Where There Is No Vision, We Perish
Our vision is a sacred trust.

When we think about a vision for the Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, it’s vital to recall that we are not a university, college, or a school, like any other. The Athenaeum is a work of God and the focus of our formation and education is dedicated to His work. The Athenaeum exists for one purpose with one vision, not simply for the students, faculty, or staff’s individual success. We did not discover, form, nor create this vision; it was given to us. We inherited it and have been put in charge to make it a living reality. Jesus articulated this vision as it was given to us by His Father to bring about the Reign of God. Our commission articulated by the Lord is to: Prepare disciples to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel!

The Athenaeum, a work of God, was created to help fulfill this sacred commission. We are a center of formation to bring about salvation and make the work of redemption present, tangible, real, and available to all God’s children. Our vision, therefore, is the salvation of God’s children. The Athenaeum is dedicated to the education of disciples, priests, deacons; lay ministers and laity in general; in fact, to all willing to hear the commission of the Lord. We work with persons who are keen to say yes to set out into the world to bring light into darkness, to create life where there is only death and decay, to fashion joy where there is sadness, and model hope where there is despair.

This is no ordinary place and this is no ordinary work. This is a sacred place committed to sacred duties and a Divine desire. It is God’s yearning that His children feel His presence, know His love, and receive His salvation. This is the work of the Lord, the Church and through her sons and daughters this is the work of the Athenaeum. The Athenaeum exists to carry out Jesus’ command to form disciples and send them out prepared and educated; to continue His mission to preach the Gospel; and, to build up the Kingdom of God. We are answering the Lord’s command to make His mission our work. Determined to be faithful to the Lord and His Church, aware that this same commission is given to every baptized Catholic, I invite you to share in this mission and this vision with us.

—from Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh

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On the cover: The Risen Christ statue, a gift from Bernard Downey of Chicago, has been placed in the Athenaeum’s Stations of the Cross Courtyard. Photo by E. L. Hubbard.
When Cincinnati’s first bishop, Most Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, O.P., established the Diocese of Cincinnati in the 1820s, he developed a vision for his new see. He knew he needed and wanted to develop a means to provide priests for the massive diocese which then encompassed most of the Northwest Territory. So, he established a seminary to educate and form local men to serve the local Church.

Some 184 years later, his vision remains steadfast. While Bishop Fenwick named his seminary St. Francis Xavier, it became Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West under the leadership of his successor, Most Rev. John Baptist Purcell. Bishop Purcell, who taught and was rector at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., renamed Cincinnati’s seminary in its honor.

To become the third oldest seminary in the United States, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, today one of three divisions of The Athenaeum of Ohio, has embraced changing visions as the Church has evolved over more than 18 decades.

Today is no different.

The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West explained the changing vision of the institution in the modern-day world:

“Academically, we have fundamental documents that shape our vision. For example, the Program of Priestly Formation for the seminary division; the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States for the Permanent Diaconate Program, and then Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program,” Father Fernandes explained.

“That forms the fundamental core of what our bishops believe future priests, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers need.

“We have been using these documents. But, they are the framework, so to speak, for our vision. Then, within that framework, the Vatican calls for us to be attentive to the times and our times today are marked, in the United States in particular, by immigration — so there is a greater need for emphasis on Hispanic ministry. The signs of the times also seem to be marked by a greater degree of poverty. People have less disposable income. Hence, for example, in the seminary division’s field education, the men have to do apostolic works. They have to go and work with the poor. That also educates them. The same is true in Lay Pastoral Ministry. They, too, have a field education component,” Father Fernandes said.

“Our times are also marked with a sense of a loss of God, a sense of the loss of the sacredness of human life and a growing secularization — even of persecution of the Church at times. Part of the vision is the New Evangelization. Part of it is a re-evangelization of Catholics who have drifted away. Part of it is to use the new methods — new social media, for example — to communicate the Gospel truth to others and to do it with new vigor and ardor, a new strength — to be creative, if you will, as to how we convey the essential truths of the faith in a way that people can understand and address the true needs of the person — not merely material needs, but also the spiritual needs of the person.”

In this edition of The Athenaeum Magazine you will be introduced to the visions of Athenaeum students – a soon-to-be-ordained seminarian, a cancer victim who will not allow a serious affliction to hamper his quest for the diaconate, and two lay ministry students who are grappling to some degree with their visions of how exactly God wants them to serve His Church.

For each of these students, and for the institution where they study and are being formed, a vision is essential for …. Where There Is No Vision, We Perish.
Several years ago, Rev. Mr. Brian Phelps felt he was in no man's land. He was 25, a junior varsity basketball coach and head varsity assistant at Bellevue High School in Northern Kentucky. He was receivers' coach for the football team and head boys track coach.

One would think he was living his dream.

Back when he was a senior at LaSalle High School, one of his teachers, Tom Orth, suggested he would make a good priest. “I said, ‘Thank you, but no thank you. I don’t think that’s for me.’ But, I never really forgot that. I thought there were other things. I really wanted to be a teacher and a coach — especially a coach,” said the Rev. Mr. Phelps who played basketball, football and track and field at LaSalle.

He was a long-term full-time substitute teacher — a history graduate of the University of Cincinnati and on his way to a Master’s Degree in education and a teacher’s certificate. He never finished that dream because another vision took its place.

Today, the Rev. Mr. Phelps is a transitional deacon preparing for ordination to the priesthood in May.

“The best way I can describe that time in my life is that I was enjoying what I was doing but there was something missing. At that point, I could not figure out what it was. It wasn’t until I was 25 or 26 that the idea of the priesthood cemented itself. When I stopped working at Bellevue High School because I was getting fewer teaching hours, I felt as if I had no purpose in life,” he said.

“I started turning back to prayer. I was asking more about what God wants of me. That’s when I remembered my high school teacher telling me I would be a good priest … and the desire to work for the Church was very big at that time in my life,” Rev. Mr. Phelps said.

Rev. Mr. Phelps became more involved at his parish, St. Ann in Groesbeck. He served on the social justice committee there. He had found a job running the shipping department for a West End art gallery but other things were occurring that would solidify his vision.

“I was praying about what God wants me to do; I was talking to my pastor then — Father Tom Denneman. I told my employers I was considering priesthood. They were supportive and I started talking to Vocation Director Father Kyle Schnippel.

After talking with the Rev. Schnippel several times, Rev. Mr. Phelps paid a visit to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West on Welcome Weekend — an annual event where men interested in priesthood are introduced to the seminary and meet seminarians, faculty and seminary administrators.

“That weekend gave me the push to finally say ‘yes’ to God,” Rev. Mr. Phelps said. “When I met the guys in the seminary; when I experienced the seminary itself — the chapel, the whole thing — it relieved some of my apprehension about whether this call was for real and whether priesthood was for me.

