There Is a Time for Everything Under Heaven
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT/RECTOR

My grandfather was a boy when he took part in the Irish Rebellion on Easter Monday 24 April 1916. After the rebellion was crushed, William Butler Yeats realizing that this latest insurrection changed everything, captured the traumatic and dramatic meaning of “The Rising” when in his “Easter 1916” poem he wrote: “All changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born.” Change can be terrible and fearful, and yet, at the same time, an awesome thing.

On July 1, 2011 my life changed not radically, but significantly. And even though Father Ed Smith, my immediate predecessor, kindly and gently encouraged me and prepared me for the task of being president and rector, for me, the change is still a fearful thing. Naturally quiet, introverted, and solemn, I find that meeting people, speaking to groups, asking people for support, and visiting bishops to recruit seminarians, requires skills that don’t come naturally or easily.

As I was reflecting on what change meant to me, I came across a letter Father Ed left for me to read:

“I’ll be at your ordination to the Priesthood on May 16 and thought that I would welcome you in this way as well. It’s a great brotherhood. Even after 42 years of active service for the Church, and lots of ups and downs in the presbyterate for lots of reasons, l’esprit d’cor remains a constant factor for us. Priests like their brother priests, whether they know their names and faces or not. We are one. I’m sure that grace has much to do with it; and the level playing field in the Order of Melchisedek; and shared values; and common deep commitment to service regardless of the personal cost; and trusted competence; and mutual caring respect. And a lot more. I’m retired now, at least from administrative functions. But I loved doing what I did, even the administrative part. And, frankly, I love this quieter time too. God’s good gift to me to ponder His compassion and gentleness and love in large doses. As your brother priests place their affirming hands on your bowed head at your ordination, know that we share our hearts with you as well.”

This letter was written by Father Bob Thorson to the young men about to be ordained to the priesthood in May 1998. What a compassionate and kind letter, sharing comforting words, welcoming these new priests into the presbyterate. Brotherhood, welcome, l’esprit d’cor, service, grace, caring, trust, gift, cost, Fr. Thorson captures the quality of priestly life, the quality of Christian life, the sense of being in it together. They are also the qualities and vision that bind us together as members of the Athenaeum and seminary community.

The terrible truth is that life always involves change and this is true for us as individuals and for us as a community of faith and formation.

I know, and I thank God, that I am not alone in the ministry He has given to me as president of the Athenaeum and rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. I inherit a rich tradition and a sacred trust that always includes openness to God’s grace, the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the interpretation of the “signs of the times” and so, necessitates graced change. I am grateful to all of you who will share in this work as we humbly build up the Kingdom of God in this particular “field” and “vineyard” of the Lord. I hope that all of us who love the Athenaeum and seminary can support each other, not only in the work and through our resources and personal gifts, but most especially through the gift of our hearts; our love for the Church; and our love for each other, as is fitting for compassionate ministers of Christ.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh
Publisher
The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president and rector

Editor
Mr. Walt Schaefer, communications director

Graphic design/layout
Ms. Amelia Riedel

Production
Arnold Printing

Copy Editor
Dr. Terrance D. Callan

Contributors:
Mrs. Marge Stowe (photography);
Mr. Luke Gronneberg (photography);
Mr. E. L. Hubbard (photography);
Ms. Kathy Kaslin-Symons (news);
Mrs. Cheryl Whalen (photography);
Dr. Jim Jackson (news);
Dr. Terrance D. Callan (news);
Dr. Susan McGurgan (news).

Advisors: The Rev. Anthony R. Brausch, (vice rector);
Dr. Terrance D. Callan (dean of special studies);
Mr. Anthony DiCello (music director);
Mr. Dennis K. Eagan (vice president for finance and administration);
the Rev. Earl K. Fernandes, (Dean of the Athenaeum);
Dr. Jim Jackson, (development director);
Mrs. Tracy Koenig (library director);
Dr. Susan McGurgan (director, Lay Pastoral Ministry);
Mr. Kevin Prendergast (director, pastoral counseling);
Mr. Eric M. Wood (seminarian).

The Athenaeum Magazine is published three times a year for alumni, patrons and friends of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s 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

The Athenaeum of Ohio, the graduate school of theology sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati, prepares people to serve the Church effectively as priests, deacons and lay ministers.

Contents

Cover Story: ................................................................. 3
Reflecting: ........................................................................ 10
Responding to the Call: ......................................................... 11
Happenings: ........................................................................ 14
Sharing the Legacy .............................................................. 20

Cover photography and photo this page by E.L. Hubbard.
This year the Athenaeum will experience more change than it has in at least three decades.

