Pope Francis: Tending the Vineyard of the Lord
FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BENEDICT O’CINNSEALAIGH

I am writing this note the day after Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, was elected Pope and chose the name Francis. His election was historic, exciting and electrifying. It is historic for a number of reasons: he is the first member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) to be elected Pope; he is the first Argentine and the first American; he is the first non-European Pope in a thousand years; and, he is the first to choose the name Francis. Like his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI, there is no doubt that our new Pope will be “a humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord.”

Pope Francis’ election is exciting because, in many ways, he is an outsider and we, the flock, don’t know what to expect or what his priorities will be. In a sense, we are like the disciples who meet the Lord for the first time when He said “follow me.” Do we follow? Where will he lead? Should we listen? Should we go? How exciting is that?

Pope Francis’ election was electrifying because, as was made clear by the days of non-stop TV coverage, the whole world was watching, waiting, praying, and speculating. It was clear that the Pope is not simply regarded as the head of the Catholic Church, but in some sense, the spiritual leader of the entire world. It is clear from his ministerial life and concerns that Pope Francis has a deep concern for the poor, for the evangelization of society, and for the renewal of the Church herself.

Personally humble, choosing to live in simplicity and evangelical poverty as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, the Pope is also a strong voice in support of family, life, traditional marriage, the rights of the Church in civil and secular society; and, the dignity and care of the marginalized, the poor, and the outcast. His vision unifies the works of proclaiming the Gospel, building the kingdom of God, and building a just and righteous society. I have no doubt that in the next few months Pope Francis will challenge all Catholics, Christians, and people of good will to take up the challenge to transform our worldwide societies into communities of faithfulness, compassion, justice, and grace. Like the Lord, he will challenge us to become true and faithful, humble and zealous “workers in the vineyard.”

The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West has for many generations been forming workers for the vineyard. We will continue to do this missionary work for as long as the Lord calls disciples and for as long as the work is needed. To our new Pope, I pledge as president and rector: With gratitude to Almighty God, in thanksgiving for our new Pope Francis. The president/rector, faculty, staff, seminarians and students of the Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary promise you, Pope Francis, our prayers and support, our obedience and fidelity, and wish you, Holy Father, a long life and a fruitful and happy ministry as the Chief Shepherd of the Universal Church.

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On the cover: Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 13. CNS photo/Paul Haring

The Athenaeum Magazine is published three times a year for alumni, patrons and friends of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s of the West Seminary. Comments or requests to be added to the mailing list should be directed to Mr. Walt Schaefer, communications director, The Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, 45230; e-mail wschaefer@athenaeum.edu
Impact is an important word.

When advertising executives gather to discuss a campaign to sell a new product, they judge the impact a commercial will have on the viewing or reading public.

In the world of journalism, news editors consider stories for the front page or section fronts of newspapers or, in television the sequence of reports all based on the impact those stories will have on the community.

The impact an educational institution exerts on its community is largely the result of the work of its graduates — how successful they are; the contributions they make to improve society and the world.

There are about 3,500 living Athenaeum of Ohio alumni actively using the knowledge they gained from the institution to work in churches, schools, hospitals, social service agencies, elder facilities, prisons and other areas to better this world of ours.

Athenaeum graduates can be found in every state and in many areas abroad. They are living examples of the Athenaeum's mission to serve the Church effectively as priests, deacons and lay ministers.

The impact of the Athenaeum reaches every parish and every Catholic institution in the 19-county archdiocese and beyond southwest Ohio as well.

In this issue of The Athenaeum Magazine you will meet Athenaeum graduates and students serving God in their professional and volunteer ministries — evangelizing as they have been called to do in this Year of Faith.

You will meet a priest working with a group of Catholic students at the University of Cincinnati to bring a Catholic presence to a secular school campus.

You will learn about an Athenaeum graduate who heads an interdenominational organization devoted to finding jobs for the poor.

You will journey with a prison chaplain into the life he lives to bring Christ to those behind bars.

You will discover a woman recently retired from the archdiocese’s Office of Evangelization and Catechesis who now devotes hours of volunteer time to immigration issues, opposition to capital punishment, advocating for the poor and faith-based learning programs in her parish.

You will learn about hospital chaplaincy from a woman who was led to her vocation by a gift of life. She donated a kidney to a friend.

You will discover a monsignor from Toledo who helps guide young men on the path to the priesthood.

You will encounter a deacon who leads RCIA classes in his parish and another who has resided in the same small, rural Ohio hamlet for more than 60 years — a place where every resident knows if you want to learn about the Catholic faith “you find Greg.”

And, Athenaeum seminarians and lay students discuss their roles as volunteers at VA Medical Center, an inner city Catholic grade school, and as an RCIA coordinator.

Athenaeum graduates choose many paths after they leave the classroom. Their lives show that the Church and the Athenaeum are more than just institutions. These are places where the impact is the Catholic Christian way of life. You will discover that when students earn their Athenaeum diplomas they become the Lord’s ...

Workers in the Vineyard

SPRING 2013
Several years ago, Susan Mackall donated a kidney to a good friend. That experience began a journey of discovery. She found her gifts and her talents and they led her to chaplaincy.

“This is how God works,” Mrs. Mackall said. “During that time of discernment I was at Christ Hospital a lot and I began talking to people in the dialysis unit just waiting for doctors’ appointments. I had to go through a medical process to become a donor and as I started talking to people there, something happened.

“It was a calling,” she said. “I enjoyed being with those people and discussing their medical needs and what was happening to them. So, when I went to the Athenaeum (to earn a master’s degree in pastoral ministry), I thought I’d see about volunteering at a hospital. I thought I’d see where the Lord is taking me.

“Donating a kidney was an important decision. I was frightened, of course, but then it took me down this road. It brought me here to chaplaincy. I do not think I would be a chaplain if I had not helped my friend and felt that calling.”

Today, Mrs. Mackall is the full-time chaplain at Mercy Hospital, Western Hills. She has been in the position two years following a five year stint as a volunteer and then part-time chaplain at Mercy Hospital, Mount Airy.

Living her vocation finds Mrs. Mackall taking spiritual journeys with the many patients she visits.

“I see chaplaincy as the front line. I try to help bring spiritual healing — almost like a spiritual nurse. As a Catholic, I try to help many people consider returning to their Church. The primary goal I have as a chaplain is connecting people to their spirituality,” she said.

About 50 percent of the patients at Mercy Hospital, Western Hills, have a Catholic background but many have been away from the Church until faced with disability or illness, sometimes terminal.

“I had a patient the doctor asked me to see just after diagnosis of terminal colon cancer. He came in one day for a colonoscopy … (and) had not been to a doctor for a long time because of a lack of insurance. I went in, told him who I was, and talked about his diagnosis. I then asked him what could help him cope with the difficult things that were happening. He said: ‘Well, I’m Catholic but I have not been to Church in a long time and it’s too late now.’

“I told him he could get back to his faith, asked him where he grew up, and then asked if he would mind me calling the pastor over there and have him come over to talk. This is where (chaplaincy) … is so fulfilling. He went back to the parish. He became fully in communion with his parish and was able to contribute (until his death),” Mrs. Mackall said. “This kind of thing happens several times a month here.

“So, my real calling is to help people who have lost their way, lost that connection over the years for whatever reason and then a big change is happening in their life … and they are wondering how they can find God again,” Mrs. Mackall said.

Evangelization, obviously, is an important part of a vocation to chaplaincy.

“I’m dealing with people in crises or dealing with people who have suffered a loss and they are looking for something. If they are Catholic perhaps it is a journey back to the faith. Some with chronic illnesses I meet over and over again. That is evangelization. Sometimes they’re angry at the Church and I ask: ‘How can I help you with that?’”