“I have a sense of purpose now. I understand now that God has called me to do something. It does not come from my own understanding of what I’m supposed to be doing but, through prayer, this is God’s will for me,” he said. “Along with that is a sense of joy that I have never had before. I enjoyed my work. I enjoyed coaching. But, I did not have the sense of fulfillment I have now. I am at peace with what I want to do, where I’m supposed to be in my life.”

Rev. Mr. Phelps’ parents, Jack and Chris Phelps, along with his two brothers, Matt and Adam, are happy and supportive.

“He has worked for this a very long time. From the very beginning you could see this is where he belongs,” Chris Phelps said. “When he was in his internship at St. Charles Borromeo in Kettering, he enjoyed being there. He enjoyed the things he was doing; he enjoyed being with the people. He really likes the parish atmosphere.”
A Vision for the Seminary Formation Program

The vision and guidelines for the formation of men for the priesthood is given by the American Bishops in the document *Program of Priestly Formation*. This informs the program of formation at the seminary in all its aspects, said the Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice-rector and director of formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

The program is based on the four pillars of formation: human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral.

“Life in the seminary is fundamentally coming to know Christ personally and intimately but in an even more focused sense, ecclesially and sacramentally. There are areas of knowledge and skills in which the seminarian must be proficient,” said Father Brausch. “But the knowledge and skills are directed towards relationships. The Christological-ecclesial relationship becomes the central and essential focus of a priest’s life; and the two cannot be separated. The priest’s relationship with Christ and His Church, meaning the people, is to be the animating principle of his priestly life and ministry.”

The whole of the life lived at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West; the structure of the day – prayer, academics, community life – is directed toward forming the interior freedom of the man such that his exterior actions are authentic and reflective of his relationship with Christ and his call within the Church.

Therefore, the continuing vision of the seminary formation program is to provide the optimal structures, practices and opportunities necessary to encourage the man in formation to grow in the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience and chastity in such a way that he can both shepherd the community of believers and evangelize those who may not believe.

Higher Purpose

Rev. Mr. Phelps’ father said his son has always been dedicated and conscientious no matter what he was doing. Now we are seeing how much he enjoys being out in the parishes; how much he feels this is what he wants to do, and we’re just excited for him.”

Rev. Mr. Phelps’ vision does not culminate at ordination. It is but the beginning. “As I look to the future, the hope is that in ordination I may be faithful to both Jesus Christ by being one of His priests and to the people I am being called to serve. At the same time, I also reflect upon the parable of the merchant who searches for a great pearl and when finding it sells all that he has and buys it (Mt 13: 45-46). The prayerful discernment for God’s call in a person’s life is the same thing. When somebody finds that calling from God, the reaction is like the merchant. There can be no hindrances in giving yourself totally to that call. This is not for your own glorification, but to show others that God is still active today and calling people to a greater relationship with Him through Jesus.”

Rev. Mr. Brian Phelps

Photo by Christian Cone-Lombarte.
On a sunny afternoon in June, 2009, Hans Schade followed his lawnmower around the yard of his home in Butler County’s Fairfield Township. It was not long after he had battled back from major kidney surgery.

Mowing the grass pleases Mr. Schade, 51, because it provides his mind with some time to roam, some time to pray and meditate. “To me it’s a very relaxing activity. And, that day I had a conversation with God,” said Mr. Schade, a German citizen who came to the states from Canada armed with a doctorate in metallurgical engineering. Since 1990 he has worked for Armco Steel, since renamed AK Steel, in Middletown.

“I remember that day very clearly because in my mind I heard this comment over and over again: ‘It is time.’ I actually stopped the lawnmower, ran inside the house, saw Dory (his wife) and said, ‘I’m doing this!’ I told her I’d been having an argument with God for the last half hour about why I don’t have time for the diaconate and He’s telling me, ‘It is time.’

God’s call to Mr. Schade came at a time when he had little idea what his future held — a time when a serious disease had not been diagnosed. But, Mr. Schade is not one to shirk a call from on high. Despite cancer, he has embraced it. “I have duty driven ethics. I am German and part of our philosophy is that if you say you’re going to do something, you do it. I have never had a conversation about this where God says, ‘Take a break.’”

When he rushed in from the yard, “Dory told me right away she had seen something in me about a year before.” Shortly thereafter, Mr. Schade called the Rev. Terry Smith, then pastor of his parish, Saint Maximilian Kolbe in Liberty Township. He sought advice and direction. He consulted with Barry Mersmann who oversees the deacon program for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and with Dr. Susan McGurgan, director of the Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program. He decided to earn a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministry.

Now fast-forward to another significant date in Mr. Schade’s life — December 7, 2012 when he was fast approaching the completion of the Master’s Degree he received in October, 2013, but that achievement was not on his mind. “I was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer,” he said. “I had no symptoms. I had a follow-up on the kidney issue and they told me, ‘the kidney is looking great; but there is something in the liver.’”

That diagnosis led to an MRI, which led to a biopsy, which confirmed liver cancer. That led to a colonoscopy where the primary tumor was discovered. It had metastasized to the liver. “Stage IV cancer is pretty tough news to take,” Mr. Schade said. “It means the cancer has crept through your body and it very often signals the end.”

“It knocked us for a loop,” said Dory Schade. “I cried for a while. It was a Friday. We were sick and shell-shocked the whole weekend.”

Ten rounds of aggressive chemotherapy followed. It successfully knocked down the cancer. Nine tumors were then removed from the liver. The doctors re-sectioned the colon. “The key question now is what is going to happen because the cancer is still in my body. They found markers are still present in the lymph nodes.”

Today, Mr. Schade is undergoing another series of chemotherapy sessions. “They wipe out every ounce of energy I have,” he said. It takes an entire weekend to recover. By Monday I’m back at work at 80 to 85 percent. On Tuesdays I am back to normal.”

Has Mr. Schade quit the diaconate, put it on the back burner until the cross of cancer is lifted? No. It did not even cross his mind to give up what God had called him to do. His wife and children — daughters Stephanie and Cassandra and son, Christopher have supported his vision. “So, now, it’s a weekend of chemotherapy followed by a weekend of diacurate study,” he said.

What drives this man of faith?

“The answer to that,” said Mr. Schade, “is a part of our journey to be with God in suffering and not wait. Christ did not have the luxury of waiting before He was crucified. I feel fortunate to live in a time where medical science can get me to the point where I can continue in my formation, essentially without missing a beat.”

Mr. Schade said he has another driving force to become a deacon: “I have two years to go before ordination. I came to realize that the year of my ordination will be the landmark 75th anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian. There is some irony in the fact a native German becomes a deacon in a parish named after a martyr who died in a concentration camp. To me, that symbolizes the whole idea of the Communion of Saints — the Church past, the Church present, the Church future.”

Father Terry Smith, now associate pastor at Good Shepherd Parish in Montgomery, mentored Mr. Schade in his degree program and has known him since his years as pastor at St. Maximilian. “From the time I have known Hans and Dory,” Father Smith said, “I found them to be grounded people — grounded in their faith. Hans being so steadfast in pursuit of the diaconate during the cancer comes from the fact he is grounded in faith … and God is acting in his life… Who of us really isn’t called to persevere in what we believe is the right thing?”

