Unless Someone Guides Me
FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BENEDICT O’CINNSEALAIGH

At the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Father Luke Dempsey O.P., professor of theology said: “Gentlemen, the most important things you learned in life you learned sitting at your mother’s knee.”

The Gospel of Luke speaks of Jesus in the home of Joseph and Mary “growing in grace and wisdom” (2:51). Mary is a teacher for Jesus; she is also a witness and a mentor. She is one who shows the way, not simply by what she says and does, but by how she lives and who she is. Jesus himself is called teacher and rabbi, and even “good master” because He is a teacher, a mentor and witness for His apostles and for all humanity.

This concept of mentorship and witness is replete throughout the Scriptures. All of this is summed up in the heartfelt question of the Ethiopian to the Apostle Philip concerning finding the way to understand the Scripture or the way of faith; “How can I understand unless someone guides me?” (Acts: 8:31).

Pope Francis said: “So many times we are supervisors of the faith, instead of becoming facilitators of the faith of the people.” The Pope is absolutely correct; we need to do more than simply teach the faith and pass along the faith. We need to live the faith so that it is a fire burning within us that enflames all around us. As priests, ministers, and as the Church, God’s people, our people, need to be at the very heart of our mission.

Evangelization is not about securing the future of an ancient institution, as venerable, holy, and essential as the Church may be. Evangelization is the fundamental work of the Church that brings God’s people into communion with God Himself. It is about bringing the liberation, grace and joy of faith to God’s people. Evangelization renews a vision of humanity that is life giving and life loving.

It is not simply “a” mission of the Church to evangelize; rather, it is her fundamental and essential mission! This mission includes all ministries in the Church — priests, deacons, lay ministers, teachers, volunteers, parish and diocesan staff. Yet, evangelization is not only the mission of bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers. To leave the work of evangelization to these groups is not sufficient; this is not enough, and this will not bring about the necessarily radical mission of transforming our culture and building the Kingdom.

The Second Vatican Council makes clear that the most important evangelizers are the baptized, clergy and laity, but particularly the laity. As a community of faith we need to renew the sense that all the baptized are the fundamental missionaries and evangelizers in and for our Church, in and for our world. The mission of the clergy is to support, feed, nourish, heal, and form the laity. They are to enable the People of God to take up their mission to “go into the world and build the Kingdom.” Unless we create this dynamic sense of mission as a living reality for the laity, we will always fall short of the Lord’s command to transform every life, and therefore to transform the whole world.

Evangelization is best done in the relationship of a mentor and a disciple. In this sense, the best possible and most important evangelizers in our lives are parents evangelizing in the family home. “The most important things you learned in life you learned sitting at your mother’s knee.”

F. Benedict

Contents

COVER STORY ................................................................. 3
Reflecting ................................................................. 9
Responding to the Call .................................................. 10
Happenings: Current news around the Athenaeum ...................... 13
Remembering ................................................................ 19
Leaving a Legacy ................................................................... 20

On the cover: Mentor Susie O’Neil (top left) with her mentee Doreen Cudnik (photo by E.L. Hubbard); Father Andrew Umberg (bottom, left) with Seminarian Intern Jason Williams. Compass image by PhotoXpress/Fotolia.
No student at The Athenaeum of Ohio goes it alone.

From seminarians to students in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program, they all enjoy the assistance of wise mentors assigned to help them traverse the ups and downs of their chosen vocations and religious education.

Seminarians have spiritual directors — priests assigned to be confidants to the men being formed to carry on the leadership of the Church.

These directors have open doors. Seminarians can talk about anything from issues with celibacy to getting to chapel on time for Evening Prayer. These conversations between director and seminarian are held in the strictest confidence much like the seal of Confession. What is discussed is shared with no one else.

Future priests in training also are required to complete a one-year internship in a parish — an assignment that provides a hands-on experience of just what they can expect when leading the life of a Roman Catholic priest in a parish setting. It is a critical year for seminarians because they discover first hand what they likely will be doing for the rest of their lives.

During this year, the parish pastor becomes an important advisor and guide — sharing his knowledge and providing a seminarian with the day to day experiences of leading a parish from attending ministry meetings such as finance committees and pastoral councils and RCIA gatherings, to visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes and helping out at Mass and during the Sacraments.

Lay students in the LPMP’s master’s degree program and those in the two-year Certificate Option are linked with a mentor — a graduate who has completed studies and is willing to help current students leap the hurdles and tackle problems from finding enough time to juggle religious studies with the time consuming tasks of working a job and maintaining an active family life.

The LPMP mentor is there to listen, offer advice and help the student succeed in academics, their project in ministry, and field education.

In all of these advisor-student relationships — seminarians and spiritual directors, seminarians and pastors, LPMP students and mentors — lifelong friendships sometimes develop. It sometimes occurs that the student becomes a future mentor to others.

At the heart of it all is a realization at The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, that success breeds success — that those who have traveled the road before can be of invaluable assistance to those presently on their journeys to serve God and His Church.

Seminarian and lay student success is linked to a need for a savant, a guide, a mentor, a director. Indeed, many realize success is not likely….
As a young man journeys the five to seven years it takes to become a priest, there are inevitable challenges.

As with any worthwhile endeavor, there are ups and downs and without a confidant the journey becomes all the more difficult.

In a seminary setting, the task of the spiritual director is all important. The spiritual director is a priest in a position specifically designed to help seminarians leap hurdles, overcome problems, praise achievements and instill prayerful contact with our Lord to provide guidance.

“When you talk about spiritual direction at the seminary, you are talking about a person put in place to be someone who the young man can go to and ask important questions about their lives, about their vocations, their feelings, their experiences,” said Monsignor Frank Lane, who, with the Rev. Paul Ruwe, is the spiritual director at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

“These are protected conversations in what we call the ‘internal forum’. They are similar to Confession. And, what that means is the seminarian can come to the spiritual director and talk about anything. We are not enforcers of rules. We listen. We offer advice, suggestions, direction and help them unravel and work through anything … in an area of complete confidence and complete confidentiality. The goal of that is to help them come to terms with their vocation in a whole and healthy and happy way,” Monsignor Lane said.

“The spiritual director helps young men conform to the wisdom of the ages of the Church – the wisdom and truth that comes from the Gospels; the experience of the Church over the ages.”

A Requirement

The seminary spiritual director can be viewed as a mentor, a spiritual friend who shares his experience of the priesthood with a fellow disciple for mutual benefit.
“Spiritual direction is mandatory for anyone in seminary formation,” Father Ruwe said. “The Program of Priestly Formation specifies that the seminary must make available spiritual direction.