The Athenaeum education was important in preparing Mrs. Mackall to serve the Lord in her hospital ministry.

As her required project in ministry, Mrs. Mackall created a series of spiritual activities for people with dementia. “Another degree component is clinical pastoral education and training so I spent a year at Twin Towers in College Hill where I served in the dementia unit,” she said. “I did worship services for the residents and taught myself that people with dementia are not as closed off as I thought they were.”
Deacons John Holthaus of Sidney and Greg Barnhorst of New Bremen have a lot in common. Both are retired teachers and both are coordinators of the RCIA program in their parishes in the northern part of the archdiocese. They are good friends and were ordained together in 1999. “Everything I do is evangelization in some way,” said Deacon Holthaus, who is pastoral associate at Holy Angels Parish in Sidney.

“One of my favorite stories involves a guy who came through our RCIA program a few years ago. He told me he works for the highway department and he worked with one of our parishioners named John. The guy told me, ‘I don’t know what John has, but I’d sure like to have it.’

“John had told him he’s Catholic and that he lives a Catholic life and if he wants to know more about it he should see me and get hooked up with our RCIA program. He did. Two years later the guy’s wife, Janet, comes up to me and says, ‘I don’t know what my husband has, but I’d sure like to have it, too.’ Now they are both Catholic.”

“That story is not an uncommon one here,” said Deacon Holthaus, who taught special education at Anna High School.

“About 20 people comprise the current RCIA group at Holy Angels this year and three of them are high school seniors.

“One of our young parishioners told me he was talking to a friend at school about his being an altar server. His friend came here to join RCIA because he started thinking about our faith.

“I think people from our RCIA program are often better catechized than the cradle Catholics. It is amazing how many of our RCIA people come back to us later to sponsor someone through the program. RCIA is a key component to evangelization and a key to fulfilling what the Pope wants us to do in this Year of Faith.

“We are a smaller city and we have people come to our parish who just want to see us, see the Mass, and develop a connection. There’s an older couple right now who just started coming to Mass. Two or three years ago, during the second week of RCIA, a couple just walked in the door. They looked at our website, saw where we were and showed up.”

For Deacon Barnhorst a stroll along village streets in New Bremen becomes a form of evangelization. About half of the people he passes on the sidewalk wave in greeting.

“Physically practicing my faith day in and day out is what I’m about,” he said. “The people know that if they are at all interested in being Catholic, they can hunt me down and talk to me. Just living as a Catholic in a small community for 60 years can have a lot to do with evangelization,” said Deacon Barnhorst, who taught high school science in New Knoxville, Ohio for 30 years.

“I have no idea how many people I’ve influenced through my faith and brought into the Church, but I think I have done that.”

The deacon also serves on the board at the nearby Maria Stein Spiritual Center and Retreat House.

“About 50 percent of the people who attend retreats there are Catholics. My involvement there plays a role in evangelization as well. People often ask me about my faith and want to know more about it so I help them and I direct them to their own parish.”

Even in his role in Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation, Deacon Barnhorst said he sees the faith interest non-Catholics.

“We have a lot of couples with mixed faiths and the Pre-Cana experience helps bring people into the Church, too.

“Sometimes it is not an easy task. But living our faith by example shows others how we as Catholics are supposed to live.”

Deacon Greg Barnhorst at Holy Redeemer in New Bremen. Photo by Luke Gronneberg
The Society of St. Paul: Bringing Christ to Campus

Last August, a few Catholic students from the University of Cincinnati found their way to Annunciation Parish on Clifton Avenue and discovered what they were seeking — a vibrant priest leading his parish spiritually and with a wonderful sense of liturgy.

“These are young people very much interested in keeping a connection with the Church and very much interested in their Catholic identity and their Catholic faith especially in light of the fact they are going to a secular university,” said the Rev. Todd Grogan, pastor at Annunciation.

The group — the Society of St. Paul — now numbers about 25. They meet weekly after 11 a.m. Sunday Mass for brunch and a Bible or catechism study. They often invite speakers including Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, the Rev. Kyle Schnippel, vocation director of the archdiocese, seminarian Ethan Moore and others. Well known Catholic radio personality Allan Hunt has accepted an invitation.

The group fulfills the mission of the Year of Faith

“They are very willing to introduce the faith to others and it is part of evangelization to appeal to a wider group. They have been blessed by the university and recognized as an official university group on campus,” Father Grogan said.

The Society of St. Paul has about an even number of men and women — all UC or former UC students.

As the Society of St. Paul increases its numbers, members see some needs.

They would appreciate finding a donor to help fund activities from paying speakers a stipend to offset the cost of the Sunday brunch now being paid for by the group.

“I’ve often thought about what would happen if we do not apprentice the next generation,” Father Grogan said. “There is the academic and the intellectual but we need to get these people involved in the faith.” He wants to connect the Society of St. Paul members with the parish’s elementary school and get them involved in catechesis there.

Treating the Poor with Dignity and Value

After 20 years in the corporate world — 15 in management consulting at Anderson Consulting, later Accenture, and another five as vice president of business transformation at Fidelity Investments — Peggy Zink graduated from the Athenaeum and switched professional gears.

She earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry in 2009 and for the past three and a half years has served as president of Cincinnati Works — an agency dedicated to finding jobs for the impoverished.

“When I graduated, I was looking for something and I knew non-profit was the direction I wanted to go. I was originally thinking Church (work),” Ms. Zink said.

“The social justice aspect of our faith has always resonated with me from the time I was young… and I specifically wanted to go into the area of poverty,” she said. “At Cincinnati Works, we work with people in poverty to help them find employment, retain employment and eventually, over time, advance to higher levels of employment.

“A big part of the reason I went to the Athenaeum was my passion for social justice, but it was hard for me to do because I had that corporate persona,” said Ms. Zink, who serves on the Athenaeum’s advisory council. Ms. Zink noted she could not be seen as a visible Catholic or Christian in the corporate world in which she worked.

“I wanted to be able to build out the softer side of me, the more faithful side of me and I wanted (Continued on page 9.)
Evangelization: Connecting Life to Faith

Jack Schaefer has frequent discussions with a parishioner named Josh.

“His one of the most insightful I’ve ever bumped into,” said Mr. Schaefer, director of religious education at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Monroe and a 2012 graduate of the Athenaeum with a master’s degree in pastoral ministry.

“Josh will come up to me and say something like, ‘I’m having trouble with this. I’m trying to follow God’s way, but how do I know that I am?’ I stole a line from somewhere to respond to him: ‘Josh, the fact you’re asking that question shows that you are following God’s way,’” Mr. Schaefer answered.

Josh is 30 and “he comes back every week and says, ‘I’ve been thinking about this or that.’”

Josh is an inmate at the Warren Correctional Institution near Monroe. That prison and its older next door neighbor, the Lebanon Correctional Institution, are within the parish boundaries of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Jack Schaefer has been involved at the Warren facility for the past three years. He completed his required project in ministry there as part of his degree. “The project was to develop a program of Monday evening sessions for inmates that we still use,” he said. Josh is in the program.

“In my opinion, sometimes the inmates do a better job of ministering than the other way around,” said Mr. Schaefer, a former science teacher at Middletown High School who returned to his roots in southwest Ohio after 17 years in the chemical analysis business in Chicago and California. “They think they don’t know as much or are not as good as other parishioners and I usually remind them at least every month that they are often more attentive in participating and attendance than many in our population. They don’t think that. They think they’re bad.”

The Monday evening program is a volunteer gig for Mr. Schaefer who busies himself daily with parish tasks from Sunday school to RCIA to sacramental preparation and adult faith formation. He also compiles the parish bulletin and sometimes serves as custodian.

