary's namesake, Cardinal George Mundelein, on the basketball court in the Mundelein Gymnasium.

pleted a clean sweep last year, taking home the championship trophy in each tournament. As far as anyone at Mundelein knows, this is the first time that one seminary has enjoyed such success.

In addition to the friendly competition, each tournament provided an opportunity for seminarians from all over the country to come together and share fellowship with others who are seeking to serve Jesus Christ and his Church.

"The various sports tournaments provide us with the opportunity to experience the universal Church," said Father John Kartje, Mundelein

Seminary's rector/president. "Throughout the weekends of soccer, volleyball and basketball games, seminarians get to compete against one another, meet seminarians who share the struggles and joys of discernment and formation and, most importantly, to pray with one another in a beautiful expression of the universality of the Church."

Sports can not only be a physical training ground, but a place where seminarians can learn virtue. The sportsmanship and respect for others in action are the truly impressive features of all of the seminary tournaments. Though it can be easy for someone to let his emotions get the best of him during the games, being surrounded by other seminarians

who challenge each other to live virtuous lives helps each seminarian athlete grow as a man preparing for the priesthood in the midst of the competitive environment.

Kartje said that Mundelein's unprecedented success created an exciting atmosphere at the seminary. But he also noted how Scripture mentions sport, a tradition within the Church that goes all the way back to St. Paul, who used athletic metaphors to describe the Christian life in several of his letters.

"In his first letter to the Corinthians, he famously says, 'Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it' (1 Cor 9:24)," Kartje said. "This attitude of striving for greatness, working diligently with a clear purpose in mind, is one that applies not only to athletics, but more importantly to the Christian faith and way of life. Athletics is a great way to learn the virtue of hard work and cooperation with others in pursuit of a common goal. The team spirit that each member is a part of provides a brotherhood that transcends the game but at the same time makes athletic success possible. This is certainly true for the various Mundelein teams who achieved so much last year."

Kartje was also quick to point out that these events involved a diverse group of different members of the Mundelein community, who each represented the seminary well. "Playing in all of these tournaments and hosting the annual basketball tournament really brought out the best in people," he said. "It wasn't the exact same group of seminarians participating in these tournaments; it truly took a variety of guys coming together to bring home each of the trophies. The sports tournaments showcased the excellence that a seminarian at Mundelein works for, each in his own unique way, after the example of St. Paul and his famous sports analogies."

Garett Burns, a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., played for Mundelein's champi-

“Of course, it is always more fun to win, but those championships meant so much more,” seminarian Garett Burns said. “They were a real source of pride for the entire community, and they became something to rally around.”

onship soccer, volleyball and basketball teams last year. He reinforced the far-reaching impact of competing with other seminarians.

"Of course, it is always more fun to win, but those championships meant so much more," he said. "They were a real source of pride for the entire community, and they became something to rally around. It felt like a tangible expression of the numerous victories Mundelein has in all areas of formation. When we celebrated a sports win, we were really celebrating everything about Mundelein."

The achievements of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in all of the sports tournaments last year are a concrete expression of the greatness that each student seeks, and for which each student is willing to sacrifice. We apply our desire for greatness not only on the playing field, but also in the classroom and in the chapel each and every day. Our hope is that our cooperation with God's grace will bear fruit in our ministry as good and holy priests one day. The true rewards we seek are not trophies won from seminary sports tournaments, but souls won for Jesus Christ and his Church. ■



HAYDEN CHARLES
is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Wichita.

LOUIS CUNNINGHAM/
ST. SEATTLE



WE ARE MUNDELEIN. WE FORM PARISH PRIESTS.

BY RYAN K. BUTTS | VICE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

We started using the two clever taglines above several months ago as a way to clarify our mission and message.

'WE'

The “we” in those statements are not just the people here on campus regularly. It is anyone who is impacted by the mission.

First and foremost, our seminarians are Mundelein. It’s the reason that they are here. In a crazy world where nearly everything that they see and hear tells them to focus on themselves, they are focusing on Christ. They are listening to his call. And they are being challenged every day to keep that focus.

Our faculty and staff are Mundelein. We do the work necessary on campus to make Mundelein the best place for our seminarians to learn what it means to be a parish priest. Whether it be the moral theology professor, the accounts receivable manager, the custodian, the grounds crew, the kitchen staff or any other department, we all take pride in our part of the mission. We need our future parish priests to encourage and challenge us to keep our focus on Christ.

But it is not just for those of us on campus. **Our donors, volunteers, board members and parishioners who are served by Mundelein alumni priests (or who just want good priests in the world), you are Mundelein as well.** You are an important part of this mission.