“It emerges during an ongoing dialogue. The seminarian focuses mainly on what got me here. As spiritual director and seminarian get to know each other, it becomes a relationship and, like any relationship, the more time you spend together the more opportunities you have to come to know their story -- how they understand themselves and their relationship to God.

“What is their primary image of God? How do they see the role of the priest in the life of the Church? How do they engage the Eucharist? How do they engage Scripture? What is their knowledge of the devotional life of the Church? Do they have any particular figures from the history of the Church tradition instrumental in their life in terms of spiritual reading such as the Blessed Mother, or a particular saint, or a particular current writer?

“It is important to know what shapes their understanding of the call to the priesthood; their view of the Church; their understanding of the experience of God knowing that this is going to be impacted by what happens here at the seminary,” Father Ruwe said.

“We divide it all up into the four major pillars of seminary formation: spiritual, intellectual, human, and pastoral — including all relationships, but focusing primarily on how they relate to the people of the Church.”

The Challenges
For many new seminarians, “they come in thinking the seminary is a finishing school,” Father Ruwe said. “They think: ‘I’m a pretty finished product. They can ordain me in a couple of years.’ But, you get in here and realize the magnitude of all the growth you need intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, relationally to be the priest the Church needs you to be.

“So, spiritual direction becomes an environment in which they are integrating these components with an honest assessment of who they are as individuals — man before God. Humility is the chief component in that,” Father Ruwe said.

Seminarians can visit the spiritual director to talk about myriad issues large or small.

“It could be a challenge they are experiencing — worries about time on the internet, family history, laziness, a realized bias, or concerns about celibacy. We provide a safe place to come and talk about these things,” he said.

The list of issues can range from celibacy to personal troubles, faculty issues or issues with each other.

“The spiritual director first attempts to clarify the issue, help the seminarian understand what the choice means, what consequences might result,” Monsignor Lane said.

The issue of celibacy, for example, may be linked to a seminarian’s mother pressuring her son because she wants grandchildren.

That issue comes down to a choice: “Are you going to lose your mother’s affection or are you going to give up a way of life that God is really calling you to lead to please your mother? So,” Monsignor Lane said, “it’s, ‘What are you going to do and what does it mean to make that choice?’ It also is encouraging them to learn how to pray about these things. I tell them: ‘Go to the chapel with this. Why not put it before our Lord and see what happens; see how you feel inside.’”

Father Ruwe said the main goal of spiritual direction “is that we are trying to help seminarians look at any specific issue in the context of how it fits into the entirety of who I am and who I am called to be. The reality is some men who enter seminary formation are not called to be priests and, while we would like them to be ordained priests for the good of the Church, a part of their discernment is whether they are called to the priestly vocation. We do not say you can’t do that. But we do say, ‘You are a seminarian and while a seminarian, are you able to live and abide by what is expected of a seminarian?’”

A Seminarian’s View
The Rev. Mr. Matthew Frisbee, a Mount St. Mary’s seminarian studying for the Diocese of Toledo, is expected to be ordained next year. His vocation to the priesthood came early. He entered St. Joseph College Seminary following graduation from Toledo Central Catholic High School.

“For most men who come into a seminary, it is not the life they lived before they entered. For new guys, spiritual direction is very important because the seminary is life-changing. New guys can be discouraged, so the spiritual director can help temper the temptation to leave and discourage that,” Rev. Mr. Frisbee said.

“There are more rules and regulations in seminary life. The fact of the matter is that generally before you enter the seminary, you do what you want to. In the seminary there is still freedom to do what you want, but you are also expected to go to prayer and be in class. And, there is a different culture to living in a seminary opposed to living in the secular world.

“The spiritual director helps us discern how God is working in our lives and how He wants to lead us. In fact, you need to bring up good and bad because God works in both,” he said.

“These could be small things such as having a disagreement with another guy that could be bothering you; or maybe there has been a death in the family. More involved things such as issues over celibacy or the Church’s position on birth control could come up. These are the things you talk about with your spiritual director. He is not allowed to talk about them with anyone else and that is important.”
Pastoral Internships: On the Job Training

This fall, the Rev. Lawrence “Stretch” Mierenfeld will welcome his eighth seminary intern to Incarnation Parish in Centerville. The Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer, today auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was his first.

“The seminary internship gives these guys a sense of the feel of the daily life of a priest,” Father Mierenfeld said. “They get to see everything I go through from the ministry we do to the nuts and bolts issues of running a parish of 13,000 people—the money issues, the personnel issues. Interns are required to be evaluated not only by the pastor but also by the parish staff.

“This is a decision making time, a time when the seminarian — who is discerning his vocation — finds out how a priest lives his daily life and sometimes it’s the deal breaker,” he said. “For four or five years they have been learning book knowledge, but as you and I know, you can’t teach everything from a book. You have to be on the job to deal with all of the issues.”

What a Priestly Vocation Entails

At St. Antoninus Parish in Green Township, Father Christopher Armstrong has hosted four interns and promotes purposeful projects as a means of helping soon-to-be-priests find out what the vocation entails. The seminarian internship year generally occurs two years prior to ordination to the priesthood and a year before ordination to the diaconate. When Father Armstrong came to St. Antoninus in 2003-04, students in the parish school’s fifth and eighth grades were given a standard questionnaire asking them: “Have you ever thought of being a priest, (religious) brother or sister?

That year, one out of 40 fifth graders answered, “Yes”, to the query; as did two of 40 eighth graders.

“I was devastated by that result,” Father Armstrong said. “I was so disappointed. I had just come off a very difficult year (as chancellor of the archdiocese) with the clergy abuse issue and I just thought, ‘Is this the depths to which we have fallen?’

The following year, then seminarian Ron Haft came to St. Antoninus as an intern and Father Armstrong gave him an assignment. “I told him to go over to the school, have lunch with the students and be with them at recess. The results were significant. We went from one out of 40 to one out of four. That would not have happened if we did not have a seminary intern. He changed the whole perception of being a priest or a brother or sister.”

Father Armstrong said there are two key results from the internship year.

I would hope this is a year when a guy makes a final decision. It should either increase your desire for the priesthood — observing the priestly activity you associate with priests such as celebrating sacraments, saying Mass, hearing confessions, preaching the Word of God and having more of a part in the assigned parish; or realize this is not for me.

“The other thing is the personal growth that takes place because here you are dealing with real people in real life situations. These are not your classmates; they are not your professors. Seminary interns pick up pastoral issues they will have to deal with and go off and analyze them.

The internship year can be a tense time for the seminarian, Father Armstrong said.

“They are shadowing me as a pastor so one of the things I try to do is lower their anxiety because they are moving in with strangers. They do not know who these people are. They do not know what the parish is like but they do know they are being evaluated. So, I tell them the most important thing they can do is observe.”