“On Monday evening I wear the volunteer hat. I put together the materials for the evening program that is run more like a small church community meeting. There are 15 to 20 inmates involved. The liturgy follows,” Mr. Schaefer said. Inmates also have group catechesis meetings on Monday afternoons taught by Deacon Bill Schaefer (no relation) of Trenton.

Almost all of the men have a Catholic background “but, every once in a while we might celebrate a First Communion. Many of them are people who want to come back to the Church and a lot of them have childhood stories about the Church — how grandma took them or their mom. They do find comfort — some related to scripture, some related to liturgy, some related to fellowship.”

“There was a guy who walked up to me after Mass over at Warren a year or so ago who said he will never look at the Mass the same way again — the elements of gathering, sacrifice, covenant and going forth were new to him and the guys over there know that when they go forth after Mass it ends at the wire. It’s a tougher world to navigate for Christians.”

Mr. Schaefer easily links his ministry to the Year of Faith and the call to evangelize.

“Evangelization is related to Catholics who are not living as Catholics and that is very much the population I see at Warren and, to be honest, is a lot like the population of your ordinary parish,” Mr. Schaefer said. “It’s all about helping people see the connection between their life and their faith that maybe they had not thought about.”

(Continued from page 8.)

to be more knowledgeable about my faith so that I could live it more fully. From a social justice standpoint, what I learned at the Athenaeum plays a big role. Our philosophy at Cincinnati Works is that we are not there just to hand out stuff. We are there to help people help themselves. We empower the individual. We help them grow and a huge, huge part of what we do extremely well as an organization is to respect the dignity of everyone.

“We need to acknowledge that everyone has something to give. In our workshop groups, we do job readiness training and a big part of that is helping people reflect internally on the gifts they can bring to a job and that is hard for some. People say they have never done anything; or ask something like, ‘How can I transfer selling drugs to a job?’ It’s being able to identify gifts and another big part of what we are about is building confidence. These people have never been told that they have gifts and that they have value.”

Cincinnati Works, with a downtown office near Government Square, has been in existence for 17 years. Many clients hear about it by word of mouth from others who have been through the program. Others are referred by agencies such as St. Vincent de Paul, the Free Store Food Bank or Goodwill. About 85 percent are bus riders who must find work on or near bus routes.

The agency works with 60 to 70 potential employers. “We are largely working with lightly skilled people so they are placed in security positions, janitorial and cleaning, light manufacturing such as assembly work, warehouse jobs, some construction. Food service is a big one as we do work with some hospitals.

“While we are not out there talking about faith, I’m living it,” Ms. Zink said. “People know I’m a Christian … and I do not want a faithless organization. While we are not all Catholics, we are largely faith based. We have a lot of different faiths. It is something that permeates the organization… as I talk about treating our clients with dignity and value.”

(Continued from page 8.)

SPRING 2013
A Lifetime of Evangelization

A lifetime of evangelization

After 16 years of work for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 12 of them in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, Athenaeum alumna Tanya Monsour-Stager retired January 1. But, retirement does not mean she has stopped working.

“Evangelization calls us to live the Gospel and that is what I hope to continue to do,” Mrs. Monsour-Stager said. “I’m going to be working in immigration a lot” as part of an Archdiocese of Cincinnati task force. “I’ve been working for years against capital punishment and I will continue that. I plan to advocate for good medical care for the poor and underprivileged.

“I intend to be busy in my parish” — Mother of God in Northern Kentucky — “where I work in the RCIA program and I’m on the education commission,” Mrs. Monsour-Stager said.

“When you are called to evangelize, it is more than your job, it is your lifestyle. The call to be a Catholic is the way you live. It is your life choices. It is the way you treat people. We shouldn’t have to say we’re Catholic, people should know it because of how we treat other people — being open and listening and always accepting the other person. Sometimes that is not as easy as it sounds.

“One of the biggest things we fail to do is be open and welcoming to people. We need to be loving. That is why we take care of the poor, the sick, the homeless; oppose capital punishment; work for immigration. It is our call to love.”

Mrs. Monsour-Stager, who graduated from the Athenaeum in 1999 with a master’s degree in biblical studies, was assistant director for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis before retiring.

“My Athenaeum experience played a role in what I did. It helped greatly in my faith life and faith development. I gained a great interest in scripture and a desire to know more about it and when I started my degree program I was working as director of religious education for the Covington diocese. I also have a master’s degree in education from Xavier University.

“Among my job responsibilities for the Archdiocese (of Cincinnati) was evangelization and, to a certain extent faith formation, so my Athenaeum degree is very relevant.

“The archdiocese has the “Rediscovering Catholicism” event going on and the program to bring Catholics back home. We tied those into the Year of Faith.”

In her former job, Mrs. Monsour-Stager worked with parishes in evangelization and faith formation programs. “I introduced parishes to the broad concept of evangelization, what is available for the parish, what is going to work best for the parish.”

Scripture plays a role in her former job and present volunteer activities.

“People have a great interest in Scripture and want to know more about it. They want what is foundational — being able to understand the background; what Scripture calls us to do.”

Guiding Seminarians on the Path

Monsignor Charles Singler, vocation director for the Diocese of Toledo, credits his years of priestly formation at St. Gregory College Seminary and at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West as guiding him “to do the work I do effectively today.”

Monsignor Singler serves on the Athenaeum Board of Trustees.

“The prayer life, the intellectual formation, the four pillars of priestly formation…, the apostolic work experience, the field education and supervised aspects that went along with it certainly are guiding me to do the work I do,” said Monsignor Singler, a native of Sandusky in his third year as vocation director. He was on the faculty at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary for four years and also served as pastor at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo, for seven years.

“Mine is a multifaceted task. In one aspect … I’m a recruiter attentive to individuals who might be aspiring to the priesthood and I have individuals I call my foot soldiers — pastors and young priests — who are on the lookout for candidates they might be able to challenge and discuss with them their potential life vocation.

“The other part of my job,” he said, “is as a spiritual father and guide to the 28 seminarians who we currently have for the Diocese of Toledo.”

Obviously, evangelization plays a large part in the role of vocation director in that he is recruiting priests — the front line evangelists of the future Church.

“If a man has a love for the Lord, a love for the Catholic faith, and wants to explore it more it is telling. If they have a spiritual hunger and a kind of facility with spiritual matters” it is helpful.

“Often times I look at individuals who attend Mass regularly or are altar servers or lectors or ministers of Holy Communion — all those service aspects.

“It really depends on the circumstances for each individual… There is versatility with each and every individual so far as their gifts and traits and characteristics.”

Monsignor Singler said he spoke with the Toledo seminarians after the Pope’s instruction that the Church would celebrate a Year of Faith “and recommit ourselves and renew ourselves in the understanding of the teachings of the Church. I have found myself going back to my Vatican II documents, to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to review my own understanding of the faith and surprisingly enough there were elements I have found in that review that I am able to incorporate in the context of my vocation work with young people,” Monsignor Singler said.

“They may have a question about faith, or they may have a desire to know some aspect of the liturgical traditions or the sacramental traditions of the Church — some dogmatic or doctrinal aspect. While having gone through that review as a vocation director, my own reading and trying to revisit those sources, I’m able to pass them on to individuals who are thinking about the priesthood.”
Every year, seminarians fulfill apostolic ministry by serving in our community. Lay students continue involvement in their parishes or do projects within the community to advance the faith by helping others in many ways.

This year, a group of seminarians is helping tutor inner city poor children enrolled at St. Peter Claver School, next to Old St. Mary’s Church, in Over-the-Rhine. Other seminarians are busy at the VA Medical Center helping the chaplain visit the sick and dying.