The current pastor at St. Maximilian, the Rev. Geoff Drew, said, “Hans and Dory have an amazing trust in the Lord and Hans’ medical episodes seem to only strengthen that trust.”

Hans sums up his feelings succinctly: “Yes, it’s tough dealing with Stage IV cancer. But how much more difficult would it be to deal with Stage IV cancer if I did not have the prayers of the people at the Athenaeum and my community of fellow students who support Dory and me in this quest.”

The late Patrick McKenna, a friend and fellow parishioner of Mr. Schade’s, provided him with parting words he thinks about often: “Before he died (of cancer) he told me: ‘From a human standpoint, I’m in a tough spot; but from a spiritual standpoint, I’m in a great spot. I’m at peace with God. I’m going to fight this as much as I can, but the rest is not up to me. And when all of this ends, I’m going to be in a much better place anyway.’”

Persevering Through Illness to Serve God

The Athenaeum Magazine
Finding God’s Vision in Life

Often, when people begin studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio, they are praying their experiences help them discern God’s plan for their future.

While just about all students come to the Athenaeum with a desire to broaden their knowledge of the faith, for many the vision stops there. But often, as they progress through the program, a purpose and vision arise. This is particularly true of new students in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP).

Ken Wuebker, chief financial officer at Minster Bank, in Minster Ohio, has a vision. He thinks God may be calling him to become a deacon. He is taking four years to complete his Certificate in Lay Ministry. With a busy job and family life he has time constraints forcing him to take courses at a slower pace.

Mary Louise Carlisle, of West Liberty, Ohio takes classes, as does Mr. Wuebker, at the LPMP’s satellite facility at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in McCartyville. “My vision is cloudy right now. There are a lot of threads that need to come together and I’m happy to hold on to them and wait for them to show a pattern,” Mrs. Carlisle said.

Mr. Wuebker, 57, said he has been encouraged by pastors at his parish, St Augustine, to consider broadening his knowledge of the faith and discern if the diaconate is for him. The University of Dayton graduate has always been active in Church volunteer opportunities from Eucharistic minister, to junior high school religious education teacher to parish finance committee member.

An LPMP certificate or Master’s degree is a prerequisite for admission to the diaconate program “and my vision is to use this on that path so long as the intermediate steps continue to mount,” Mr. Wuebker said. “I’ve put my toe in the water. I’m taking some classes to see how they go and how this fits together and maybe it won’t fit exactly, but I’m listening. All of these classes have taught me something so I’m certainly learning and continuing to broaden my scope.”

After completion of the LPMP prerequisites, deacon candidates are required to attend diaconate formation every other weekend, excluding summers, for three years before ordination.

Mr. Wuebker said he does not expect God to tell him expanding his knowledge of his faith and meeting others with similar interests was all God has in store for him. “I could be satisfied with that, but if God says go further, and my wife, Mar, is in agreement with that, I will. We have discussed her commitment, too. If I’m involved, she had to be on board.”

Mrs. Carlisle, music minister at Our Lady of the Woods in Russell’s Point, Ohio grew up a Mennonite in Logan County and converted to Catholicism in 1986 while earning her Master’s Degree in Fine Arts in piano performance at the University of Wisconsin.

“Recently, I have just had a longing and yearning for something more,” Mrs.
A Vision for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP)

The transition from a quarter to a semester calendar provided an ideal opportunity this year to assess the LPMP curriculum and invite feedback from pastors, graduates and professionals in lay formation.

The LPMP staff viewed this information in light of the best practices in lay ecclesial ministry formation outlined by the United States Bishops in the document, Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. This process resulted in the development of new courses in Catechesis, Evangelization, the Domestic Church, Using Scripture in Parish Ministry and Communication in the Digital World in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry curriculum and Using Scripture in Parish Ministry and Evangelization and Social Media, for the two-year Certificate Option, said Dr. Susan McGurgan, LPMP director. The new courses ensure that the LPMP remains at the forefront of ministry formation programs and continues to meet the needs of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

“We are exploring ways technology enhances learning and increases accessibility, developing an online Orientation to Ministry and Services in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, required of all newly admitted students and placing the Certificate Option Scripture classes online for 2013-14. We are currently meeting with pastors and pastoral leaders of the St. Martin Deanery to learn about continuing education in the eastern region of the archdiocese and ways in which the LPMP can help meet those needs,” Dr. McGurgan said.

“Our students enter the program for a variety of reasons. Whatever their path, LPMP students become informed and passionate witnesses serving their families, communities and workplaces more effectively. Whether they are preparing for a staff level or volunteer position in a parish, applying to the permanent diaconate, or searching for a clearer understanding of Church teaching, the goal is to provide the tools needed to discern God’s call and respond effectively.”

Mary Louise Carlisle

Mary Louise Carlisle visits with her father, Dr. Paul E. Hooley.

Carlisle said. Recently she has dealt with the death of her mother and is spending a lot of time with her father who is in a nursing home facility.

“I just want to do more with my life, but I don’t know what exactly that is. I’m 53 but my vision has not developed, yet. I’m busy. I work for the Church. I’m a piano teacher with 20 students. I’m doing a lot of caregiving. And, I’m married — 20 years to John Paul Carlisle, a retired microwave network communications engineer.” Mrs. Carlisle said.

Mrs. Carlisle is not without ideas for her future.
• She has a passion to listen to people’s faith stories and journeys and would like to interview them and write about them.
• In Logan County, where she grew up, the two parishes share a priest “but they are very different from one another.” While the parishes have been urged to do more together, there has been some resistance to losing autonomy. “I have belonged to both parishes and I would like to be a bridge between the two groups (of parishioners) to help them realize they can do things together for the Church and facilitate a smooth transition through healing because there is a lot of hurt.”
• “I think I could be good in chaplaincy. I spend a lot of time with my dad and the others at the facility where he is cared for and I really enjoy visiting them a lot. They are quite lonely.”
• “As I go through these first year courses, I am very stimulated by theology and maybe I could move forward in theology or liturgy or both and pull together some of my other interests like music.”

Eventually, God’s vision for an individual will shine through. It takes time and thought, education and experience.

As Mrs. Carlisle noted, “I have a lot of discerning yet to do.”

(Finding continued from page 7.)
A Vision for Growth

About a year ago, I was enjoying the company of the Rev. Earl Fernandes at Salem Gardens, a local pub not far from the Athenaeum. Between conversations about his misguided love for the Steelers and getting a trip to Rome together, we began talking about the annual Archbishop's Dinner at the Athenaeum.

If you have not attended, this is an outstanding event. In addition to enjoying great company, you get to learn about how your investment in the Athenaeum is so important and you get to celebrate, among other accomplishments, the graduating class of seminarians.