“The intern is not only good for the pastor, but is very good for the people in the parish. Our parishioners look forward to our next intern. There is a great impact on the parish in having one.” Father Armstrong said.

Learning about Life in a Parish

This year, seminarian Eric Wood is completing an internship at Mary Help of Christians Parish in Fort Recovery in Mercer County with the Rev. Thomas Dorn, the pastor.

“I am learning how to help people deal with whatever situation they are in. It might be something good, or bad — planning a wedding or planning a funeral. I’m getting involved in the day-to-day life of the parish. I go to council meetings. We are starting a youth group in the parish and I’m helping to build it up. Obviously, I also help with duties on the weekend such as Masses. I lector; I serve; I fill whatever need there is. I serve as sacristan.

“To some degree, I think it is a pivotal year,” Mr. Wood said. “You get to see what it’s like to live in a parish.”

For Father Dorn, Mr. Wood is his first seminarian intern.

“The internship program helps the seminarian by providing him with a practical experience of parish life with its dynamics and tensions and politics,” Father Dorn said. “(Parishioners) really liked and respected Eric, who is exemplary… I, myself, learned a lot from him — especially regarding liturgy, Mariology, Christology and even the Cincinnati Reds.”

Father Mierenfeld said interns and pastors often become close friends.

“There is the satisfaction of seeing them grow toward the priesthood. But, this program also keeps me fresh. I’ve been ordained 30 years and, after 30 years sometimes things seem a bit routine. But, when you know someone is paying close attention to what you do, you do those things a little more seriously,” Father Mierenfeld said.

“I have always enjoyed the guys and I think I’ve done well with them. And this provides me a way to give back.”
Mentors: Helping Students on Their Journeys

In the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP), mentors walk side by side with students who juggle their time to complete a course of study while holding a job, dealing with family issues and coping with other stresses of living in today’s fast-paced world.

“You are required to have 60 hours with your mentor to graduate,” said Susie O’Neil who has been an LPMP mentor for five years. “Those 60 hours are a needed gift, because the people at work do not understand; their kids do not understand. When the workload comes, the student has someone who has been through the process and they get it. They understand what you are going through just to balance and juggle all of the balls,” she said.

“It is part of the program that we support and walk with you. I think many would drop out without mentoring,” Mrs. O’Neil said.

Mentor Colleen Gerke agrees. Ms. Gerke, director of the Family and Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has mentored several students in the LPMP’s master’s degree and two-year certificate programs.

“The mentoring component makes the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program unique and helps it reach its full potential more than a strictly academic program; it keeps you reflecting on how you are not just receiving information, but how you are forming a day-to-day living experience and ministerial experience. You get in the habit of looking at what you are doing and why you are doing it. That makes a big difference and a better minister.”

So, just what do mentors bring to the table?

First of all, Ms. Gerke said, is helping students determine what they want to do after receiving a degree or certificate.

“I’m here to help the student determine where they want to go with this ministry education. Many enter because they want to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ or learn more about their faith or better articulate their faith; but they do not have anything specific in mind,” she said. “And then sometimes they are full of ideas: ‘I want to be a director of religious education in my parish. I want to be a catechetical leader. I want to work for a non-profit agency. I want to get into chaplaincy.’

“Meet weekly — face to face. It can be at my office, at a parish, at a restaurant. We talk about issues, about classes and what they are learning. We talk about what is happening in their life,” Ms. Gerke said.

Dealing with Life’s Hurdles

Mrs. O’Neil said she has observed that “LPMP mentees start out enthusiastically. Then, along the way, life happens. Work changes, family changes. And all of a sudden it becomes overwhelming. It helps the student to be with someone who can keep encouraging them to get through it. We offer suggestions on how to deal with life’s crises. If I had to do it again, I’d do my master’s (in religion) degree work a little slower. The load you bear when you have been away from school for 25 or 30 years is a lot. For me it became informational overload,” Mrs. O’Neil said.

Some students — particularly men who wish to enter the diaconate after receiving a two-year LPMP certificate — are unable to slow down the degree process “but for those who can, it can take a little pressure off” Mrs. O’Neil said.

“Another thing happens where the mentoring program really comes into play.

“You take these classes, you discover a lot about yourself and you have to process that,” Mrs. O’Neil said.

“Meeting with your mentor is a safe place to process what’s going on. For example, in communications classes you learn where you communicate well and where you do not. In leadership classes, you really do this well, but you really need to work on that. You discover things about yourself and it changes you,” she said.

(Mentors continued on next page)
Mentors also become involved in helping students with the required field education and project in ministry components of the program.

“For field education we discuss options. It could be anything from working in the community, creating a program, working as a hospice volunteer. I remember one of my mentees who worked with the blind for 100 hours and another doing chaplaincy,” Mrs. O’Neil said.

“We also get involved in the project in ministry. Often times the scope of the project they want to do is far too big. We help narrow down projects and determine the final outcome they desire.”

Presently Mrs. O’Neil is mentoring LPMP certificate student Doreen Cudnik. By taking the coursework at a slower pace as Ms. O’Neil urged, Miss Cudnik has completed her academic requirements with only the field education and project in ministry remaining.

The Mentees’ Perspective
Miss Cudnik credits Mrs. O’Neil with keeping her goal to earn a two-year certificate within reach and being there to advise where needed. “She listens,” Miss Cudnik said.

“Mentors have been through it. They know the struggles; the challenges for working people like me. They tell you: ‘Here’s how I juggled that’; or, ‘Here’s how my family worked that out.’

“You and your mentor sit down and attack it all — What it means for your life, how what you’re learning applies to your work in the world.”

Miss Cudnik said Mrs. O’Neil has helped guide her in choosing the right project in ministry. She is planning retreats for people who are struggling with weight or other health related issues such as smoking. These issues involve a conscious choice to change.

“Susie likes my idea and encouraged me to be very specific about who my audience is and what particular part of my grand vision I want to accomplish with the project. A good mentor leaves the choice to the student but encourages the student to continue to discern where the Lord is calling you. I’m a big picture thinker; so my mentor helps me nail it down.”

Miss Cudnik said she planned to complete her certificate in two years “but I made a conscious decision with my mentor. Not only did I feel I needed a third year, but I wanted it. I don’t want my whole LPMP journey to be something I rushed.

“I work as a home health aide for an agency caring for the elderly who don’t want to go to a nursing home but need help with their daily living,” Miss Cudnik said. “They need companionship, too. I’m connected to the fact I see this as a ministry now and my mentor has given me insight to see it as a pastoral ministry — a ministry of presence.”