A lay master’s degree student is finding her volunteer position as an RCIA leader at her parish becoming more fulfilling thanks to the education she is receiving at the Athenæum.

Below, these students share their thoughts about assisting others in these caring ministries.

**THOUGHTS FROM ST. PETER CLAVER SCHOOL**

**Seminarian Alexander Witt, 1st Year Theology, St. John the Baptist, Harrison**

“It is very important work that we do because, when you meet these kids, it is incredible how brilliant they are. But, because of the situation they are immersed in, it is vital that we get down there and be examples for them and be there for them. We are entering their lives at an integral part of their formation. They are going all the way to eighth grade and getting into high school, normally a Catholic high school... At this point in their lives they could slip back into everything their parents want them to avoid...

“In addition to building them up intellectually to get into culturally better schools, even if they are unable to do that, there is hope that if we go in there into that darkness as beacons of Christian charity, as examples of what it means to be a true man living a Christian life... that by the grace of God, something is going to catch within them.

“I consider what I’m doing there evangelization. My primary goal is not to teach the kids math. My primary goal is to show them what it means to follow Christ as a Catholic. Only one or two of them are Catholic. It is my personal goal to pray for all of these kids that they will be moved to convert to Christ in the fullness of His Church. Every single one of them has been included in my prayer life.”

**Seminarian Peter Langenkamp, 1st Year Theology, Holy Trinity, Coldwater**

“I know for myself it is rewarding to be able to go out and witness the faith and help these students. I feel that we are given so much at the seminary and we are giving back… Unfortunately, since most of the students are not Catholic, it’s difficult to talk to them directly about faith because they don’t express much of an interest. But our simply being there provides a witness. They are able to see the Church is something alive… Certainly some day we (as future priests) will have to be out in a parish interacting with students and teachers and in that respect it is very pertinent to our formation...

“In this Year of Faith, my experience at St. Peter Claver has made me think more about the question: How do we bring people to an encounter with Christ?... We have helped catechize the students in the classroom by intellectually presenting information to them. But I wonder how to engage the youth and others to have a true encounter with Christ.”

**Seminarian Thomas Zink, 1st Year Pre-Theology, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Springfield**

“It’s a small place (40 to 50 students). This gives me an opportunity to get out of the seminary and help someone else. There is one little kindergartener who needed some one-on-one help and he responded after a while. He was working on math and was having trouble with the concept of 10 and the concept of 1. He eventually got it. On the concept of 10, I took out a Rosary and there are 10 beads and I counted out 10. Before that I prayed with him the Our Father. His concentration improved and he was able to concentrate on what we were doing. They have a certain amount of religion at school. They are taught the prayers and have religion classes, so it’s not foreign to them. They may not be baptized, but they are aware.”
already is there, but we need to be in touch with the fact that it is a mandate. It is required of us to evangelize.

“I see evangelization in our RCIA program. Here are new folks who desire to enter the Church fully. It’s a perfect place. Early on we start by praying the Rosary... (later) the Creed... (which) systematically puts forward to the RCIA candidates and catechumens what it is we believe, what they want to be embracing. There is a process of embracing and taking into themselves and get to instruct them about that... I have seen Catholics getting reengaged in their faith. It is a thrill for me.

“I also deeply have a desire to inspire existing Catholics to a rekindling of the faith. I know how it has been for me — this person and that person who I can cite in my past who helped me and made me truly desire to be there now for my fellow Catholics.

“It has been so heartening to me to see folks who came to the RCIA program three or four years ago bringing others into the program. They are not only living our faith in their own personal lives but taking it to others.”

**MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH, ERLANGER, KY. RCIA PROGRAM**

Lynne Kwiatkowski, Master of Arts in Theology Program, RCIA Volunteer

“I realized a need in my life for greater understanding of my faith. I have a desire to know and embrace my faith... and people ask me how I’m going to use my degree. The quick answer to that is I’m already using it in more ways than I even realize and I’m absolutely using it in the RCIA program.

“Evangelization needs to be an integral part of our faith life. It needs to be there, and maybe it already is there, but we need to be in touch with the fact that it is a mandate. It is required of us to evangelize.

“I see evangelization in our RCIA program. Here are new folks who desire to enter the Church fully. It’s a perfect place. Early on we start by praying the Rosary... (later) the Creed... (which) systematically puts forward to the RCIA candidates and catechumens what it is we believe, what they want to be embracing. There is a process of embracing and taking into themselves and get to instruct them about that... I have seen Catholics getting reengaged in their faith. It is a thrill for me.

“I also deeply have a desire to inspire existing Catholics to a rekindling of the faith. I know how it has been for me — this person and that person who I can cite in my past who helped me and made me truly desire to be there now for my fellow Catholics.

“It has been so heartening to me to see folks who came to the RCIA program three or four years ago bringing others into the program. They are not only living our faith in their own personal lives but taking it to others.”

**THE V A MEDICAL CENTER**

**Seminarian Scott Kopp, 1st Year Theology, St. Joseph, Dover, Diocese of Youngstown**

“We get a lot of World War II veterans, Vietnam War veterans. And, because it’s free to vets, we get a lot of poor men who have no health care. The VA does a very good job of advertising among the homeless.

“We provide opportunities for people who have not been attending Church for a while since they are in the hospital and they are thinking a little more about what’s important. They are thinking about their mortality. We are the first responders, often the first person they see after getting in the hospital. I have a Rosary to pray with them. I can give Communion (when they are practicing Catholics) or I can refer them to the chaplain. So, certainly there is an evangelization element to this.

“Part of the new evangelization is the idea of getting back to the basics — back to the core of the faith. It really is like (St.) Paul. He would go into a city and set up and do what he would do — talk to people, interact with them. They would ask questions. For me, often going into a hospital room the patients do not want to talk about what they have. They ask: ‘Who are you? What are you doing here? Wow! It’s fantastic you’re a seminarian; or, ‘What’s a seminarian?’; ‘You’re going to be a priest? What do you want to do that for?’ or, ‘That’s wonderful.’

“Just being there and saying who we are often opens up the door to the more important questions.”

**Seminarian Craig Best, 2nd Year Pre-Theology, St. Margaret of Cortona and St. John Vianney, Cincinnati**

“We make our rounds and offer Communion. We offer prayers. We offer compassion. We get into conversations. If they want to be left alone, I simply say, ‘I’ll pray for you.’ I always let them know we have a full-time priest/chaplain if they would like to see him because some patients have been away from Confession for a while.

“There are people who have no interest at all in Communion and it makes you wonder. ‘Do you really understand what it is...? Do you really know what you are missing out on here?’ It makes me wonder what led to this point and it opens your mind to catechesis and evangelization.

“In a sense it makes me aware of the larger picture — about how many Catholics have fallen away. I pray for them.

“But, then there are others. I encounter people who are daily communicants who are very happy I’m there since they did not have a chance to go to Mass. Sometimes there is an adult child visiting who is very devout. When you tell them you are in the seminary, they are eager to talk to you.

“Often times, people are open and share some of their confusion about suffering. I try to encourage them that Jesus understands and no one suffered more than Him; and that Mary would understand. I take it to them in prayer, to not lose faith. While it may seem pretty bleak, God hears you.”
Proclaiming the Kingdom in the Midst of the World

by the Rev. Paul Ruwe, dean of students

New and Improved: This phrase may elicit either of these gut reactions from you: “I must have it!” Or, “the old one seems to work just fine; why do I need a new one?”

Modern marketing was not created with me in mind; I know this because hearing the words “New and Improved” only leads me to tune-out whatever is being introduced.