While this experience was great, I told Father Earl that I left the dinner feeling dissatisfied. Only four seminarians were being ordained that year. I wanted more for the parishes, the schools, and for our community — a vision shared by him. I started asking Father Earl more and more questions about what we can do to increase those numbers.

This feedback didn’t land me in the confessional, but it did land me in the Rev. Benedict O’Cinsealaigh’s office and it began our conversations about the need for a strategic plan renewal. It had been five years since the Athenaeum’s last strategic plan and it was the right time to look at this plan again.

Strategic planning is often seen as very corporate. However, if you have ever done a strategic plan, you realize it is a powerful way to project your creativity. Almost always, the most fun part begins with the vision.

The vision is your chance to think big without boundaries. Too often, we are unable to separate ourselves from the demands of daily life and we only see constraints preventing change. We immediately say there is not enough money, not enough time. This keeps us from thinking big. However, when we start with a strong track record of results, and we have a vision of growth, we will run out of rooms in the next five years. There is a good chance it can happen even sooner.

The goals of the vocation office and the needs of the parishes, schools, and hospitals suggest that this growth is not enough, and we actually need to double these targets.

The cost of education has doubled since 2000, but median real incomes have declined almost 10 percent. Many parishes can’t afford to send their lay ministers to get the training they need.

The Catholic faithful is facing challenging social and moral issues. They want to be engaged on more personal levels, but they have more options than ever, and many are outside the Church. Further, many of our faithful know very little about the Athenaeum.

These challenges led to big questions.

What would it take to build an institution that was overflowing with seminarians and graduated more than 10 seminarians from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati every year, with a diverse and inclusive student population? How can we create a home for alumni and graduates and extend our services well beyond the seminarian years? How can we open up our institution to more constituencies? How can we build on the strength of our lay student programs and make them more accessible and affordable? How can we further strengthen our diaconate program to ensure its sustainability?

For most of 2013, our leadership, board members, faculty, student population, and other partners have been working hard to answer these questions under the guidance Greg Ionna, the board chairman for strategic planning, and myself. We had great contributions from a number of sub-committees and their chairs, including but not limited to Father Paul Ruwe, Dr. Susan McGurgan, Father Earl Fernandes, Father Anthony Brausch, Monsignor Frank Lane, Jim Rice, Greg Ionna, Dennis Eagan, Mike Conaton, and Gary Gruber. Our plan for the next five years now complete and the building blocks reflect the diversity of thought.

We have new plans to strengthen our partnerships with dioceses sending men to Mount St. Mary’s and to bolster our recruiting efforts. We will work hard to strengthen recognition of our Lay Pastoral Ministry and Special Studies programs by offering transferrable credit hours and new degrees, while increasing financial aid. We will reach out to more parishes with programs that meet the needs of their parishioners. These are just a few examples.

We also are working hard to ensure we have the human and financial resources to support this plan. We have developed a strong faculty succession plan, while increasing enrichment opportunities to ensure our faculty and education remain of the highest quality. We are renewing our marketing plans to reflect the expanded mission inherent in our strategic plan and to reach more of our audiences. And, we will be working hard to secure the funds to support this plan and ensure sustainability.

You will begin to see this plan in action following approval of the faculty senate, the archbishop, and the Athenaeum Board of Trustees. Just as important, we are already thinking about how to position ourselves for the next phase of our vision. We believe that once we execute this plan, we will fill the seminary and the classrooms. In fact, our real hope is that before the five years are completed, our success will require us to build an even stronger plan that will take us through the rest of the decade.

These are exciting times at the Athenaeum. We are building a strong track record of results, and we have a vision of growth. We know where we want to go, and we know that the leadership, faculty, and board are committed to getting there. However, we cannot do it alone. It will take the support of our entire community to make our vision a reality, and we look forward to doing it together.
Dear Alumni, Priests, and Friends of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West:

Today I heard an apocryphal story about myself. Mr. Dennis Eagan, the Athenaeum’s vice president for finance and administration, told me he had a conversation with Mr. John Tafaro, President of Chatfield College. I had asked John to give the commencement speech at the Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West graduation. John related: “I asked Father Benedict, what should the speech be about” and he responded “about ten minutes.” Although I can imagine myself saying something like that, to be honest, I don’t know how true that story is, but it’s a great story.

Let me tell you an even greater story, a story that is 184 years old. That story is the existence, perseverance and future of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. This story isn’t about me, or the rectors who have gone before me, or the archbishop or his predecessors. This story, the Athenaeum’s story, is a story about you and your parents, grandparents and your families. It is a great story about generations of young men who have given their lives for the love of Christ, the Church and God’s people, their brothers and sisters. It is a great story about men and women who have offered their gifts, service, time and talent, to minister in the name of Christ to their communities as lay ministers and deacons, teachers, catechists and pastoral administrators. And it is a story about you — the faithful people of God, generation after generation, sustaining, supporting, persevering, and generously giving not from their abundance but from their hard earned treasure, gifts, and resources. This Athenaeum and seminary is a great story, a testament to generations of honor.

Thank you for your commitment to Our Lord, His Church and this Athenaeum and seminary. It is because of your remarkable generosity, kindness and sacrifice that it is possible for us to form and educate men for the priesthood — priests who will preach the Gospel, nurture the seeds of faith, provide the Eucharist and the Sacraments for our generation, our children and our children’s children. Now that is a great story.

With sincere thanks and gratitude for your generosity and kindness;
May the Lord Jesus and His gentle Mother Mary keep you always close to their hearts.

Yours in Our Lord and His Holy Mother,

Rev. Benedict D. O’Cinnsealaigh
President and Rector

Honor Roll photos by E.L. Hubbard
The Bishop Fenwick Society is named after the Most Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, the first bishop of Cincinnati who founded the Athenaeum in 1829. Membership in the society, founded in 1990, is extended to those who make an annual fund unrestricted contribution of $1,000 or more to the Athenaeum to continue to build a institution and mission that began in 1829. Designations are as follows:

**Cornerstone Circle:** Members who contribute $25,000 or more

**Founder’s Circle:** Members who contribute between $10,000 and $24,999

**Chancellor’s Circle:** Members who contribute between $5,000 and $9,999

**President’s Circle:** Members who contribute between $2,500 and $4,999

**Fenwick’s Circle:** Members who contribute between $1,000 and $2,499

The Episcopal Order of the Bishop Fenwick Society extends an opportunity to recognize long term steadfast support of Bishop Fenwick Society members who provide a strong backbone to carry the Athenaeum’s mission into the future. Designations include:

**Archbishop Purcell Assembly:** (+++++) Members with 30+ years

**Archbishop Elder Assembly:** (+++) 25 to 29 years

**Archbishop Moeller Assembly:** (+++) 20 to 24 years

**Archbishop McNicholas Assembly:** (+++) 15 to 19 years

**Archbishop Alter Assembly:** (+) 10 to 14 years

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November  
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Mr. Randy Robinett

Candy Robinett’s Birthday  
Mr. Randy Robinett

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Professor  
Adult Spirituality Institute  
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Fr. Ryan Ruiz  
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Adult Spirituality Institute

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Our 65th Wedding Anniversary  
Deacon and Mrs. James M.  
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Edgar L. Willig, Past President  
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Mr. and Mrs. David J. Monnier

Alex Witt  
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2. Leave a gift in your will for charitable organizations such as the Athenaeum, which make a difference in your life. Less than three percent of all wills settled contain a charitable provision. Imagine the positive impact on our community if every one made a donation to a favorite non-profit; even a modest gift.

3. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will to the Athenaeum. The provision can include, but are not limited to: stocks, bonds, CD’s, real estate, vehicles, art and jewelry. Such gifts may even provide a tax savings to you and your family.

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5. Name the Athenaeum as the beneficiary of your IRA, retirement, or pension plan.

6. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming the Athenaeum as the beneficiary.

7. Name the Athenaeum as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.

8. Remember deceased loved ones with memorial gifts to the Athenaeum.

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10. Ask your financial advisor to include charitable giving as part of their counsel to other clients.
We are grateful to all of the individuals and couples who supported The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West through the Catholic Ministries Appeal (formerly the Archdiocesan Annual Fund Drive) with their contributions and matching gifts from their employers. Donors listed below contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.
Senior Athenaeum Employee Judy Tensing to Retire after 46 Years

Judy Tensing, who began working as a part-time secretary at the Athenaeum in September 1967, will end an illustrious career next year. She began her career at the behest of her uncle, Monsignor Robert Tensing, then Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West rector. She is the longest serving employee of the Athenaeum.

Ms. Tensing’s tireless dedication to the mission of the Athenaeum resulted in her being awarded the highest recognition a lay person may receive from the Vatican — *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (For the Church and the Pope) — an award she received from Cincinnati Archbishop Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, and spearheaded by the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president and rector; and Dennis Eagan, vice president for finance and administration.

“My work has been fun. I have worked with eight rectors and among the highlights of my career was the opportunity to work with my uncle … and with my cousin, Father Jerry Haemmerle (who also was the seminary’s rector).

“I have seen many, many men ordained to the priesthood. People like Bob Conway and Tom Westerfield are close friends. They have been here since close to when I started. Mike Conaton and (Auxiliary) Bishop Joseph Binzer are also good friends.

“Yet, working for Dennis Eagan is a highlight of my life. I have worked with him for 31 years starting in 1982,” said Ms. Tensing, administrative assistant to Mr. Eagan. “He has become a great friend more than a co-worker. Father Benedict also has a great sense of humor and makes work fun.”

Said Mr. Eagan: “It is truly impossible for me to put into words my personal feelings and deep appreciation for someone who has dedicated the majority of her life to The Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. She also has dedicated 31 years and 4 months to train me, assist me in my role here and challenge me to keep up with her extraordinary energy and work ethic.

“In her many years here, she has become the collective history of this place, knowing all those who have entered this institution while in Norwood or Mount Washington in the last 46 years. She is extremely talented, unconditionally loyal and incredibly generous. “I mentioned in my remarks the evening she was presented the papal award that I am constantly reminded of an old expression: ‘It’s not the billowed sail that moves the ship, but it is the invisible wind.’ Judy is that invisible wind. She has made me a better person for knowing her and has made the Athenaeum a better place for her outstanding service here. We all thank her for all that she has done for so many and for so many years. We pray for God’s choicest blessings on her in her retirement.”

Ms. Tensing had other plans for a career after graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Our Lady of Cincinnati College, later Edgecliff College, before merging with Xavier University.

“I taught eighth graders part time at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School in Reading and I hated it. I wanted to teach American Literature … but there was a glut of teachers so I could not get a job. I wanted to be in a Catholic school because of the discipline,” she said.

During her tenure, Ms. Tensing experienced a few milestones at the Athenaeum among them the institution’s move from Norwood to Mount Washington.

“We moved in 1981. It was a difficult transition. They were combining faculty and staff and they were letting people go. That was hard. When we moved here, the students did not have a library from September until December,” she said.

Ms. Tensing also saw the birth of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) in 1975. “It was absolutely fantastic. The LPMP does a great job and look at all the people they have educated throughout the archdiocese. The diaconate program and special studies came later,” she said.

In retirement, Ms. Tensing said she “will not set my alarm for 6:30 a.m. anymore. I want to clean and shop and garden on my own time frame. I intend to continue working here a day a week to ensure a smooth transition. I want to do some traveling and people I know have asked me to volunteer when I’m ready” — St. Dominic Church, her parish; Mount Notre Dame, her alma mater, and the Delhi Historical Society where she is a member.

Ms. Tensing said she also plans to spend more time with her aging father, Richard, 89, cooking for him and getting him to doctor’s appointments. She is helped by sisters Kathy, who works in the Athenaeum’s refectory; Maggie, who works for a Lockland heating and air conditioning company and Noanie, assistant kitchen manager at the Notre Dame Retirement Center in Reading.
The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary graduated 29 students during ceremonies October 20 in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great on the Athenaeum campus. The degrees were conferred by Cincinnati Archbishop Most Rev. Dennis M Schnurr, chancellor and chairman of the board of the Athenaeum.

The graduation address was given by John Tafaro, president of Chatfield College.

The graduates are:

**Master of Arts in Biblical Studies**
- Reverend Jeremy Miller

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling**
- Miriam Cardona
- Elizabeth Croswell
- Kevin Denzler
- Reverend John Forkuoh
- Kimberly Garwood

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry**
- Patricia Brennan
- Deacon Michael Cassani
- Thomas Gibson
- Mark Machuga
- Richard Rudolph
- Johannes Schade
- Joseph Thibodeau
- Rosanne Thomas

**Master of Arts in Theology**
- Reverend Nathan Bockrath
- Reverend Mr. Andrew Cordonnier
- Reverend William Wysong III

**Master of Divinity**
- Reverend Jerome Bishop
- Reverend Nathan Bockrath
- Reverend Jeremy Miller
- Reverend James Romanello

**Certificate in Lay Ministry**
- Michael Duffy
- David Gillespie
- Thomas Jabs
- Joyce Johnson
- Deborah Knapke
- Mary Orite-Shea
- Darrin Poeppelman
- John Schuler
- Robert Stadler

**Graduate Certificate in Lay Pastoral Ministry**
- Sharon Montgomery
Athenaeum Honors Dr. Terrance Callan as Teacher of the Year

Dr. Terrance Callan has been named Teacher of the Year by The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

Dr. Callan, a professor of biblical studies at The Athenaeum of Ohio, is currently director of assessment for the institution. He earned a doctorate in scripture from Yale University. Having previously taught at Xavier University, Dr. Callan joined the Athenaeum faculty 30 years ago and has distinguished himself as a New Testament scholar writing numerous books and articles.