A new president/rector has taken the helm. A beloved leader for the past seven years has departed. The first vice rector in decades has been appointed. Long tenured faculty and staff have retired and new, young scholars have come aboard.

Some faculty members have new and changing responsibilities. Three new priests have been ordained and have begun their service to the people of God.

Through it all, however, one thing remains constant – the mission of the Athenaeum to form priests, deacons and lay ministers for the Church of today and that of tomorrow. The Athenaeum will not waiver in fulfilling this mission.

But, as times change, the Athenaeum must adapt to meet the challenges of a world in transition. Change affects people in many ways and with it comes emotion – from joy to grief. Change cannot be avoided.

Throughout the life of every institution, and that of every person, change is a part of God’s plan. And, with the guiding hand of God …
Parting Words from Father Edward P. Smith

After seven years leading The Athenaeum of Ohio as its president/rector, the Rev. Edward P. Smith will move on to fulfill a long-time dream of becoming a pastor. He is thrilled.

It is fitting, too, that Father Smith has been appointed pastor at Our Lord Christ the King Parish in Mount Lookout where he served as associate pastor from 1987 to 1991 and where he resided during summer breaks while serving on the faculty as vice rector and director of liturgy at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

“I have been interested in being a pastor for some years now. And, certainly that has been the history of the rectors of the seminary as one after the other became pastors. I spent 10 years in parishes while I was teaching high school at Archbishop McNicholas and Hamilton Badin. I served at St. Thomas More, Our Lord Christ the King and St. Peter in Chains in Hamilton and those were wonderful years. I’m welcoming this and believe change is always for the good.”

Father Smith notes that while he has never been a full time pastor his years of leading the Athenaeum prepared him for the task “and I’m very lucky to be going to a place that is familiar. In a sense, I feel I’m going home.”

In the next year, the Athenaeum will be undergoing the most change it has experienced in more than 20 years, Father Smith said. “I’m talking in terms of staff changes and leadership changes. For the first time in years we will have a vice rector and a new dean in Father (Earl) Fernandes.

“As Archbishop (Daniel E.) Pilarczyk said (in addressing a meeting of priests): ‘For a person of faith, the future is not a threat. ‘Think about that. It’s what we believe. You do not need to worry about the future all of the time. If we really believe God is a part of all of this, there have to be changes. This would be a dreadful seminary and Athenaeum if we were doing the same things we did 20 years ago.

“The world has changed. People have changed,” Father Smith said. “The way people perceive their vocation has changed. There needs to be change.

“Will there be upheaval? Sure there will be. It happens every year. Whenever you change anything, it’s tense. Each time you have a change, particularly in a small community like this one, it will be felt acutely. Just remember, as people of faith, the future is not a threat.”

Father Ed Smith

Photo by E.L. Hubbard

Change and Continuity

Every time you open up a newspaper or turn on a television news report, you learn about changes in the local community, the country, the world — and sometimes even in the Church. Change is always with us, and that’s a good thing. Without change, there can be no growth and no opportunity.

Still, change can be challenging, even painful at times. No one wants to lose a good job or a dear friend or the comfort of old faces and familiar ways of doing things. Yet all those things seem to be happening with greater frequency today. The pace of change, both in social trends and in technology, has accelerated. This leaves many of us, at times, somewhat disoriented. Some perspective on change, therefore, might be helpful.

First of all, there is always more continuity and stability than there is change. At the Athenaeum, for example, most of the fine faculty and administration remains in place despite major appointments this year. And many of the new faces on the scene have been associated with the seminary in the past.

More importantly, as Catholics committed to the teachings of Christ, our lives are anchored in a faith that does not change — faith in a God who does not change. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).
Four Retirees: Moving Along Life’s Path

The Rev. Francis W. Voellmecke, who has served 29 years in seminary education teaching philosophy, retires this year as will three other long-time Athenaeum employees—Sister Nancy McMullen, Dennis Mills and Bill Roesch.

Asked about the impending change in his life, Father Voellmecke cites Psalm 73:

“I was stupid and did not understand; no better than a beast in your sight. Yet, I was always in your presence. You were holding me by my right hand.”

“That is the realization of a mature person coming to see God’s guiding hand through their life. You realize there was something guiding you along the way. Things that may have seemed coincidental were of rather strategic importance,” Father Voellmecke said.

Change reveals itself over a lifetime, Father Voellmecke noted. “Not that you have to be old to see it, but, in my opinion, you see it more clearly the older you get. You discover how important it was that two people met; you took this job or declined that job. You see an invisible hand guiding you along your life’s path.