Yet modern marketing clearly works, otherwise the Super Bowl commercials would not be more popular than the game itself. Consumers consume; marketing tells us what we should consume to make us happy. The Gospel tells us to consume not something, but someone: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst… I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:35, 51).

One of my favorite movies as a high school student was Say Anything. It featured John Cusack as a recent high school graduate who has fallen in love. His only goal for the future is “to spend as much time as possible” with his new girlfriend. When her father presses him to be serious, he instead seriously offers what he does not want to do for a career:

“I don’t want to sell anything, buy anything or process anything… I don’t want to sell anything bought or processed; or buy anything sold or processed; or process anything sold, bought or processed; or repair anything sold, bought or processed. You know, as a career, I don’t want to do that.”

The phrase “New Evangelization” has presented me with a personal challenge for this very reason. In my opinion it is not new. In a modern context (subjectively including my lifetime) this phrase was first spoken by Pope John Paul II in 1979, but its spirit emerged from Pope Paul VI’s Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World), promulgated in 1975 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Father Robert Hater provided a helpful introduction in the fall issue of The Athenaeum Magazine on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Father Robert Hater provided a helpful introduction in the fall issue of The Athenaeum Magazine and pointed out that the word evangelization was not a term often used by Roman Catholics.

My initial consistent experience of the phrase occurred as a new parish priest, primarily as a first-time pastor. Each time I read or heard “New Evangelization” it tended to be linked to a new program being introduced at the parish level from above. I could not help but feel “New Evangelization” was being co-opted to sell me on a pre-produced evangelization program so I would be impelled to market it in the parish. I felt like Ralphie in A Christmas Story when the excitement of transcribing his first coded message with a Little Orphan Annie secret decoder ring revealed to his disillusioned eyes: “Be sure to drink your Ovaltine…A crummy commercial!”

I did not like selling a product and I had no desire to accept the Gospel in a package. I wanted to proclaim Jesus Christ and be touched by the proclamation of fellow pilgrims’ love for Him. This feeling of discomfort led me back to Pope Paul VI and his message to the Church:

May it mean for us — as it did for John the Baptist, for Peter and Paul, for the other apostles and for a multitude of splendid evangelizers all through the Church’s history — an interior enthusiasm that nobody and nothing can quench. May it be the great joy of our consecrated lives. And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are depressed, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ, and who are willing to risk their lives so that the kingdom may be proclaimed and the Church established in the midst of the world. (EN 80)

Pope Paul VI’s words led me to look at what was already present in the parish I was called to lead and serve. I found dedicated, life-long parishioners and faithful staff members willing to give selflessly of their time and talent to live the Kingdom of God, in their homes and in the parish office and around the parish and throughout the area. I found myself to be among co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. Evangelization did not have to be packaged; I was in its midst if I was willing for Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom of God to be fulfilled within my hearing and sight. My heart did burn with the love of God as we shared our love for the Kingdom, especially its practical call to love our neighbor to inspire their love of God so as to draw them closer the Church’s life.

This month’s Athenaeum magazine focuses on men and women serving in the parishes and ministries of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and beyond, who have studied and been formed in their faith at The Athenaeum of Ohio. I have been blessed as a seminary intern, newly ordained parochial vicar and pastor to serve with lay men and women, priests, religious and permanent deacons whose interior enthusiasm of evangelization touched its unquenchable source within me. To borrow from a creative influence from even earlier in life, Dr. Seuss, their evangelization “came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags”.

They have helped me trust, within a shared daily experience of willingly proclaiming the Kingdom and the Church established in the midst of the world, to believe, perhaps, evangelization means a little bit more. [2]
Thanks to the generosity of three benefactors, seminarians and other students studying at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West will benefit from a new state of the art sacramental and preaching lab.

“Seminarians and others will now have the opportunity to practice Mass, baptisms, weddings and to practice preaching all in one room,” said the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president/rector of the Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s.

“With new lighting and cameras, the lab provides us with a better facility to record and film seminarians as they practice. Because it will be digital, it can be placed on a file in the students’ computers and the computers of their professors. We also have the room equipped with a big screen TV so it can be viewed right away with the professor and the rest of the class,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said.

The new lab was made possible with donations by Lois and Dennis Doyle, the late Jolanta Boehm and an anonymous benefactor. The architect was William L. Watson, with Kramer and Feldman, Inc. as the general contractor. The audio visual and electronics systems, lighting and cameras were completed by Prestige AV & Creative Services.

Besides Father O’Cinnsealaigh, others working on the project include Dennis Eagan, Athenaeum vice president for finance and administration and Deacon David Shea, assistant professor of homiletics.

“There was always a practice chapel here but this facility makes use of state of the art technological equipment,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said. “Until last year, we had been using the Immaculate Conception Chapel which has since undergone a complete renovation. That meant we had to upgrade the new lab’s room which originally served as a practice chapel. We have an altar, an ambo, a baptismal font. There is an isolated control room and an isolated storage room. Cameras focus on different parts of the room and we have computer controlled curtains to block out light when needed,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said.
Cardinal George to Continue Series

The Athenaeum’s series of events commemorating the Year of Faith will continue with a lecture given by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, who will address the role of “Faith in the Public Square” and in contemporary culture when he presents the Gardner Lecture in Moral Theology at 7:30 p.m. April 24 in the Bartlett Pastoral Center.

Cardinal George is the first Chicago native to become Archbishop of Chicago. Installed in May 1997, he arrived after spending less than a year as Archbishop of Portland, Ore. and five years as Bishop of Yakima, Wash. He is the thirteenth Ordinary of Chicago since its establishment as a diocese in 1843.

Cardinal George is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and is the sixth Cardinal to lead the Chicago Archdiocese’s 2.3 million Catholics. He has assumed a prominent position among United States bishops, serving as the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2007 to 2010.

Apostolic Nuncio to Celebrate Liturgy & Speak at Archbishop’s Dinner

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, has accepted an invitation from Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, to be principal celebrant of the liturgy at the annual Archbishop’s Dinner for the Bishop Fenwick Society (BFS) at the Athenaeum on May 3.

In accepting the invitation, Archbishop Vigano wrote: “I truly appreciate your invitation to be principal celebrant of the liturgy and also to offer an address during the dinner… I look forward to this wonderful occasion, which supports your seminary and its programs.”

Archbishop Vigano was appointed apostolic nuncio to the United States by Pope Benedict XVI in October, 2011. A nuncio is a Vatican diplomat with the rank of ambassador and as nuncio. Archbishop Vigano is accredited to the United States government and also serves as the pope’s representative to the Catholic Church in the U.S.

A native of northern Italy, Archbishop Vigano was ordained a priest in 1968. He holds a doctorate in canon and civil law. He entered the Vatican diplomatic corps in 1973 and began his service at embassies in Iraq and Kuwait (1973-76) and Great Britain (1976-78) before working in the Vatican Secretariat of State (1978-89). Archbishop Vigano was the special envoy to the European Council in Strasbourg, France (1989-92).

He was made an archbishop and nominated apostolic pro-nuncio to Nigeria by Pope John Paul II in 1992 and returned to the Vatican Secretariat of State in 1998. He led a Vatican delegation to Iraq in 1999 to try to make arrangements for Pope John Paul II to visit Ur, the birthplace of Abraham. He served as Secretary General of the Governorate of Vatican City State (2009-2011). The Archbishop’s Dinner is by invitation only to members of the Bishop Fenwick Society — key supporters of the Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. Seating is limited.

Dr. Jerry Miller Named 2013 Distinguished Alum

Dr. Gerald W. “Jerry” Miller, class of 1990, who with his wife, Thomasine, “Tommie”, have been long-time Athenaeum benefactors, has been named the Athenaeum’s 2013 distinguished alumnus. He was selected from six nominees and three finalists for the honor by the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, Athenaeum president/rector.