Discerning and Deciding
Joe Hensler, who now lives and works in Colorado after 19 years at Procter & Gamble in the human resources division training department and before that in marketing, said that “as I was pursuing my master’s degree in the LPMP, I became increasingly aware that God was not asking me to get the degree because some day it might be great for retirement. He wanted me to serve the Church and make a move.”

Presently, Mr. Hensler is vice president of collegiate outreach for FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students) in Genesee, Colo. “I was in the (degree) program to learn more about my faith and to set me up for something in the future — perhaps the diaconate. The mentoring program was a huge help in terms of my academic development and also my personal discernment and career decision making.”

Eve VanSickle, now vice president of mission integration at a Monroe, La., hospital, was Mr. Hensler’s mentor.

“Eve was terrific in terms of giving me perspective and coaching — the courses I was taking; the professors I was working with. She helped me think through the non-academic element — field education — and discern I should do it in chaplaincy. She also helped with the practical aspect of understanding what I was getting into, but also helped me to unpack spiritually and personally what I was observing about myself.”

In his job today, Mr. Hensler, 42, oversees sending recent college graduates as Catholic missionaries onto 83 college campuses nationwide to evangelize and build up relationships with students to help them become active Catholic Christians.

“What I learned in the LPMP helps me every day as a background for what we do here at FOCUS. I’m taking what I learned in the business world, what I learned at the Athenaeum including the mentoring component, and putting that directly to use in service to the Kingdom. It has been really cool.”
As I come to the end of my tenure as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, I have been thinking a lot about the past. I began my seminary education 57 years ago, and have been involved in priestly ministry for the past 46 years.

When I began my seminary studies, there were more than 300 young men at St. Gregory Seminary and a similar number at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West. Each seminary had one spiritual director; there was no formation team. There was no explicit mentoring program. Mentoring was done indirectly by priest faculty and older seminarians. The indirect mentoring continued after ordination. Young priests lived with a pastor and often another priest. They changed parishes a number of times; they taught on high school staffs with many priests on them, and they had a lot of time to be prepared to be a pastor. Most priests waited 15 to 20 years to become a pastor.

One of the dramatic changes in the Church was the decline in the number of priests. They no longer had the luxury of living with many priests and having many years to prepare to be a pastor. Seminary preparation had to change, and the Athenaeum was one of the first seminaries to do so. A formation team was established.

Today every student has a formation director, a priest on the faculty, who serves as his primary mentor. He meets with the seminarian regularly to discuss the four components of formation — his academic, spiritual, human, and pastoral growth. He listens; he questions; he challenges; he guides the seminarian. The formation team meets regularly to help with the development of the students. At the end of each year, there is a formal evaluation of each student. Each student has a spiritual director with whom he meets regularly to deal with his spiritual and prayer life. While the formation director deals with matters in the external forum, the spiritual director deals with internal forum matters that are confidential.

One of the pillars of the mentoring program is the year-long internship program every seminarian experiences after Second Year Theology. They are assigned to a parish and experience all that happens in a parish, testing and developing their pastoral skills and discerning whether they will find the life of a priest fulfilling.

The primary mentor is the pastor of the parish who meets with the seminarian weekly and discusses events and issues in the parish and in the life of the seminarian. Staff members also serve as mentors in their various ministries. Parishioners are also the unofficial but very important mentors to these future priests. During the course of their preparation, seminarians also experience first-hand and are involved in an RCIA program in a parish, a preaching experience, and other programs where they are mentored.

Another great change in the Church was the emergence of lay ministry. Vatican II called all baptized Catholics to service, and many heard the call. The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) was founded at the Athenaeum and continues to evolve in training lay ministers. Mentoring is an important part of this process. Also the permanent diaconate was brought back, and with it a fine program was developed and also continues to evolve for the training of these men. It too has mentoring components.

In my years of ministry, I have been privileged to serve as the president/rector of the Athenaeum and oversee the programs of the Athenaeum.

As pastor I have mentored a number of newly ordained priests, seminarian interns, and permanent deacons. I hope I have been of help to them; I know I have been challenged by and forced to grow by all of them.

I am most grateful to the Athenaeum for the wonderful job it does in training so many ministers for the Church. Mentoring is an essential part of that training.
Most reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, archbishop of Cincinnati, ordained two new priests during ceremonies May 18 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, and Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, bishop of Toledo, ordained two men from Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West for the Diocese of Toledo at Rosary Cathedral on June 22.

The new ordinands completed their formation for the priesthood this year at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and earned master of divinity degrees. Ordained for Cincinnati were the Rev. Jerome R. Bishop, St. Teresa, Springfield; and the Rev. James S. Romanello, Holy Trinity, Norwood.

Father Romanello has been assigned to serve as parochial vicar at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Liberty Township; Father Bishop will serve as parochial vicar at St. Susanna Parish in Mason.

Ordained for Toledo were the Rev. Nathan F. Bockrath, St. John Glandorf; and the Rev. Jeremy P. Miller, St. Joseph, Marblehead.

Father Bockrath has been assigned to serve as parochial vicar at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Norwalk; Father Miller will serve as parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish in Mansfield.
TO ALL OF THOSE who have given so graciously and generously of their hard-earned resources towards the formation of priests, deacons, and lay ministers for the building up of the Kingdom of God, as one who has benefited so greatly from your gifts, I would like to take this moment to say: Thank You!

What I have gained through the last eight years of formation cannot be measured. The opportunity that I have been given to serve the People of God, to fulfill the vocation which God Himself has called me to, is a gift that I can never repay, not even with my life. This opportunity is born out of your generosity.

Without your help it would not have been possible. And so, with all my heart I say: Thank You! You are a true blessing from God, and I pray that He pours His choicest blessings upon you and prepares a place for you in the Heavenly Kingdom where your generosity will truly be rewarded. Thank you and may God bless you.

— The Rev. Jim Romanello, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

ONE THING I ASK from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple (Psalm 27).

To be able to study and to pray, free from the distractions of the world, has been a great blessing to me. While we can never leave the world completely behind, living at the Athenaeum has afforded me the opportunity to truly listen for that “still small voice,” and to discern the will of God for my life.

Those who support the work of the Athenaeum may never fully appreciate the importance of their gift of financial support, but we who have been the happy beneficiaries can never fully express our gratitude. Theirs is a gift that keeps giving to generation after generation of priests. Their generosity not only helps to sustain us, but it reminds us of the love they have for their priests. It is a witness to their faith and a model for us to emulate.

— The Rev. Jerome Bishop, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given the seminary. Your support is especially important to me because it provided vast opportunities to prepare to be a priest in this vastly growing secular culture.

As you can imagine, there are many “forces” in our society working against the Church, and as seminarians we need all the help we can get. Hence, your support is so greatly appreciated. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your families.