“Change is a part of God’s plan from the time we are born. We are mortal and subject to it. It is a part of development. At the end of the school year, millions of beaming and weeping parents will celebrate eighth grade graduation, high school graduation, college graduation. Their children are growing up. That is change—a part of being human.”

Father Voellmecke now is a retired priest in residence at Our Lord Christ the King Parish in Mount Lookout.

Sister Nancy McMullen, CPPS, leaves the Athenaeum after 19 years as Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) coordinator for the northern part of the archdiocese. She will take an administrative support position with her order, the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

“I’m looking forward to my new job as a challenge. It will open new doors. But, at the same time, I’m absolutely going to miss the Athenaeum,” said Sister Nancy who will continue to teach a course a year in the LPMP satellite program—this year held at the Pilarczyk Center in Dayton.

“Change … is a natural part of what happens to people and groups as they move forward. Change is inevitable. We struggle with it sometimes but, overall, changes are good because they bring us to a higher level of maturity.”

For Dennis Mills, head of the maintenance department for 35 years “change is a frontier. It could go either way. I may dislike retirement or I may love it. I see this now as a good change because I’m getting older. I can’t do the things I used to do and I want to spend time with my 16 grandchildren and five children. And I want to travel.”

A most heart-rending change befell Mr. Mills last year when his wife, Dolores, died of cancer. “There was lot of coping, more than I have ever faced in my life,” he said.

It also is a testament to the power of friendship and caring from others. “I got through it thanks to the great people here. I’ll miss the students, faculty and staff. They are like family to me and not being here as much is a change I’ll have to face.”

Father Voellmecke said he copes with change easily and expects the transition to the parish will be smooth. “I expect there will be something wonderful in the new situation. Wherever you go, people are people and the needs are the same. There are people having babies, getting married, dealing with divorce and having crises. The mission of the Church is the same everywhere.”
Faculty Embrace New Responsibilities

As the Rev. Ken Morman ponders his changing role at the Athenaeum – the opportunity to teach scripture while giving up his posts as dean of students and director of field education – he eyes the many bonsai trees and shrubs displayed in his office.

“I’m not looking forward to leaving the jobs I’ve had, but I am looking forward to being able to teach. Nothing changes easily. My hobby is bonsai. With bonsai, every year or so you have to prune the roots and clean house somewhat. I did that with trepidation the first time. But, it resulted in an explosion of new growth and I see that as a parable.

“Even though I do not look for change; nor do I enjoy change, it creates new possibilities for growth.”

Other faculty will take on new responsibilities this fall:

• The Rev. Anthony Brausch becomes the Athenaeum’s first vice rector in more than 20 years and while not all of his specific duties have been determined he will become director of formation, director of the permanent diaconate program and teach one or two classes in philosophy.

• The Rev. Earl Fernandes will become Athenaeum dean while continuing as dean of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary

• Dr Terrance Callan will move from his current position as Athenaeum dean and continue as dean of the Special Studies Division overseeing the master’s degree programs in biblical studies, theology, pastoral counseling and the diaconate. The reassignment also will provide Dr. Callan, a biblical scholar, more time to teach and write.

Father Brausch said rather than using the term change the Athenaeum is more accurately going through transition “for the betterment of the mission of the institution, or at least we hope it is. It is to maintain the long-standing continuity of the institution. It is to forward the institution and its mission – effectively training priests, deacons and lay people – and to expand the influence of the Church through the use of this institution in the local culture.

“If you are changing direction, the first thing people want to know is why and they need to know where they’re going,” Father Brausch said. “With the idea that there is some excitement and some energy behind this for the building up of the institution that furthers the mission of the Church, it can be communicated that all of the little personnel changes fall under that umbrella. The archbishop has asked people to be here because they are going to further the mission and he has presented challenges. We want to increase the number of seminarians from other dioceses and from this archdiocese and increase the numbers in other programs, too – all for the bigger goal of the new evangelization” posited by Pope John Paul II 10 years ago.

Dr. Callan said he views his changing role as a positive.

“I have spent 18 years (of 28 at the Athenaeum) as dean of the Athenaeum and I have always wanted to teach more. I like teaching and writing, so it was perfectly congenial to me to make this move.

“Change is inevitable and I hope for every change to be good. We are experiencing more as we move from this year to next than at any other time in my 28 years. Specifically, the change happening to me will be good change … and for Father Fernandes as well.”

Perhaps Father Fernandes will experience one of the greatest changes as he moves from teaching six courses a year and being seminary dean to his role as dean of the Athenaeum – including the seminary.