During the 2012-2013 academic year his commentary on Second Peter was published in the prestigious Paideia commentary series. Dr. Callan has served as Athenaeum dean, dean of the Special Studies Division, dean of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, and the director of assessment.

In the past year, he oversaw and brought to successful completion the Athenaeum's self-study and reaccreditation process.

"Dr. Callan's efforts over the years have been appreciated not only by his students who appreciate his scholarship but also by his colleagues, who hold him in the highest esteem," said the Rev. Earl Fernandes, current dean of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary's Seminary. "He has consistently helped the entire faculty to grow professionally and has made it possible for so many teachers to do what they do best. Dr. Callan truly is a gentleman and a scholar. He is devoted to his wife Jane, and to his two children, Terry and Annie," Father Fernandes said.
More than 250 people enjoyed a “taste” of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West September 17 during the lovely “Taste and See” event sponsored by the Bishop Fenwick Society, the Athenaeum’s key group of benefactors.

Guests enjoyed specialty wines and beer along with light fare prepared by the Athenaeum culinary staff under clear skies in the beautiful Marian Courtyard. Groups were treated to tours of the Athenaeum led by seminarians and tours of the grounds led by the Rev. Anthony Brausch, seminary vice rector. In addition, guests enjoyed time with Cincinnati Archbishop Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr and Mount St. Mary’s Rector the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh as well as many faculty members and numerous seminarians.

The raffle for dinner with the archbishop, Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, was won by Mrs. Joan S. Rhode. She and her husband, Bill, have been long time Bishop Fenwick Society members.

“The highlight of our very successful ‘Taste and See’ event was the raffle drawing to be a guest of Archbishop Schnurr for dinner at his home. Having our names drawn for this honor far exceeded our expectations based on previous opportunities that were without success,” said Bill Rohde. “Joan and I are looking forward to sharing the evening with Archbishop Schnurr and Father Benedict (O’Cinnsealaigh) and will continue to support the raffle as we hope for the same results next year.”

This is the second year for the special event that the Athenaeum Advisory Council created in an effort to introduce more people to the mission, programs, and facilities of the Athenaeum. In addition, “Taste and See” offers prospective members of the Bishop Fenwick Society an opportunity to invest in the future of the Catholic Church by supporting the education of tomorrow’s priests, deacons, and lay ministers, both spiritually and financially.

Many generous sponsors helped make “Taste and See” a delightful affair including lead sponsors Home City Ice and Turner Construction. Other sponsors were Gold Sponsors: AR Design, Arnold Printing, Kramer Feldman and Patriot Signage; Silver Sponsors were: Clark-Theders Insurance, Graham Architectural Products, Quickalytics, Smith-Feike-Minton, Inc., Insurance and Teller’s Restaurant. 

2016 Permanent Deacon Class Begins Formation with Retreat: 22 Men from Cincinnati; Five from Covington

Members of the Permanent Deacon Class of 2016 began their three-year formation with a weekend retreat at Maria Stein on August 17.

After completing the course prerequisites and the application process, 22 men were accepted into the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. These men are joined by five others from the Diocese of Covington.

51 Seminarians Begin 2013-2014 Academic Year

Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in August welcomed 51 seminarians to the 2013-2014 academic year.

Of the 51, eight are entering their fourth and final year of theology study prior to being ordained priests next spring. Three of them are studying for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati — Rev. Mr. Andrew Cordonnier, Rev. Mr. Brian Phelps and Rev. Mr. James Riehle. Three represent the Diocese of Youngstown — Rev. Mr. John Ettinger, Rev. Mr. Craig McHenry and Rev. Mr. Daniel Finnerty. One is from the Diocese of Toledo — Rev. Mr. Matthew Frisbee; and one is from the Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands — Rev. Mr. Boniface-Blanchard Twaiibu.

The 2013-2014 seminarians represent seven dioceses including the Diocese of Tulsa, which is sending men to Mount St. Mary’s for the first time. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Archdiocese of Louisville, and the dioceses of Toledo, Youngstown, Covington and St. Thomas, V.I., also are represented.

Photo by E. L. Hubbard

Events Calendar

Sunday, December 8
6:30 p.m., Bishop Fenwick Society reception
7:30 p.m., Advent Lessons and Carols, Athenaeum Chorale, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Monday, December 9
11 a.m., Eucharist and Candidacy for I Theology, Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Saturday, December 14
First Semester Day Classes End

Monday, December 16
First Semester Evening Classes End

Sunday, January 5
7 p.m., Epiphany Vespers, Athenaeum Chorale, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Monday, January 6
Second Semester Classes Begin

Wednesday, January 22
March for Life

Wednesday February 12
7:30 p.m., LeBlond and St. James Project Lecture, Most Rev. Thomas Paprocki, Bartlett Pastoral Center

Friday, March 14
8 p.m., Spring Concert, Athenaeum Chorale, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Wednesday, March 26
5:15 p.m., Eucharist and Ministry of Lector, Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great
Springfield Bishop to Present Le Blond Lecture in February

The Athenaeum’s annual Le Blond Lecture will be presented by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Ill. at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 12 at the Athenaeum’s Bartlett Pastoral Center.

Bishop Paprocki will discuss the legal and moral implications of the attempts to redefine marriage (so-called same-sex marriage) and will defend the coherency of marriage between a man and a woman.

On February 13, as an initiative of the Athenaeum’s St. James Project, and in collaboration with Catholic Schools Office and the Youth Athletic Initiative of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Bishop Paprocki, an avid sports fan and author of Holy Goals for Body and Soul, will address athletic directors, coaches, and boosters of our Catholic Schools. That event will be held at McAuley High School.

Bishop Paprocki was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1978. After ordination, he studied law at DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1981. Working as a parish priest at St. Michael Church in South Chicago, a neighborhood with high unemployment due to shutdowns of the local steel mills, Father Paprocki co-founded the South Chicago Legal Clinic to help answer the need for legal services for the poor. He still serves in a volunteer capacity as president of the organization, now called the Chicago Legal Clinic.

In November, 1985, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin appointed Father Paprocki vice-chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

He completed his doctoral degree at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1991. Father Paprocki then returned to his previous position in Chicago as vice-chancellor and was appointed chancellor in March, 1992, serving in that capacity under Cardinal Bernardin and then under Cardinal Francis George.

Concluding his service as chancellor after two terms in office in June, 2000, Father Paprocki studied Polish language and culture at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. Pope John Paul II appointed him to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago on January 24, 2003. Cardinal George named him Liaison for Health and Hospital Affairs in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Bishop Paprocki was elected vice-president of the Illinois Catholic Health Association and vice-chairman of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. Bishop Paprocki is adjunct professor of law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty. In addition to English, he speaks Polish, Spanish and Italian, and he reads Latin. On June 22, 2010, Bishop Paprocki was installed the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. In May 2013 he received his Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop Paprocki’s hobbies are reading, running and playing hockey. He has run 19 marathons and in the process raised $367,762.48 for charity.