— The Rev. Nathan Bockrath, Diocese of Toledo

THERE’S A STORY about a poor man wandering through a medieval village. As he begs for food, he comes across a monk on the outskirts of the monastery. The poor man asks the monk whether he can help him in any way. The monk reaches into his purse, fingers through the coins, and pulls out a precious stone which he hands to the poor man. The poor man thanks him and goes off on his way. Later that day, a merchant informs the poor man of the tremendous value of the stone. Immediately, struck by the generosity of the monk, the poor man hurries back to find him. When he reaches him, the monk questions him: “Why have you returned? I have given you the best that I have.” The poor man replies, “I have not come back to ask you for more things. Instead, I want to know what it was that enabled you without delay to give me the greatest thing that you own.” The monk replied, “Because everything that I have is a gift meant to be shared with others.”

As the monk in this story shows, generosity with material resources is a sign of something much deeper. It is a sign that what God has given us in this life is not for us to keep to ourselves. Rather, it is meant to be shared in the same way that God has generously given to us. To all of our benefactors and all those who have contributed to our ordination to the priesthood, thank you. Through your generosity, you have taught us an invaluable lesson which is at the core of the priesthood. You have taught us that true life and love comes only in the gift of ourselves to others.

— The Rev. Jeremy Miller, Diocese of Toledo
Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, archbishop of Cincinnati, recently ordained 20 permanent deacons and three transitional deacons for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, one transitional deacon for the Diocese of Toledo and one transitional deacon for the Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

The ordinations were Saturday, April 27 at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, in Dayton.

In the Catholic Church today there are two forms of the diaconate:

1) A permanent deacon is a man, either married or single, who is ordained to the order of deacon, the first of three ranks in ordained ministry — the other two being priest and bishop.

2) A transitional deacon is a man who has been ordained a deacon but is continuing on the path to priesthood. A man must be a deacon before he can be a priest or bishop.

Ordained transitional deacons are five seminarians studying at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Mount Washington. Their ordination to the diaconate is the final step prior to being ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 2014.

The new transitional deacons for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and their home parishes are: Rev. Mr. Andrew P. Cordonnier, St. Remy, Russia; Rev Mr. Brian W. Phelps, St. Ann, Groesbeck, and Rev. Mr. James J. Riehle, St. Gertrude, Madeira and St. Columban, Loveland.

Ordained for the Diocese of Toledo was Rev. Mr. Matthew C. Frisbee, All Saints, Rossford; and, for the Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, was Rev. Mr. Boniface-Blanchard M. Twaiibu, Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Ordained permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati were 20 men who have completed formation for the diaconate at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

The ordinands (with wives names in parentheses) and their parish assignments are: Deacon Marc A. Alexander (Barbara), Our Lady of the Visitation, Cincinnati; Deacon Dennis J. Berry (Norma), Good Shepherd, Cincinnati; Deacon Michael H. Brock (Ann), St. Columban, Loveland; Deacon Dale J. De Brosse (Deborah), Precious Blood, Dayton, St. Rita, Dayton, St. Paul, Englewood; Deacon Lawrence D. Gronas (Diane), Holy Name, Trenton; Deacon Robert W. Gutendorf (Susan), St. Peter, Huber Heights; Deacon Ralph M. Gutman (Mary), Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Dayton; Deacon Henry L. Jacquez (Elizabeth), Holy Trinity, Norwood; Deacon William K. LeCain (Nancy), St. Luke, Beavercreek; Deacon Michael J. Leo (Therese), Holy Trinity, Dayton; Deacon Vincent T. Lutz (Patricia), St. John the Baptist, Dry Ridge; Deacon John T. Lyons (Linda), Holy Family, Middletown; Deacon David M. McCray (Eileen), St. Peter, Huber Heights; Deacon Christopher A. Rauch (Joan), St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville; Deacon Kenneth R. Schnur (Carole), St. John the Baptist, Dry Ridge; Deacon William J. Staun, (Mary) Holy Trinity, Norwood; Deacon David P. Steinwert (Sherry), St. Teresa of Avila, Cincinnati; Deacon Kenneth R. Stewart (Cecilia), St. Augustine, Germantown; Deacon Louis F. Wong (Mary Kay), St. Susanna, Mason; Deacon David E. Zink (Rhonda), St. Albert the Great, Kettering.

Three Mount St. Mary’s Seminarians Ordained Deacons in Youngstown

On Saturday, June 1, three seminarians were ordained transitional deacons for the Diocese of Youngstown at St. Columba Cathedral by Most Rev. George V. Murry, S.J.

Ordained were John S. Ettinger, Blessed John Paul II, Warren; Daniel W. Finnerty, Holy Family, Poland, and Craig A. McHenry, St. Joan of Arc., Canton.

The new deacons are serving at the following parishes this summer: Rev. Mr. Ettinger at St. Ambrose Parish in Garrettsville; Rev. Mr. Finnerty at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Ashtabula; and Rev. Mr. McHenry at St. James Parish in Waynesburg.

Following this summer, the new deacons will return to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary to continue their priestly formation.
Jim Rice Named Athenaeum Vice President of Advancement

James M. “Jim” Rice, senior director at a New York-based consulting firm, returned full-time to his native Cincinnati June 10 as he assumed the position of vice president of advancement for The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West’s leadership team,” Mr. Rice said. “It is a challenging time, but one filled with great opportunity as we look to grow physically, spiritually, and philanthropically to fulfill our purpose of providing for the future leaders of the Catholic Church. I am filled with hope and excitement to work collaboratively with the clergy, faculty, staff, and lay leadership as we look to advance in wisdom, knowledge and grace.”

Mr. Rice fills the duties of former Athenaeum Advancement Director Jim Jackson. Mr. Jackson left the Athenaeum last August to become director of advancement at Summit Country Day School.

Of Mr. Rice, the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, Athenaeum president and seminary rector, said: “Jim brings with him experience, energy, personal talent, charm and the gifts necessary to be an outstanding vice president of advancement for the Athenaeum and seminary. Most of all, he has a deep and abiding faith and he shares a commitment to the mission of Jesus and the Church.”

Mr. Rice has more than 23 years of Catholic development experience. He has successfully provided development fund raising strategies and consulting services to a wide range of non-profit organizations. His successes include 36 capital campaigns ranging from $750,000 to over $10 million.

Mr. Rice’s experience includes annual campaigns that involved direct mail solicitation, club level giving and major gifts, including establishing planned giving strategies to fund endowment programs. He has coordinated production of monthly newsletters, quarterly alumni publications, and regionally award-winning strategic planning documents.