“I’ll be doing a lot of administrative work,…(and) less teaching,” Father Fernandes said.

“God is certainly here somewhere in the changes we are going through. We must trust that God is in charge.

“In the spiritual life, we change often because we want to come to know God more deeply. That means turning away from sin and turning toward God. There also is human growth that occurs from the time one is a child, to adolescense, to adulthood. There is maturation in order to be an integrated person. That is the type of change we wish to promote here to our seminarians and all of our students. It is the integrated person in terms of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. The U.S. Army has a phrase: ‘Be all you can be’. We want, ‘Be all you can be in Christ.’ That is the change we want to see.

“Remember,” Father Fernandes said, “the disciples on the road to Emmaus had with them all of their hopes and dreams of what things would be like – the image of Jesus who would be the savior. Then, He died and it seems their hopes and dreams were dashed. Things changed. That often occurs when people lose a loved one, their marriages break up, have a sickness, lose a job.

“It is important to realize that at those times Jesus drew near to the Apostles. He opens the Scriptures and their hearts start burning within them. In the evening He breaks bread with them …, and they rush home and tell everyone what has happened. There is a profound transformation from a situation of darkness, despair and gloom to one of resurrection, life, and new hope.”
New Faculty Embrace Changing Roles

The Rev. Paul Ruwe, ordained in 2005, returns to his alma mater this year as its new dean of students, a member of the seminary formation team, and as an instructor in spirituality.

He, along with the Rev. David Endres, ordained in 2009, and former adjunct faculty member, Tracy Jamison, who will teach philosophy, begin new assignments this fall.

Father Endres, who taught Church history at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and at Xavier University prior to entering the seminary, will teach the subject to seminarians next term. He is moving to the Athenaeum from Bishop Fenwick High School, Middletown, where he has taught religion.

“Change to me is coming into the life of the institution. There is a transition in acclimating myself back into living within the seminary,” Father Ruwe said. “Yet, it is welcoming because I enjoyed my seminary years … and I am bringing with me my experiences as a parish priest,” as an associate pastor at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Liberty Township and as pastor at St. Mary’s in Hyde Park.

Father Ruwe recently completed a master’s degree in religious education with a concentration in spiritual direction and spirituality at Fordham University in New York. He will teach in the seminary and permanent diaconate programs. As dean of students, he oversees the order and social life of the seminary, addresses issues, deals with complaints and the general day to day routine involving seminarians.

“I would love to know why God puts challenges before us. But the reality of change is development from the human standpoint. We are aging from the relational standpoint in that we are meeting new people and having relationships with people who themselves are changing.

“What is the alternative to change? It is stagnation,” Father Ruwe said. “I love that I am close to God right now. I’m excited that at the end of this year and five years from now I’m going to know God even better. I have that opportunity because of the seminarians I’ll be working with and those whose lives are going to impact me and I will impact them.

“I’ll be working with the rector and the vice rector and the archbishop and I’ll be learning from them. It is all a maturation process with God. We need to embrace God’s presence in the midst of a change as we get to know God in a way that is impossible without these experiences.”

Father Endres will teach a course in American Catholic history and modern Catholic history along with patristic courses dealing with early Church history - the Church as it was after the Apostles through the Eighth Century.

“While I think this move provides a great opportunity to form future priests, and it also presents an opportunity to teach at the graduate school level, I’m like the old German Catholic,” Father Endres said. “We do not like change very much.

“But, change helps us grow and takes us out of our comfort zone,” he said. “Change is a big part of the priesthood. You are always changing and it all comes down to having a larger vision of the Church. For a couple of years, the Church needs you (in one place) and then you are moved and accept another challenge with a new experience that allows you to see the Church in a different way.

“For me,” Father Endres said, “I’ve certainly loved my first two years as a priest, and I’m looking forward to new challenges at the Athenaeum. It will be an opportunity to grow and a way to reconnect with the communal aspect of life there. When you’re in a high school, you’re the only priest there so you lose a bit of the communal aspect.

“The challenge is pretty positive, but there are growing pains coming with change. We just had our high school graduation (at Fenwick), and for me it’s kind of interesting to see the students going through changes, too. While I’m going off to the Athenaeum, they are going off to college and new experiences that will change the contours of their lives as well.

“God plays a role in all of this. For me as a priest, you believe all of your assignments are part of a larger plan and a part of God’s providence. I’m certain being led back to the seminary to teach is part of God’s plan.”
Newly Ordained Priests Embark on Their Mission

Three men, who have spent six or more years each in preparation to serve God’s people on Earth, have just embarked on the most profound change in their lives to date.