George Findlay Memorial Lecture Held in November

The George W. Findlay Memorial Lecture was given November 4 by Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. His presentation: “Father Augustus Tolton: From Slave to Priest to Saint” concluded the Athenaeum’s activities for the Year of Faith by proposing Father Tolton (1854-1897) as a model of faith to be imitated. Father Tolton is the first identified priest of African descent in the United States. He was renowned for his intelligence and piety and for his indomitable spirit in the face of the prejudices of his day. Father Tolton’s cause for beatification has been opened through the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Bishop Perry was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in May 1975 and as a bishop in Chicago in June 1998. He holds a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America. He is Vice President of the Board of the Black Catholic Congress; Chairman of the USCCB Committee on African American Catholics, and serves on a number of USCCB Committees. He is the Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate VI of the Archdiocese of Chicago.
The Athenaeum's Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) began classes this fall at the new satellite location at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in McCartyville.

A class devoted to studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church is among the new courses added to the non-degreed Certificate Option this year. The five week class serves as an introduction to basic doctrine and provides an overview of the history, function, organization and content of the Catechism as a reference and learning tool. Students appreciated the opportunity to expand their knowledge of doctrine, the catechism and resources for study and service.

Deacon Hal Belcher, PhD, associate director of the LPMP for the Northern Region, was instructor for the Catechism class. The program will meet at the McCartyville location for two years, offering all of the non-degreed Certificate option classes during that time. In the second semester, students will take New Testament Scripture, Using Scriptures in Parish Ministry, and Discipleship.

Class sessions typically include lecture or input from the instructor, discussions, small group sharing, prayer and question/answer sessions.

For information about the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program, call 513-231-1200.

Mary Krutko Massa Named Marketing Director

Mary Krutko Massa recently has been appointed marketing director of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

Mrs. Massa joins the Athenaeum after 27 years in the local television market as a reporter with WKRC-TV (10 years) as well as the host and marketing coordinator of a television home show airing on WCPO-TV (17 years).

“I can’t think of a more fulfilling job than to promote The Athenaeum of Ohio because this is where the seeds of evangelization are being planted and Catholic leaders are being rooted in the faith,” Mrs. Massa said. “I am passionate about my love for our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church and I am excited about getting the message out about the inspiring people and abundant resources that are here at the beautiful Athenaeum.”

Jim Rice, Athenaeum vice president of advancement said: “I am excited and pleased to welcome Mary Massa to the Athenaeum team as our new marketing director. Mary has a great background in TV news reporting, marketing and video production. Her strong faith and contagious personality will have an immediate impact in spreading the word about the great things here at the Athenaeum.”

Mrs. Massa is a graduate of the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science in communications and minor in marketing. She and her husband, Gary, live in Anderson Township and are active parishioners at Guardian Angels Parish where she teaches Bible Camp and volunteers with Children’s Liturgy of the Word. Mary and Gary have four children, ages 16 to 22, all of whom attend Catholic schools. She also is very active in pro-life ministries and is on the Advisory Board of Pregnancy Center East.

Catechism Class Meets at New LPMP Satellite Location in McCartyville

The Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) began classes this fall at the new satellite location at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in McCartyville.

A class devoted to studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church is among the new courses added to the non-degreed Certificate Option this year. The five week class serves as an introduction to basic doctrine and provides an overview of the history, function, organization and content of the Catechism as a reference and learning tool. Students appreciated the opportunity to expand their knowledge of doctrine, the catechism and resources for study and service.

Deacon Hal Belcher, associate director of the LPMP for the North Region, addresses the class.
Athenaeum Dean Writes Book Discussing Homosexuality & Seminary Formation
The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, has written a new book — Seminary Formation and Homosexuality — published by the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF).

The book examines comments by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in Light of the World regarding the recent Vatican instruction Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations with Regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in View of the Admission to the Seminary and Holy Orders, dealing with homosexuality and the priesthood.

Daily Prayer Link: New Website Resource for Frequent Visitors
"A Daily Prayer" link, provided by the Rev. Paul Ruwe, is now available on The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West website.

Following the suggestion of Mr. Terry Horan, a member of the Athenaeum Board of Trustees, The Rev. Benedict O'Colinsealaigh, president/rector, was eager to provide a new, original resource for regular visitors to www.athenaeum.edu and draw them into all that occurs here for people of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati area. Father Ruwe, one of the seminary's spiritual directors and a graduate of the Athenaeum and Fordham University, agreed to write and maintain the prayer page.

Irish Sisters Continue Bond with Athenaeum
For a number of years, there has been a spiritual bond between the Carmelite nuns in Dublin and the Athenaeum community, as the nuns pray for seminarians, students, faculty, staff, family members, supporters and benefactors of the Athenaeum.

Six Weeks in Rome
Mount St. Mary's seminarians Peter Langenkamp, David Doseck, and Alexander Witt were blessed this summer with the opportunity to visit and explore Rome through a program known as The Rome Experience. This program consisted of a six-week pilgrimage taking them through parts of Spain, France, and Italy.

Carrying on a Tradition in Appalachia
The late Rev. Ralph Beiting, who attended St. Gregory Seminary and Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, served the people of Appalachia for more than 60 years.

From his earliest days in eastern Kentucky, Father Beiting established summer camp programs for the children. His purpose for the camps was to teach the children about the primary role God has in their lives, as well as instilling civic pride and patriotism.

For the third consecutive year, seminarians from Mount St. Mary's have assisted in running these camps for boys and girls ages 8-17.

Athenaeum Grads Author Historical Article
A recent issue of U.S. Catholic Historian contains an article co-authored by two historians with connections to The Athenaeum of Ohio: Jerry T. O'Higgins and the Rev. David Endres, assistant professor of Church history. In their article, "With a Father's Affection:" Chaplain William T. O'Higgins and the Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, the two tell the story of a Cincinnati priest and chaplain during the Civil War.

Church Historian Father Ted Ross, S.J. Retiring from Athenaeum Faculty
The Rev. Theodore C. Ross, S.J., who, for the past 17 years has taught Church history and historical theology at the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, announced his retirement this month.

"It's time to hang it up," he said with a sigh. "I love it here, I love Cincinnati. I love the Athenaeum, the seminary, Xavier University, the Cincinnati Reds. I will miss living here; but I can't get around as I used to. I'm retiring for health reasons," said the 79-year-old priest who taught some of the most popular courses at the Athenaeum.

Father Ross will be moving to the Colombiere Jesuit Retirement Center northwest of Detroit, Mich., near Pontiac “but any time I hear there's a car heading for Cincinnati I'm going to be in it and come and pay a visit,” he said.

Alumni Executive Committee Working on 2014 Reunion, Parish Ambassador Handbook
The executive committee of The Athenaeum of Ohio Alumni Association has started planning to host an alumni reunion in the fall of 2014 to celebrate the Athenaeum's 185th anniversary. No firm date has been set.