Without you, we would be like a factory who produces widgets and puts them in a warehouse to sit on the shelf. Until that widget impacts a customer, it is just a product. Our “products” are these courageous men of faith who are prepared to be of service to our communities.

Our alumni priests are Mundelein. You are the reason that we all come together. You are the center of our communities, the connectors of our many tribes. It is a job that is counter-cultural. Our society is obsessed with fame. You can be famous for being famous. But our priests lead a life that means most of the time you put your head down, lean in and do the hard work necessary to guide us and support us. You challenge us to reach out to others. You encourage us to learn more about our faith and traditions. You are there when we need you.

The “we” are all of us, together in Christ. We are Mundelein.

'PARISH'

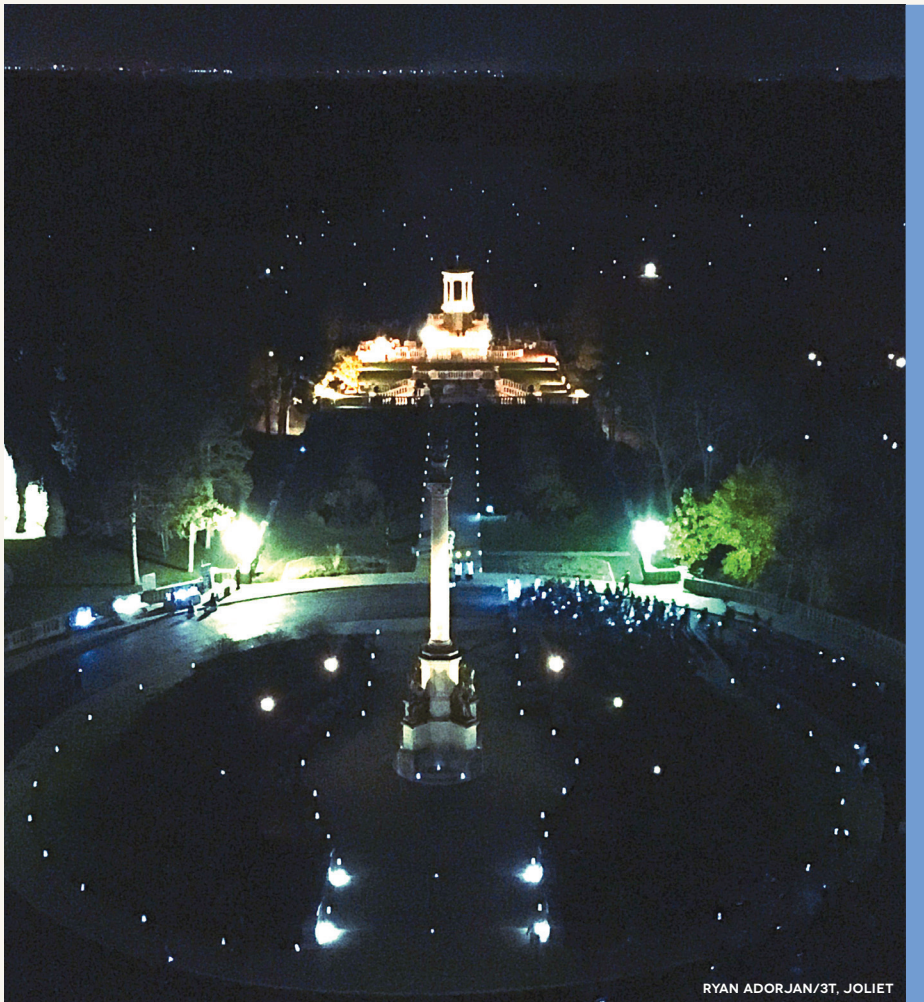
There is a distinction in adding “parish” as an important part of this tagline. We form parish priests. Although we have deep respect and admiration for our missionary and order priests, that is not the core of our mission at Mundelein. We are forming those men who will stand at the

intersection of our local communities. They will frequent our businesses, attend our kids’ games, baptize our children, bury our parents. “Locally sourced” is applicable to parish priesthood. Your parish priest is a man committed to that region. Your local parish is a place where you can make new connections, help your neighbors, support your school and be together in Christ. It really should be a unique place, where we discover our humanity through being brought closer to God. Our parish priest should be at the center of this, bringing us all together to focus as one body on Jesus.

The gifts you bring to the mission of Mundelein inspire us all. Your support of Mundelein Seminary sends ripples throughout time and space. Through the formation of our future parish priests, we will make an immediate impact across the world back in the parishes where they will be assigned by their bishops. But they will also make an impact for a long time. Most will continue to work in parishes for three more generations. In spending time with these men and my colleagues who are responsible for their formation, it is a hopeful future. Thank you for joining us in this important mission.