Mr. Rice has led more than three dozen strategic planning sessions and feasibility studies. In addition, he has successfully organized, trained, and motivated hundreds of volunteers and has made over 2,500 one-to-one professional, lead and major gift solicitations of financial support on behalf of clients.

His achievements include successfully raising over $175 million in capital campaigns for more than 26 parish and Catholic high school clients; increasing annual support of non-profit organizations an average of 25 percent and increasing productivity and profitability of dozens of non-profit advancement departments.

Mr. Rice attended Davidson College and Northern Kentucky University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Jim lives in Cincinnati, with his wife, Judy. They have six children and four grandchildren.
Happenings

Athenaeum Welcomes Three New Seminary Faculty Members This Fall

The Athenaeum will welcome three new faculty members this fall.

• **The Rev. Thomas McQuillen**, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, will serve as dean of men for Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West; will be a member of the seminary formation team, and teach philosophy and theology in the seminary’s pre-theology program.

• **Amanda Voynovich**, will teach Spanish and teach English as a second language (ESL) in the seminary division.

• **Dr. Tobias Nathe**, has been appointed an assistant professor in systematic and moral theology and will assume direction of the St. James Project

**FATHER MCQUILLEN**

“Bishop (Leonard P.) Blair has given us another gem in Father (Thomas) McQuillen, who has both seminary and missionary experience in Zimbabwe,” said the Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of the Athenaeum and seminary. “Again, he is a living reminder of the global Church. He helps continue the long-standing relationship the seminary has had with the Diocese of Toledo, which has always had a strong presence here. Father McQuillen is a gentlemen and a scholar. We’re happy to have him.”

Father McQuillen said, “I am looking forward to returning to seminary work. Seminary work is one of the most important forms of pastoral work, for it does not only affect the seminarians, but also all those whom they will serve. Yet, I also have found that I, myself, benefit from this ministry, for the zeal and enthusiasm of the seminarians for the faith and the Church inspires me to strive harder to grow in my spiritual and intellectual life.”

Father McQuillen holds Master of Arts degrees in theology and philosophy from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Most recently he was associate pastor at St. Peter Parish, Mansfield after returning from teaching four years at St. Augustine’s Regional Seminary in Zimbabwe.

**MS. VOYNOVICH**

In welcoming Ms. Voynovich, Father Fernandes said: “We’re very excited to have Amanda join our faculty… The recent influx of Spanish-speaking Catholics has made it a pastoral necessity to train seminarians in Spanish. We’ve added two years of Spanish to the curriculum; and we’ve found someone young, enthusiastic, and, above all, highly qualified to teach for us… For some of our newer students, English is not the mother tongue, and Amanda will help them make the transition here and build their confidence with English. Amanda’s presence reminds us of the global nature of our faith and of the need to be attentive to the signs of the times.”

Ms. Voynovich grew up on Cincinnati’s west side and attended Oak Hills High School. She presently lives in Madeira with her husband, Michael.

“I have always loved to explore new places. I have lived in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Chicago, and traveled in Europe, the Caribbean, and Central America… My love of traveling is part of what inspired me to become a language teacher. I have always loved language and began learning Spanish at the age of 12. I have been teaching Spanish and ESL, in various settings, since I was 19.”

Ms. Voynovich holds as Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Arts in Spanish studies: applied linguistics, from the University of Chicago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with high honors in Spanish and philosophy from the University of Cincinnati and graduated summa cum laude. Additionally she holds a teaching license and teaching endorsement for ESL from the State of Ohio and most recently taught Spanish I and II at Winton Woods High School.

**DR. NATHE**

Dr. Nathe soon will be moving from Hyattsville, Md., to Cincinnati to begin his duties at the Athenaeum.

“Dr. Tobias Nathe brings scholarship and passion to his work,” Father Fernandes said. “He also brings a great versatility to our faculty as he is able to teach systematic and moral theology. He also worked for six years as the registrar at the Dominican House of Studies and is familiar with accreditation and assessment. He has a genuine enthusiasm for promoting the Faith and for evangelization and will be a good fit as he directs the St. James Project.”

Dr. Nathe expressed his eagerness to begin his new duties.

“I was first made aware of the Athenaeum through my friends, Adam and Kate Iadipaolo, who co-taught a theology of the body course for the seminary. Later, another friend, Emily (Bissonnette) Macke, taught the same course. When Mrs. Macke learned I was looking for full-time employment as a theology instructor at a seminary or college, she recommended me.

“Having worked in a graduate school-seminary environment for six years while completing doctoral studies, I feel at home in a religious environment dedicated to the pursuit of truth and holiness. Add to that my attraction to Cincinnati and my friends in the region, and the Athenaeum should be a wonderful fit.”

Dr. Nathe holds a doctorate in moral theology and ethics from The Catholic University of America magna cum laude. He also holds a licentiate from The Catholic University of America in sacred theology from the university’s Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. He has a Master of Arts in theology and Christian ministry and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and a Bachelor of Arts in recreational and leisure studies from Washington State University.

Most recently, Dr. Nathe has been adjunct professor at Catholic University of America. ☝️
More than 400 Gather for 2013 Archbishop’s Dinner

More than 400 major benefactors of the Athenaeum gathered for the annual Bishop Fenwick Society Archbishop's Dinner May 3.

Special guest, Most Rev. Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States of America, was principal celebrant of the liturgy prior to the annual dinner and spoke to the gathering following the meal. He attended at the invitation of Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, archbishop of Cincinnati.

Dr. Gerald W. “Jerry” Miller, class of 1990, a longtime Athenaeum financial contributor and former member of the Athenaeum Advisory Council, was awarded the Athenaeum’s Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2013.

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.
LPMP Announces Curriculum Changes as Athenaeum Adopts Semester System

By Dr. Susan McGurgan, Director, Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

Like many institutions in Ohio, the Athenaeum is transitioning from a quarter-based academic calendar to a semester calendar. Beginning in August, 2013, the 30-week school year will be divided into two units of 15 weeks. Program directors and faculty members have been working throughout the past year to adjust courses and schedules for the new calendar.

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) directors saw the transition period as an opportunity to evaluate the curriculum for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM), the Graduate Certificate and the non-degreed Certificate in Ministry. The LPMP staff, including Susan McGurgan, Tom Giordano, Jan Von Handorf and Deacon Hal Belcher, consulted with pastors, graduates and former LPMP directors. They assessed the program in light of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) document, Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, national standards for lay ecclesial ministry formation and other highly regarded lay formation programs across the country. The result is a streamlined curriculum that combines traditional core theology courses with new offerings designed to meet the needs of the Church.