Jerry has served on the Athenaeum Advisory Council and the Athenaeum Alumni Executive Committee. He and his wife are charter members of the Bishop Fenwick Society. He holds a Master of Arts degree in religion from the Athenaeum, and he expressed from his continuing relationship, “We ask God for increasing numbers of vocations to the priesthood and religious life to build our Church, and He sends them to us generously. It is our responsibility to support a healthy and growing Athenaeum for the further education of all Christians and seminarians in this part of our country.”

Dr. Miller is founder and retired president of the former HiTech Polymers Co. He holds a Doctorate in Physical Chemistry from Duquesne University. He and his wife have six children and twelve grandchildren. Jerry is also the author of INSIGHTS TO SPIRITUALITY, published by AuthorHouse in 2011.

Cincinnati residents since 1975, the Millers belong to Guardian Angels Parish, where Jerry is active as a Eucharistic minister, lector, Bereavement minister and with the St. Vincent DePaul Society.
The 2013 season marks another year for the Minor Prophets’ competing in basketball tournaments at Mundelein Seminary and the Pontifical College Josephinum, and promoting vocations in vocation basketball games with the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Toledo. This is the fifth year for vocation basketball games — four more years and 22 more schools than any participant had expected. Overall the Minor Prophets have visited 23 schools stretching from Greater Cincinnati north through Dayton, Sidney, Findlay, and Sandusky, Ohio.

This series of games began five years ago when Guardian Angels proposed a basketball game between their eighth grade team and the Minor Prophets. That blessed day began a tradition that cannot be fully explained by the success and fun for the Minor Prophets and the schools. The games became a way to go to a school, have fun by playing a basketball game together and also talk about the vocation God is calling each and every person to fulfill. A seminarian speaks to the students at halftime. He focuses on the fact that God is calling all people to a particular vocation, and how we can listen and respond to this call from God in prayer. Seminarians also want students to realize they are people who are also striving to follow God’s call. The Minor Prophets thank all of the schools for inviting them to share in the fun of these events and hope that the games continue to be fruitful for all.

The tournaments are another part of the season. The Minor Prophets played at Mundelein Seminary in early February, and at the Josephinum tournament later in the month. In both tournaments the Minor Prophets played hard, but fell short of winning. As a veteran coach said, “There can only be one winning team in a tournament.” The main reason the Minor Prophets play in these tournaments is to join in fraternity and fellowship with other seminarians across the Midwest. Each year they get to see the men who play for other seminaries. They all share in the journey as brothers in Christ who are in formation for the priesthood. These tournaments show us the many men who are answering the call to the priesthood. Please pray for their discernment and growth in holiness on their journeys.

The Athenaeum Magazine

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Minor Prophets Travel Throughout Ohio to Promote Vocations

Photos by Christian Conte-Lombarte

Seminarian Wilfredo Fernandez slips by a Guardian Angels defender.

Seminarian Sean Wilson is triple teamed by Angels’ defenders.

Rev. Mr. Jeremy Miller drives for a layup.

Vocation Game Schools
1. Guardian Angels
2. St. Louis Owensville
3. Our Lady of Victory
4. St. Antoninus
5. St. Ignatius
6. St. Jude
7. St. Aloysius Bridgetown
8. Immaculate Heart of Mary
9. Cardinal Pacelli
10. St. John, Harrison
11. St. Cecilia
12. Incarnation Centerville
13. St. Charles Borromeo Kettering (at Alter High School)
14. Lehman High School
15. Holy Angels (at Lehman)
16. Piqua Catholic (at Lehman)
17. Holy Rosary, St. Mary’s (at Lehman)
18. St. Patrick Troy (at Lehman)
19. St. Mary, Greenville (at Lehman)
20. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
21. St. Susanna
22. St. Michael’s Findlay
23. Central Catholic Sandusky
Athenaeum Hosting Messages of Glory Photography Exhibit

The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West began the Easter Season hosting the exhibition Messages of Glory, which will continue to be displayed in the main building through mid-May, 2013.

The Athenaeum partnered with David-Flischel Enterprises to provide an exhibition of sacred art from the new coffee table book Messages of Glory: The Narrative Art of Roman Catholicism (2012).

Photographs displayed feature sculpture, stained glass, murals and mosaics from local churches and at least four mosaics from the atrium and Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, located at the Athenaeum’s Mount Washington campus. In the words of Anne Husted Burleigh, author of the preface for the book:

“Those Catholics who have come before us here in the Ohio Valley have left to us in Greater Cincinnati an inestimable treasure of sacred art for which, as St. Thomas Aquinas would say, we cannot ever be adequately grateful. These exquisitely beautiful images in glass, paint, mosaic, and stone, images of all the scenes and stories of salvation history, are sometimes well-known to us who live and worship here, but often as not these images are mostly unknown and unsung. Yet the artists clearly intended that we should be the recipients and beneficiaries of these reflections of God’s lovingness. Thanks to the keen artistic eye of Robert Flischel, who for twenty years has photographed these sacred works, the images are available at last to be viewed in Messages of Glory: The Narrative Art of Roman Catholicism.”

At 7:30 p.m., April 10 a lecture was held in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, featuring Robert Flischel, who gave an explanation of the work, and Father Joseph Goetz, who spoke on the relationship between art and theology.

Robert Flischel is a career Cincinnati photographer whose work has appeared in numerous books and publications including Life, Time, Smithsonian, Audubon and others. His photographs are included in the corporate publications including whose work has appeared in numerous books and publications including Life, Time, Smithsonian, Audubon, and others. His photographs are included in the corporate publications including Procter & Gamble, Heinz, Longaberger and Disney. He also has developed collections for schools and libraries. He is president emeritus of The Art League and often lectures on historic preservation.

Father Joseph Goetz, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, previously served as a professor of systematic theology of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. He holds a doctorate from Cambridge University and has lectured and written articles pertaining to the relationship between theology and art.

More information about Mr. Flischel and his work is available at www.robertaflischel.com

Athenaeum Accreditation Reaffirmed

Last October, teams representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada (ATS) visited the Athenaeum as part of the process of renewing the Athenaeum’s accreditation by the two groups.

After their visits, both teams wrote reports about the Athenaeum for their respective accrediting agencies. The reports recommended renewing Athenaeum accreditation for a period of ten years. The reports also identified the strengths of the Athenaeum and made recommendations for its improvement. HLC and ATS have now formally accepted these reports and reaffirmed the accreditation of the Athenaeum for 10 years (until autumn 2022).

The report of the visiting team representing ATS identified the following distinctive strengths of the Athenaeum: The strong leadership of the archbishop, board, administration, staff, and faculty; Significant enhancement of the financial and physical resources of the institution; Marked improvement in the assessment of student learning outcomes; Clear, compelling, and shared commitment to the three-fold mission of the institution: to educate for the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and lay ecclesial ministry.

The report of the team representing HLC commended the thorough coordination of the formation program and the academic program at the institution.

Both reports also offered many recommendations for the improvement of the Athenaeum. These will guide the Athenaeum administration during the next couple of years.

A New Academic Calendar

Since 1970, the Athenaeum has followed a quarter calendar, in which there were three 10-week quarters each academic year. Beginning next autumn the Athenaeum will return to a semester calendar with two 15-week semesters each year.

The Rev. Benedict D. O’Cinnsealaigh, Athenaeum president, decided during the past academic year to make this change. During summer 2012, members of the Athenaeum Senate Educational Affairs Committee worked on the conversion of Athenaeum degree programs from quarter credits to semester credits. The Athenaeum applied to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for permission to make this change, and has now received it. No current students will need to spend more time or money to complete their degree program as a result of this change.