Together in Christ, we are Mundelein. We form parish priests. ■

LIGHT THE NIGHT



RYAN ADORJAN/3T, JOLIET

Luminaries float on Saint Mary's Lake and on the walkways around the DIME Statue at the center of the Mundelein Seminary campus as a eucharistic procession makes its way to a special altar set up by the lake. More than 600 young people from parishes throughout the Chicagoland area came to campus Nov. 5 for the first-ever "Light the Night" event, planned and hosted by Mundelein seminarians. The evening featured eucharistic adoration inside the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception and outdoors on the Belvedere, vocations testimonies, confession and Mass near the lake presided by Archbishop Blase Cupich.



CHUCK WARREN/2T, ROCKFORD

"Light the Night" participants adore the exposed Eucharist in the cupola by the lake before the outdoor Mass.



CHUCK WARREN/2T, ROCKFORD

Archbishop Blase Cupich prays at the start of the Mass outdoors by the lake.

"Light the Night" participants light candles and place them in front of the exposed Eucharist during the indoor adoration portion of the evening.



CHUCK WARREN/2T, ROCKFORD



DR. LORRAINE OLLEY EUSTICE, DIRECTOR, FEEHAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BY MICHAEL L. LEWIS | 2T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO

Dr. Lorraine Olley Eustice, the director of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake's Feehan Memorial Library and McEssy Theological Resource Center, died Nov. 19 after a years-long battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 63.

With her background in library preservation, Olley Eustice had worked at libraries at Northwestern University, Indiana University, New York University and Dartmouth College before coming to Mundelein in 2007. With master's degrees in both divinity and library science from the University of Chicago, she brought with her a unique blend of theological and professional knowledge that helped in curating Mundelein's bibliographic collection, as well as pointing USML students in the right direction — and not just in their research.

"I always appreciated that Lorraine cared deeply about helping our seminarians be happy, holy and effective parish priests, not simply better students," said Father John Kartje, rector/president of the university and Mundelein Seminary. "Whenever I spoke with students about her, it was clearly evident how much they saw her as a mentor and a kind guide on their journey to the priesthood."

Olley Eustice was also active in professional organizations, serving as the chair of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools' library council, as executive director of the American Library Association's Library Administration and Management Association and as a preservation expert within the library community.

"With her tremendous academic and professional experience, she came to us, really, at the top of the profession," said Father Thomas Baima, vice rector for academic affairs. "We were extremely grateful to have her here."

While she served on the university faculty, she was also a candidate for a doctorate in ministry degree at USML, though she was unable to complete her studies due to her advancing illness. Nonetheless, she was honored at the University Convocation in May with an honorary degree — doctor of letters (Litt.D.) *honoris causa* — for her commitment to exploring "the phenomenon of religion through disciplined study and inquiry, ... the preservation and dissemination of knowledge, especially through the written word," and for training "a new generation of librarians in the principles and practice of preservation management."

Baima recalled Olley Eustice's capacity for adapting to change, noting that she had introduced technology improvements during her tenure at the library to bring it into the 21st century.

"I remember, as part of the hiring process, she was expected to deliver a public lecture in front of a small group of faculty members and students, like all new faculty members under consideration here,"

Baima said. "Somehow, the communication process went awry, and no one told her about it; the morning of the lecture, she found out that she was to deliver it that afternoon. I'll always remember that, after her initial shock, she simply said, 'Well, can I borrow somebody's computer?' In a couple of hours, she put together a lecture that was coherent, interesting and nothing that seemed impromptu. That told me a number of things about her that proved to be true in all the years she worked here: She was a professional. She worked well under pressure. She wasn't flappable. And she knew how to deliver."

Kartje similarly praised Olley Eustice's competence and efficiency.

"I had great respect for her considerable skills and professionalism at the helm of Feehan," Kartje said. "Barely a month before her death, she was adamant about meeting with me to discuss budgeting issues concerning the acquisition of new library materials. There is scarcely a volume on our shelves (or a byte in our databases) that did not merit the focus of her attention."

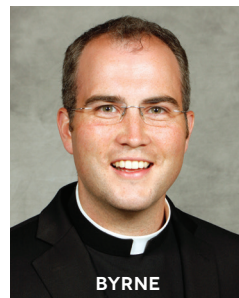
Following a funeral Mass at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Nov. 26, Olley Eustice was laid to rest in the campus cemetery, the first non-religious lay faculty member to be buried there. ■

COMPILED BY MICHAEL L. LEWIS | 2T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO



DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY & ACOLYTE INSTALLATION

Twenty-two men, mostly from the first-year theology class, declared their candidacy for holy orders on Sept. 2 at the Mass of the Holy Spirit presided by Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago. “I stand in admiration at your presence here in this place because it takes great courage to hear and follow the call of Jesus Christ,” he told the candidates during his homily. On Oct. 26, 39 men from the second-year theology class were installed as instituted acolytes during a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. David Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, and concelebrated by the Most Rev. Michael Jackels, archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa. The upcoming installation of lectors on Feb. 1 will round out the year’s celebrations of seminarians’ progression towards ordination.