The four pillars of formation cited by the bishops in Co-Workers in the Vineyard — human development, spiritual growth, intellectual knowledge, and pastoral skills — remain the framework for the LPMP. This comprehensive approach lies behind the long-term success of the program and the skills of the program's more than 750 graduates. A recent survey of archdiocesan pastors indicates a clear preference for parish staff members and volunteers who can effectively integrate knowledge, skills and spirituality. Knowing what the Church teaches is vital. Equally vital is the ability to apply that knowledge in a pastoral setting.

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) includes most of the core theological courses found in the Master of Arts in theology. In addition, it provides coursework in pastoral studies, ministerial formation, advising support, supervised learning experiences and opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection. Outside of the classroom, students participate in mentoring, field education, theological reflection and a “Capstone Project in Ministry.”

The re-designed MAPM curriculum requires 33 credit hours in theology and pastoral studies. New required courses include: Praying with Scripture, Using Scripture in Parish Ministry, The Domestic Church, Evangelization and Mission, Catechesis: Vision, Content and Methods, Communication in the Digital World, RCIA and Sacramental Prep, Contemporary Issues in Moral Theology and Theological Foundations of Apostolic Service.

The Graduate Certificate includes the core theology classes, mentoring, field education, theological reflection and the “Project in Ministry.” It requires 20 credit hours and offers students who wish to study pastoral ministry and theology at the graduate level a shorter alternative to the full MAPM. They may elect to complete the MAPM at a later date.

The non-degreed Certificate Option is also grounded in the four pillars of formation. It includes academics, advising support, supervised learning and a focus on the integration of theology and practice. Courses in this track are offered at the undergraduate equivalency level and include the areas of: discipleship, history, scripture, communications, Christology, liturgy, morality and justice and doctrine. New to the Certificate curriculum will be courses in: Using Scripture in Parish Ministry, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Ecclesiology and Evangelization and Social Media.

Each of the LPMP options fulfills the prerequisites for application to the permanent diaconate formation program and coursework can be applied to catechist and youth ministry certification in the Archdiocese.

LPMP participants are men and women from all walks of life and from all parts of the archdiocese. They are a diverse group of adult learners who maintain work and family commitments while taking classes on Saturdays or weeknights. They serve the larger community in a variety of ways: as permanent deacons, parish staff members and volunteers, teachers in Catholic schools, bereavement coordinators, youth ministers, catechists, life advocates, and non-profit agency staff members and volunteers. Most importantly, graduates become informed and passionate witnesses to their Catholic faith in their families, communities and workplaces. These new additions to the curriculum are designed to help them engage in this vital work more effectively.

Graduate classes are offered at the main campus in Mount Washington. The non-degreed Certificate option meets at the main campus and also at two satellite locations, currently Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe and Sacred Heart of Jesus, McCartyville. For information on the LPMP, call 513-231-1200.
Five Seminarians from Tulsa Begin Studies this Fall

Five seminarians from the Diocese of Tulsa will begin study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West this fall. They are: Tim Fernandez, Juan Angel Grajeda, Shane Hewson, Duy Nguyen, and David Webb.

“The diocese of Tulsa is delighted to become part of the Mount St. Mary's community. Father Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh and his staff of diocesan and religious priests will no doubt have a powerful influence on the formation of our men,” said the Rev. Matt Gerlach, Tulsa vocation director.

“Tulsa is starting strong, sending five men this fall. I'm quite certain they will find a welcome from the other dioceses represented.”

The Rev. Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh, president/rector of The Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West welcomed the Oklahoma seminarians.

“The seminarians from Tulsa will bring new energy and enthusiasm to our seminary and seminarians,” he said. “The involvement of a greater number of dioceses allows seminarians to have a much deeper awareness of the universal character of the Church.

“In studying, living, praying and developing friendships with seminarians from around the United States, seminarians are afforded the opportunity to broaden their vision, deepen their understanding, and expand their awareness. This more cosmopolitan environment is a gift that we give to our seminarians and other students and it is a gift that will enrich their ministry and the diocese they serve.”

Mount St. Mary’s Seminary Alum Earns Parish a Calvin Grant

Under the direction of the Rev. John Tonkin, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, McCartyville, has received a worship renewal grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The grant will fund a year-long project in which the parish will host a program that will train cantors and musicians in the rural northern parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It is one of 28 grants totaling more than $300,000 awarded for 2013 by the CICW to churches, schools and seminaries across North America.

The Worship Renewal Grants Program is generously supported by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. Founded in 1937, the endowment’s major areas of concern are community development, education, and religion.

Local leaders of the Cantor and Musician Training project are grateful and eager to get started.

Father Tonkin, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumus, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, and project director for the Cantor and Musician Training Program, said most cantors in Catholic parishes are untrained volunteers.

“Our project will implement a locally based, long-term, multi-parish program of cantor training in the rural northern area of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Our plan is to offer cantors and the musicians who work with them a means of developing the musical skills, liturgical knowledge, and spirituality needed to do their ministry well,” Father Tonkin said.

“These projects have much to teach us,” said CICW director John Witvliet, “and we are eager to learn from them. But we know too that worship renewal is not something that human ingenuity or creativity alone can produce or engineer. It is a gift of God’s Spirit, a gift for which we pray, rather than an accomplishment we achieve. So, even as we announce these grants, and as we look forward to the work these recipients will do in the coming year, we also pray.”

Sister Kathleen Harmon, S.N.D. de N. will be the instructor for the Cantor and Musician program. She is the music director for programs of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry in Dayton and is the author of numerous publications. Sister Kathleen holds a graduate degree in music and a doctorate in liturgy.

The CICW's Worship Renewal Grants program is now in its 14th year and has seen more than 600 projects funded since its inception. 
ON THE WEB

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

Dinner for Six with the Archbishop & President/Rector

Tom Joseph, a member of the Athenæum Board of Trustees, and his wife, Kathy, were lucky winners at the Taste and See event last September.

The Josephs won dinner for six with Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, archbishop of Cincinnati and the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, Athenæum president/rector. The dinner was served at the archbishop’s home. The Josephs’ guests were Tony and Stacy Potts and Dave and Joan Rakel.

Four Seminarians, Vice Rector and Spiritual Director Visit the Holy Land

The annual seminarian pilgrimage trip to the Holy Land, made possible through the generosity of Athenæum benefactors, occurred in late May and early June this year with four seminarians, the Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Monsignor Frank Lane, spiritual director, participating.

The seminarians will enter their fourth year of theology this fall and are scheduled to be ordained transitional deacons in the spring of 2014 and priests in 2015.

Rector Named to National Seminary Department Executive Committee

The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president/rector of The Athenæum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West has been elected as a member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Seminary Department Executive Committee.