The Ohio Board of Regents has asked that all state institutions of higher learning use the semester calendar by 2017. Use of the semester calendar will bring the Athenaeum’s calendar into conformity with that of most state institutions and almost all Catholic seminaries in the United States. This will facilitate cross registration with other member schools of the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities (GCCCU).

On the semester calendar not all courses will extend throughout the 15-week semester; for example, there will be two-credit courses that are 10 weeks long and one-credit courses that are five weeks. The courses that do extend throughout the semester will be able to explore course topics more thoroughly and permit students to work on papers and other assignments for a longer time. It is hoped that the semester calendar will facilitate a contemplative approach to theology and greater theological reflection and integration.

Additional information about this calendar change can be found on the Athenaeum website in the form of Frequently Asked Questions for students in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program and Special Studies Division – see http://www.athenaeum.edu/ClassSchedule.aspx
Happenings

Supporting People Who Impact Our Society

Dennis Eagan has been working at the Athenaeum for more than 30 years. He didn’t take this job for fortune or fame. He came to work at the Athenaeum because he felt called to help — hoping to make an impact on our society and world.

Dennis is vice president for finance and administration at The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. He is a charter member of the Bishop Fenwick Society (BFS) and a member of the St. Gregory Legacy Society, composed of generous benefactors who have decided to leave a legacy gift to support the Athenaeum mission of preparing people to serve the Church as priests, deacons and lay ministers.

“Through my years, I have learned from experience that the Athenaeum prepares people to have an impact in our society and to make a difference in our community. I made the decision to leave the Athenaeum in my will because I want to support the mission for future generations.”

At the recent Generations Circle Hoopla event, Mr. Eagan shared:

“I am sure that none of us need a reminder about the importance of preparing and training priests for our local church. These are the men who are here to provide for our spiritual needs, especially through the sacraments. We see the efforts of their vocation every day — through baptisms, weddings, hospital ministry, marriage counseling, funerals, and much more. But there are other ways the Athenaeum participates and leads in our local community.

“The Athenaeum also provides education for lay students and permanent deacons from all parts of our 19-county archdiocese. And whether they live in the inner city or a small farming village, they put their faith and their talents to work in the local community. They too are passionate about their faith, are well educated, and are actively working to bring Gospel values to the marketplace and workplace.

“They contribute hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours to places such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society; Su Casa: English as a Second Language Program; Mary Magdalene House; Vitas Hospice; Chaplaincy at Mercy Anderson, Good Samaritan, Twin Towers Nursing Home; Lebanon and Warren County Correctional facilities; St. Vincent DePaul Society - Homeless Shelter, Dayton; Crisis Pregnancy Centers; Hamilton County Jail; Wright State University Campus Ministry; Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Serve City Food Pantry.

“They work has included: Prison retreats; parish missions; bible studies in parishes; homeless shelters and prisons; training for nursing home volunteers; establishing parish vocation committees; marriage enrichment programs; city-wide workshops on the effects of domestic violence, and the development of a pictorial communications book for non-verbal stroke patients.

“Throughout the years, I have been privileged to work with men and women very much like the ones I mention today — ordinary Catholics who are being equipped by the faculty, staff and benefactors of the Athenaeum to accomplish extraordinary things in the name of Christ. As one student put it: “God really does do the calling; but you have to be open to where He calls.

“I have learned that the good our priests, seminarians and lay students are able to do is facilitated through the prayers and financial support of our spiritual community and I want to support this work in perpetuity.”

The St. Gregory Legacy Society was established to honor those who have made the Athenaeum part of their legacy through a planned gift, such as a bequest, charitable annuity or trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan assets. There is no minimum amount required to make a gift from your estate, only a firm belief in our mission.

Your contribution allows you to make a statement of support during your lifetime and create a legacy which will benefit the generations to come.

We invite you to join the St. Gregory Legacy Society to support the mission of the Athenaeum. Please contact Kathy Symons at (513) 233-6153 or at ksymons@athenaeum.edu for further information.
LPMP Two-Year Certificate Option Coming to McCartyville

Beginning in the fall of 2013, the Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) will offer the non-degreed two-year Certificate program at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in McCartyville.

The program at the Pilarczyk Center in Dayton will conclude this year, but is likely to return to the convenient Dayton location in the near future, said Deacon Hal Belcher, associate director of the LPMP program for the northern area of the archdiocese.

LPMP Director Dr. Susan McGurgan said certificate classes will continue at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Monroe for the second year and as always is available at the main Mount Washington campus in Cincinnati.

“We try to rotate our certificate program sites,” Deacon Belcher said. “Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is attractive because the area has been recently remodeled. They have some nice size classrooms (in the) remodeled church basement.

“The site also is fairly close to Interstate 75. That makes it not too difficult for people who may want to come up from the Dayton area to take the courses. You simply go up to Sidney and take State Route 29. It’s about 10 miles,” he said.

The Rev. John W. Tonkin, pastor at Sacred Heart of Jesus, said, “There is a great hunger in the northern area of the archdiocese for a deeper learning experience of the Catholic faith. People who join the program will experience a growth in their own faith journey and will in turn be able to share their new experiences with their communities of faith. We at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish are pleased to welcome this dynamic opportunity for our sisters and brothers in Christ as the Church continues her mission of evangelization.”

From the LPMP’s beginning in 1975, one of its goals has been to make the benefits of an Athenaeum education accessible throughout the 19-county archdiocese. Six years after the first classes met, the first satellite location for the LPMP opened in Dayton, Dr. McGurgan said.

Since then, the LPMP has operated at 31 different two-year sites including Maria Stein, Springfield, Carthagena, Sidney, Vandalia, St. Dominic in Delhi Township, Good Shepherd in Montgomery, St. Vivian in Finneytown, and St. Peter in Huber Heights — to name a few.

The LPMP has met in parish libraries, high school classrooms, pastoral centers and retreat houses. Each one of these locations became part of the Athenaeum as pastors, principals and staff members welcomed LPMP teachers and students.

The Monroe site has averaged 10-12 participants. It is in its first year and will continue for the 2013-14 academic year.

“Our Lady of Sorrows is a wonderful location for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program classes in part due to its central location in the Archdiocese,” said Eric Wolf, who teaches biblical studies there.

“It is easily accessible for our students from Dayton to the West Side and Lebanon. Yet equally important is the excellent classroom facilities that are equipped with both traditional teaching resources and new high definition multimedia displays. Father Edward Pratt and his staff are extremely welcoming and hospitable; their commitment to supporting Catholic education in the Cincinnati Archdiocese is quite evident.”

For additional information about LPMP opportunities or to enroll please call: Cincinnati (513)-231-1200; or for the northern archdiocese program (419)-305-5486.

CORRECTION: The Fall 2012 issue of The Athenaeum Magazine featured a story on the development of an online orientation program for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program. That article omitted the notation that this initiative was developed with the support of the SC Ministry Foundation, promoting the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.
St. Gregory the Great at The Athenaeum of Ohio.

Seminarians as acolytes and eight other seminarians as readers on March 16 in the Chapel of Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer instituted seven Mount St. Mary’s of the West National March for Life.

Mount St. Mary’s Seminarians Join 650,000 in March to Support Life

Seminarians, staff and faculty members of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West traveled to Washington, D.C., January 24 and 25 to participate in the annual National March for Life.

Honduran Exchange Program in Eleventh Year

The exchange program between the Athenaeum’s Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Honduran seminarians coordinated with Oscar Cardinal Rodriguez, continued for its eleventh year this winter as the Athenaeum welcomed two seminarians from Honduras. The year’s exchange seminarians were: Gustavo Gonzalez of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa led by Cardinal Rodriguez and Juan Antonio Hernandez Pauon of the Diocese of Juticalpa led by Bishop Jose Bonello.