BYRNE



PINTADO



WELTER



ZAMORA

FACULTY UPDATES

In addition to Father Dennis Spies, the new director of the Pre-Theology program (profiled on page 10), Mundelein Seminary welcomed other new members to its permanent faculty this semester: Father Thomas Byrne, associate dean of formation and director of Chicago seminarians; Dr. Patricia Pintado-Murphy, assistant professor of philosophy; and Father Bradley Zamora, director of liturgy and an instructor in the Department of Liturgy and Music. Additionally, Father Brian Welter, previously the dean of formation, was named the new vice rector for formation.



25TH ANNUAL RECTOR’S CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

After a day of trying to beat seminarians’ and each other’s scores on the links at Pine Meadow Golf Course, then enjoying an al fresco reception on the Mundelein campus grounds, guests of the 25th annual Rector’s Classic Golf Outing on Sept. 22 honored Lawrence P. and Sheila Marshall with the 2016 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin “In Service of One Another” Catholic Humanitarian Award. The Marshalls were recognized for their years of generous support of both the seminary and the Church. The next Rector’s Classic is planned for Sept. 17, 2017.



Linda Cerabona, Mundelein’s director of music, directs the Brass Ensemble during the Mass presided by Cardinal Gerhard Müller on Oct. 28.

Upcoming Events

JAN. 9 Spring Semester begins

JAN. 13–MARCH 16 Holy Land Pilgrimage

JAN. 20–22 Exploring Priesthood Weekend

FEB. 1 Installation of Lectors

FEB. 11 Pastoral Internship begins

FEB. 13–17 Mid-Semester Break

MARCH 31–APRIL 2 Exploring Priesthood Weekend

MARCH 29 Mundelein Lecture Series: Msgr. Paul McPartlan, Paluch Chair (in Chicago)

APRIL 7–17 Easter Break

APRIL 20 Celebration of Mundelein: An Evening of Tribute at the Sheraton Grand Chicago (downtown Chicago)

MAY 5 Spring Semester ends

MAY 6 University Convocation at the Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium (USML campus)

MAY 7 May Crowning

MAY 13 Diaconate Ordinations (Archdiocese of Chicago) at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception (USML campus)

MAY 20 Priesthood Ordinations (Archdiocese of Chicago) at Holy Name Cathedral (downtown Chicago)

JUNE 12–JULY 21 Summer Term

JULY 6 Alumni Golf Outing

For updates and more information about upcoming events, visit www.usml.edu/events



■ DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Mundelein Seminary's Hispanic Ministry and the Spanish Choir sponsored a *Día de los Muertos* celebration Nov. 2, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, which began with a blessing of an altar of remembrance at the entrance to the Theology Recreation Hall. A procession to the campus cemetery followed — led by seminarians in traditional costumes — and the event concluded with the blessing of graves at the cemetery.



■ HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED

In addition to the honorary degree awarded to Lorraine Olley Eustice (see page 28), Father Jim Presta was similarly honored at the University Convocation on May 7. Presta, who in the spring was named the new pastor of St. Emily's Parish in Mount Prospect, Ill., had served the Archdiocese of Chicago in seminary formation for 20 years, most recently as vice rector of administration and director of pre-theology at Mundelein. Presta was conferred the doctor of divinity (D.D.) degree *honoris causa* and Olley Eustice the doctor of letters (Litt.D.) degree *honoris causa*.



MUSIC ROOM RENOVATED

Parishioners and members of the pastoral staff of Chicago’s Queen of All Saints Basilica joined seminarians and faculty members — past and present — on Nov. 1 for a blessing of the newly renovated Music Room in the Theology Aula classroom building. The room’s renovation over the summer months, which included a new ceiling, lighting, air conditioning, projector, automatic window blinds and audio equipment, was funded through the generosity of the parish. As the largest lecture space on campus, the newly designated Queen of All Saints Basilica Music Room is perhaps the most used classroom on campus as well.



FACULTY MEMBER DEPARTS TO USCCB

Father Michael Fuller, a priest of the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., who served at Mundelein as an associate professor of spiritual theology, was during the summer appointed as the new executive director of the Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. On the faculty at Mundelein since 2002, Fuller taught seminarians as well as students of the university’s other institutes. He also led the annual Study-Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for third-year theologians and was editor of the university’s academic journal, *Chicago Studies*.

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