Maly Library Books Now Available through Local Branch Libraries

The Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library exists to serve not only the students and faculty of the Athenæum but all the residents of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati who seek to understand the Catholic faith more deeply.

For those who cannot travel to the east side of Cincinnati, books can be delivered to more convenient locations. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County recently joined the OhioLINK consortium. The Athenæum is an OhioLINK library.

This means books on Catholic spirituality, ethics, biblical studies, Church history, evangelization, sacraments, theology, prayer, and others delivered to your local branch library. For details and more information, please call the Maly Library at 513-233-6136.

Faculty

Dr. Patricia Pintado, director of the St. James Project, attended a conference in March at the Fulton Sheen House of Formation in Washington DC where she gave a lecture on “Ratzinger on Faith and Reason.”


The Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P., assistant professor of sacramental theology, has been invited to join the Academy of Catholic Theology (ACT). This prestigious society’s principal purpose is to foster theological work of the highest intellectual standard that is faithful to the spirit of the revelation of God in Christ as that revelation has been handed on in Scripture and tradition, and authoritatively interpreted by the Magisterium. Father Keller also gave a retreat in June to the priests of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb. focusing on the wedding at Cana.

Deacon David Shea, associate professor of homiletics, was the keynote speaker for St. Philip the Apostle Parish’s “kick-off” fellowship event: “Love on the Vine – Marriage Dinner & Program” in June at Valley Vineyards, Morrow. The married couples evening will be the first event for the parish’s newly-formed fellowship committee. It will have as its objectives bringing together parishioners in a social setting and connecting with other parishioners to learn something about the Catholic faith while acquiring some skills and tools to help in their marriages. Deacon Shea also was presenter for the Poor Brothers of Saint Francis at their Annual Assembly held at the Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis in June. The topics for his two presentations were “Faith, Conversion, Discipleship, & Evangelization.” The Brothers, who currently serve in six dioceses throughout the United States, had as goals for this year’s assembly reconnecting as a community through prayer, spiritual enrichment and as an opportunity to celebrate Franciscan life. Deacon Shea also in June attended a Conference of
Teachers of Homiletics on the new United States bishops’ document on preaching — “Preaching the Mystery of Faith.” It was convened by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations and held at the University of Notre Dame.

**Students**
Manuel Venegas and Joseph Scott, seminarians studying at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, were featured in the Winter, 2012 issue of Comboni Missionaries magazine.

**Alumni**
The Rev. Michael Pucke, class of ’73, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, was featured in the April issue of Maryknoll Magazine about his work in Santiago, Chile from 1985 to 1991 as a Maryknoll priest associate – a diocesan priest who serves temporarily in the Maryknoll missions. Presently, Father Pucke is pastor at St. Julie Billiart Parish, in Hamilton.

**Correction**
Monsignor Bertrand Schenk, whose obituary appeared in the Spring 2013 edition was 100. His age was incorrectly reported. We regret the error.

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**Taste and See 2013**

“Taste & See”, a Bishop Fenwick Society recruitment event, will be held at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West for the Comboni Missionaries, were featured in the Winter, 2012 issue of Comboni Missions magazine.

The Bishop Fenwick Society helps provide the prayer and financial support needed to fulfill the Athenaeum’s mission of preparing people to serve the Church effectively as priests, deacons, and lay ministers. Membership is extended to those who make an unrestricted annual contribution of $1,000 or more. Generations Circle membership is an affordable option ($250) for younger people (age 21-49) interested in joining the Bishop Fenwick Society.

For more information, please contact the Athenaeum Advancement Office at 513-231-2223.

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**Faculty Essays Featured in Year of Faith Booklet**

Eight Athenaeum faculty members contributed to a book of brief essays published by the Athenaeum in observance of the Year of Faith.

Pope Benedict XVI declared October 2012-November 2013 a Year of Faith, and publishing this book is one way the Athenaeum has observed it. Copies of the book have been distributed to priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. A few copies are available in the Athenaeum library, and an electronic version of the book is available to all at [http://www.mtsm.org/pdf/YearofFaithbook.pdf](http://www.mtsm.org/pdf/YearofFaithbook.pdf).

In the recent past, the Athenaeum observed the papal Year for Priests and Year of St. Paul by publishing similar collections of essays.
Deacon Thomas Westerfield Receives Voices of Giving Award

Deacon Thomas Westerfield and his late wife, Dottie, were honored June 19 at the 15th annual Voices of Giving Awards ceremony at the CET studios downtown.

Deacon Westerfield and his wife were recognized for their active involvement in support of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West for more than two decades.

Deacon Westerfield, a graduate of the Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) and ordained a deacon in 1992, has served as a member of the Athenaeum’s Board of Trustees, on numerous committees and co-chaired the institution’s first capital campaign in 1995. He also initiated the Athenaeum’s first advancement/development committee. With this effort, the Bishop Fenwick Society — the key support group of the Athenaeum was created and Deacon Westerfield is one of 25 charter members of the group which today numbers more than 700.

“It’s an honor to be the recipient. As everyone at the Athenaeum knows, the place holds a very special place in my heart,” Deacon Westerfield said. “I strongly believe in its programs to prepare priests, deacons and lay ministers and I will do everything I can to support it.”

Kathy Symons, Athenaeum director for estate and trust services, said: “In 1995, five years after starting the development committee, Tom co-chaired the Athenaeum’s first capital campaign, Our Faith Our Future. At that time, Tom and Dottie made a campaign gift including a planned gift. Tom and Dottie were working to endow what they believed in — providing leadership for the future of the Catholic Church. In 2009, Tom made an additional planned gift, adding to his first planned gift to provide bursar scholarship funds to help cover the educational expenses in perpetuity for men studying for the priesthood.

“The impact of Tom and Dottie Westerfield’s dedication to the Athenaeum will truly continue in perpetuity. First, their gift will continue to sustain the mission of the Athenaeum, providing funds for the education of seminarians. Second and more importantly, their leadership, love and commitment to the Athenaeum have provided the entire foundation for our advancement program. Their vision helped to initiate our St. Gregory Legacy Society, the Athenaeum’s planned giving society, which recognizes donors who support the school’s mission in perpetuity.

“Tom’s support for the Athenaeum stems from the fact that he has dedicated his life to serving the Church. The Athenaeum has been truly blessed by his and Dottie’s incredible commitment to the mission of the Athenaeum to prepare people to serve the Church effectively as priests, deacons and lay ministers.”

Voices of Giving, presented by LEAVE A LEGACY®, is a program of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning to encourage individuals from all walks of life to leave a bequest to their favorite non-profit organization.

For more information on how you can include the Athenaeum in your will or estate plan, please contact Mrs. Symons at 513-233-6153 or LeaveaLegacy@athenaeum.edu.