Alumni Executive Committee Chairman Max Schellman said the plans call for “putting a new face on the reunion — something different from reunions held in the past.”

More than a year ago the association decided to discontinue annual reunions and replace them with reunions every five years beginning in 2014 — the 185th anniversary year.

In other matters, the association has drafted a handbook for parish ambassadors which will be distributed to parish ambassadors during an ambassador's day being planned for early 2014. More than 60 parishes are now represented by parish ambassadors and that number will grow before the ambassador day is held.
Fall 2013

IN THE NEWS

Faculty

Dr. Terrance D. Callan, director of assessment and professor of biblical studies, in August presented “Reading the Earliest Copies of 2 Peter” at the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. During the meeting, he also participated in a continuing seminar on “God in 2 Corinthians.”

The Rev. David Endres, assistant professor of Church history and historical theology, presented a two-day recollection titled: “With Heart and Mind: Understanding and Living The Creed” at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Kettering, Holy Family Parish, Middletown, and St. Louis Parish, Owensville.

The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of the Athenaeum and dean of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, preached a retreat to the permanent deacon candidates for the Diocese of Tulsa at Subiaco Monastery in Arkansas. In September, he spent the day in Nashville, Ind., with Catholic high school principals from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, speaking on issues in moral theology and spoke to the Catholic Medical Association Physician’s Guild in Springfield, Ill. for the Annual White Mass, speaking on the theme of “End of Life Issues: POLST Legislation and the Affordable Care Act.” In October, Father Fernandes attended the Midwest Association of Theological Schools (MATS) annual meeting of seminary rectors and deans in Schaumburg, Ill., which addressed the subject of the liturgy as a vehicle for the new evangelization.

Staff

Patricia Brennan, part time librarian at the Athenaeum’s Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library recently was awarded a $3000 grant from the State of Kentucky and designated a “Master Quilter.” The grant allows her to teach an apprentice, Helen Bailey, for one year. The award states: “In recognition of artistic excellence, Patricia Brennan has received a Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant, a program of the Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, which is supported by state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. As part of our grant, she will be teaching the relationship of quilting to geometry in several Catholic schools in Northern Kentucky.

Students

Daniel Gooding, a Mount St. Mary's of the West seminarian from Youngstown, participated in a housing repair program in Virginia last summer sponsored by Mantua St. Joseph Parish where he has worked. Mr. Gooding and 11 other volunteers traveled to Clintwood, Va., where they were based at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Mr. Gooding and Kathi Trares, with her husband, George, did extensive work at the Dorothy Baker House fixing and upgrading two bathrooms, flooring, joists and a window. The house is used to house participants of the Home Repair Program and is owned by the Virginia parish. Mrs. Trares is group spokesman and secretary at the Mantua Parish. The other volunteers split into three groups and travelled throughout the area for a week doing home improvement and repair projects. Clintwood is located near the very tip of Virginia in Appalachia.

PASSINGS

- The Rev. William M. Kennedy, former pastor of Assumption Parish, Mount Healthy and former faculty member and dean of St. Gregory Seminary, died September 19. He was 73.
- The Rev. Francis “Frank” Niehaus, who completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary's seminaries, died September 26. He was 84.
- The Rev. Bernard J. Boff, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died August 8 at the Ursuline Center in Ottawa Hills, Ohio where he resided since 2007. He was 81.
- Deacon Robert Glassmeyer, who served at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Reading from 1990 to 2005 when he was granted senior status, died August 23.

Full obituaries of Father Kennedy, Father Niehaus and Father Boff appear on the Athenaeum’s website www.athenaeum.edu

- Please remember these deceased alumni in our prayers. Ordained alumni who are constitutive members of the Athenaeum Alumni Association, are reminded to celebrate a Mass, or have a Mass celebrated, for deceased constitutive members (identified with ▪).

REST IN PEACE

Friends of the Athenaeum

Deacon Thomas Stratman, husband of Lay Pastoral Ministry Program graduate Linda Tumidolsky Stratman, died July 30.

Sandra Combs, mother of the Rev. Ron Combs, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumnus, died August 10.

Charlene Gillum, mother-in-law of Becky Gillum of the Athenaeum culinary staff, died August 14.

Lucille F. Watkins, mother of the Rev. Mark Watkins, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumnus, died August 20.

Joseph F. Morand, husband of Patricia Morand, Bishop Fenwick Society member, died September 6.

Betty Smith, mother of the Rev. Edward P. Smith, past president and rector of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, a Mount St. Mary’s Seminary alumnus and Bishop Fenwick Society member, died October 10.

Dorothy Schott, aunt of seminarian Craig McHenry, died October 10.

Mike Bunch, brother of the Rev. Timothy Bunch, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumnus and member of the Bishop Fenwick Society, died November 2.

NYT
Through an Individual Retirement Account, the Rev. John Porter put money away for future needs. The Athenaeum is blessed to be a beneficiary. "As I reflect on my life, my years in the seminary and my years in ministry, they were all good years — very enjoyable. When I give thanks, I want to include the Athenaeum — in my financial thanks and other ways."

Father Porter views his IRA as a source of financial support to ensure the future of the Church by helping fund the formation of future priests.

"I became interested in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) in the 1980’s as it was an excellent way to save and help me in the future. I was disciplined and saved every month and only stopped when I retired. I ended up with an IRA that could be tax free if I used it properly — by giving the money to charity so there would be no taxes either way. If I gave or left these (IRA) funds to my relatives, they would have to pay taxes — so I felt it was a win/win. When I reflected on my finances I thought this would be an excellent way to help the Athenaeum by paying off my pledges early."

The IRA Charitable Rollover, extended by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, offers a special opportunity through December 31, 2013 for an individual aged 70½ or older to make a lifetime gift directly from his or her IRA to The Athenaeum of Ohio and pay no income tax on the distribution.

Father Porter has found the IRA Charitable Rollover Act can help him achieve his goals sooner rather than later. "I have to take out so much each year and the Charitable Rollover Act allows me to take out more to pay off pledges and see it now versus when I’ve gone home, and the nice thing is I make my gift each year and the IRA continues to grow for the next year."

Now you can easily make a gift while you are living and be able to witness the benefits of your generosity. Under this provision, donors benefit by not having to recognize the amount contributed directly from their IRA to a qualifying charity. However, because donors exclude this contribution from their gross income, they cannot take a charitable contribution deduction for the contribution.

You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are 70½ or older
- The gift is $100,000 or less
- If married, each spouse can transfer $100,000 from his or her IRA
- You make the gift on or before December 31, 2013
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift outright to one or more 501(C)(3) public charities (This excludes gifts made to charitable trusts, donor advised funds, family foundations and supporting organizations.)

For more information, please visit the Create a Legacy (Ways to Give) section on our website at www.Athenaeum.edu/SupportUs or contact Kathy Kaelin Symons, director of Estate & Trust Services, at (513) 233-6153 or legacy@athenaeum.edu.