Advisory Council Member Dr. Bob Burger Receives Notre Dame Club Award

Bob Burger, a member of The Athenaeum of Ohio Advisory Council, received the Notre Dame Club of Greater Cincinnati’s annual Exemplar Award December 30 at St. Xavier High School.

Pastoral Counseling Program Director Receives Mary Corre Foster Award

Kevin Prendergast, LPCC-S, director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling degree program at the Athenaeum has been recognized with the 2013 Mary Corre Foster Community Counselor Award by the Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association (GCCA).

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Pack the Bartlett Center

The annual performance of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Glee Club March 13 brought a full house to the Bartlett Pastoral Center on the Athenaeum’s campus.

Attendance at the event is limited to Bishop Fenwick Society members, the cornerstone group of Athenaeum benefactors, and their guests.

Acolytes and Readers Instituted

Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer instituted seven Mount St. Mary’s of the West seminarians as acolytes and eight other seminarians as readers on March 16 in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at The Athenaeum of Ohio.

ON THE WEB

For detailed information about the following items, please access the news section of the Athenaeum Website, www.athenaeum.edu

Third Annual Athenaeum Night at XU Basketball

Athenaeum supporters and guests gathered in January to cheer on the Xavier Musketeers over the Temple Owls.

IN THE NEWS

Faculty

Dr. Terrance Callan, dean of the Special Studies Division and professor of biblical studies, recently published an article titled: “Reading the Earliest Copies of 2 Peter” in Biblica, the journal of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. An electronic version of the article can be found at the

The Rev. Theodore C. Ross, SJ., assistant professor of Church history and historical theology, presented a workshop on Vatican II to the diocesan staff of the Diocese of Erie, Pa.; gave a lecture to the parish of Holy Angels, Sidney, on the Papacy and papal elections; gave two talks on Jesuit history and ministry at St. Xavier Church, downtown; gave a lecture at St. Cecelia Parish, Cincinnati, OH, on the title references the dress jacket high school seminarians wore in the late 1960s.

Another high point will involve distribution of a second version of The Grey Blazer, edited by committee member, Ed Vockell. Jim “Sam” Weller, and Mike “Zeke” Zimmerman. They have been meeting to arrange the festivities.

The Reunion Day will feature Mass in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, followed by a social dinner, and program entitled “Making New Memories.”

One of the class members holds a unique distinction involving the chapel. It was there Pat Hornschemeier (MA Philosophy, Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West) completed his preparation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

Dr. Patricia Pintado, director of the St. James Project, attended a conference at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, DC, in February. The theme of the conference was “Dignitas Humanae and the Rediscovery of Religious Freedom.”

Alumni

Monsignor Peter M. Polando, class of 1980, of the Diocese of Youngstown, has been named rector of St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, effective March 22.

Class of ’63 Reunion: Gone but not Forgotten
By Father John Kummer

I t doesn’t exist anymore; yet it is still being remembered. St. Gregory Seminary High School, which opened in 1923, closed in 1970.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1963. A reunion at the seminary is being planned for Saturday, July 6.

More than 80 teenagers were once members of the class. They first gathered on a rainy Tuesday afternoon, September 1, 1959. All living members and their guests are being sought for the reunion and invited.

The Reunion Planning Committee consists of Dale DeBrosse; Father John “Moots” Kummer, chairman; Don Siemens; Ed Vockell; Jim “Sam” Weller, and Mike “Zeke” Zimmerman. They have been meeting to arrange the festivities.

The Reunion Day will feature Mass in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, followed by a social dinner, and program entitled “Making New Memories.”

One of the class members holds a unique distinction involving the chapel. It was there Pat Hornschemeier (MA Philosophy, Athenaeum) married the Honorable Margaret A. Clark (MA Philosophy, theology, completed his preparatory studies at St. Gregory Seminary and theology studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

Monsignor Bertrand J. Shenk, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died October 16 at his residence in Norwalk, Ohio. He was 90.

PASSINGS

- The Rev. Robert R. Wolfer, former pastor of St. Martin of Tours Church, Cheviot, and St. Patrick Church, Troy, died January 15. He was 90. Father Wolfer completed his preparatory studies at St. Gregory Seminary and theology studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

- Monsignor Bertrand J. Shenk, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died October 16 at his residence in Norwalk, Ohio. He was 90.

- The Rev. Adam F. X. Stromski, a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and the College of St. Charles Borromeo, Columbus, died February 17 at the House of Loretto, Canton. He was 95. Full obituaries of Father Wolfer. Monsignor Shenk and Father Stromski 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

Charles D. Singler, father of Monsignor Charles E. Singler, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumnus and former Athenaeum faculty member, died November 15.

Matthew Bohnsack, brother of the Rev. Christopher Bohnsack of the Diocese of Toledo and a graduate of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died December 2.

Elia Harmeling, mother of Sister Deborah Harmeling, OSB, former director of the Athenaeum’s Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library, died December 15.

Gary Parker, brother of Becky Gillum of the Athenaeum’s culinary staff, died December 20.

Mary Louise Merry, grandmother of seminarian Craig McHenry, died December 25.

Agnes Knapke, grandmother of seminarian Eric Wood, died January 28.

CORRECTIONS

Below are corrections from the Honor Roll list of donors in the Fall 2012 edition of The Athenaeum Magazine. We regret the errors.

- Mr. Douglas J. Bean, a Bishop Fenwick Society member, was omitted from the list with donors from the Class of 1972.
- Mary H. Wetzel’s middle initial was in error in the Friend’s Section.
- The following Bishop Fenwick Society Parish members were omitted from the donor list: All Saints Parish, Cincinnati, OH

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Church of the Incarnation Parish, Centerville, OH
Church of the Visitation Parish, Eaton, OH
Ft. Recovery Cluster Parishes, Fort Recovery, OH
Good Shepherd Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Guardian Angels Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Holy Angels Parish, Sidney, OH
Holy Family Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Holy Family Parish, Versailles, OH
Holy Rosary Parish, St. Mary’s, OH
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Mary, Help of Christians Parish, Fairborn, OH
Old St. Mary Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Monroe, OH
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Our Lady of Victory Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Our Lord Christ the King Parish, Cincinnati, OH
Precious Blood Parish, Dayton, OH
Sacred Heart Parish, Cincinnati, OH
With his Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei, Pope Benedict XVI has called for a Year of Faith, which begins October 11, 2012 and continues through November 24, 2013. The remaining events planned by the Athenaeum to recognize this special year are:

- **GARDNER LECTURE IN MORAL THEOLOGY: CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE**
  “Faith in the Public Square”
  April 24, 2013
  7:30 p.m.
  Bartlett Pastoral Center

  Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, will address the role of “Faith in the Public Square” and in contemporary culture.

- **MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE**
  “Mary and the New Evangelization”
  May 21-24, 2013

  The Athenaeum will host the Mariological Society of America which will be holding its annual conference for members. This year the conference will address the role of the Blessed Virgin in the New Evangelization.

- **GEORGE FINDLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE: BISHOP JOSEPH PERRY**
  “Father Augustine Tolton: From Slave to Priest to Saint”
  November 13, 2013
  7:30 p.m.
  Bartlett Pastoral Center

  Bishop Joseph Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, will propose Father Augustine Tolton, the first African-American priest, as a model of faith for believers.

- **EXHIBIT AT THE ATHENAEUM**
  “The Pilgrimage of Light” featuring the photography of Robert Flischel
  April-mid May, 2013
  Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library