The trio use the word “excited” about finally being able to put their years of seminary training to work in parishes and schools

- **The Rev. Daniel Hess** has been assigned to Holy Angels Parish in Sidney and will teach at Lehman Catholic High School there.
- **The Rev. Adam Puntel** will serve at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Anderson Township.
- **The Rev. Charles S. Wright** will join Incarnation Parish in Centerville.

“I’m not worried,” said Father Hess, “but there is a knowledge that this is going to be a little bumpy at times, but that is expected. I do not expect to have worked it all out smoothly the first time through. But I do have the advice and example of the guys who have come before me in the seminary and those I have become good friends with in their priesthoods. This is coming to grips with the transition from the comparatively easy existence in the seminary to the realities of day to day life in a parish which you never can fully anticipate.”

Father Hess believes change is generally good and a part of the nature of ministry over years. “Hopefully, it is moving us closer to Our Lord and moving us together as a community in our fellowship in the mission of loving and serving God and the people:” he said. “Change is natural. It is our task to adapt and grow with the new circumstances.”

Father Hess admits there are times when change “is disruptive, difficult and painful but I see that there is always an opportunity to put our faith into it – that which is truly eternal and reliable. So, as priests, we need to help people put their reliance on what is really lasting - God’s love for them and His constant presence. Difficult times are character building times. Often, during our most difficult moments, we find a window of hope or a door that turns those times into opportunities.”

For Father Wright, change is a part God’s plan for all of us. “It can be scary for lot of people but for me change is relying and trusting in God. I welcome that. I welcome the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments and to be with the people of God. Going off to a parish is not really a dramatic change in my life, but just a continuation of what began in my life years ago.”

While Father Puntel said he is looking forward to “jumping into the trenches” he admits that means “the real work is just beginning.” His work, however, comes with bountiful rewards – working with and teaching the people of God.

“For all of us undergoing this change (from seminary life to the priesthood) you worry about whether you can strike that balance between really giving yourself over to the people of God after the model of Christ combined with knowing ourselves and knowing when we need time off to recharge our batteries,” Father Puntel said.

“How we discern God’s plan in today’s world is a tough problem. Personally, it took me a long time to decide between being a family man and being able to live a celibate life in the Church. But, I have always been called to some type of ministry. For a lot of us, discerning the will of God in our lives comes down to the people and relationships we put in our lives.”

Father Puntel said Our Lord presents us with changes and challenges.

“I had a conversation with a friend over his idea of work in a normal day world and how he could do this or that and get by. But, at the same time, he wondered if he was really living up to what he could be doing. There is virtue in really striving for the plan God is calling you to live and it mandates change. It helps create who you are.”

Father Puntel hopes he will have an ability to change people by improving their relationships with God.

“My life goal involves a hope that God can use me as a divine instrument of grace as a way to move people closer to Him.”
A New Bishop – A Changing Role

The newest bishop for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, a man with many connections with the Athenaeum, was ordained a prelate on June 9 – a profound change made possible by the Holy Father in Rome.

The Most Rev. Joseph R. Binzer has served as a member of the Athenaeum Board of Trustees and chaired its finance committee. He has served as a member of the Athenaeum’s adjunct faculty and is a member of the Bishop Fenwick Society.

“It was many years ago, and I can’t remember who told me, that the only thing permanent is change,” Bishop Binzer said. At times of change he finds turning to prayer is all important.

“Obviously, as it pertains to being appointed bishop by the Holy Father, it is a significant change. It helps me continue focusing on God for God is the giver of all gifts. God is the giver of all blessings and this is a gift and a blessing.”

Bishop Binzer noted his has been a vocation filled with change. He entered the seminary after holding a job as a certified public accountant in Cincinnati for several years.

“When change occurs, I tend to pray more and rely on God more,” he said. Bishop Binzer said he prayed about his vocation to the priesthood for more than a year before entering the seminary. “Given the timing of the April 6 announcement and my ordination as bishop on June 9, I’d only been able to pray for a couple of months, but I’d been trying… and my reaction has been that I am very blessed and very humbled in recognizing God’s presence in this.”

Not all change, however, appears to be good and it is at those times when turning to prayer provides catharsis.

“When my father, Bob, died I was struck by the fact that someone who was a hero in my life – a faith-filled hero – was no longer going to be there as I knew him to be there. Eventually, I turned to prayer and asked for God’s mercy for my dad for none of us in life is perfect.”

At times, change results in confusion or doubt or wondering, Bishop Binzer observed. “I tend to find a quiet place to pray for God to watch over me and anyone else affected by a change because a change can affect a lot of folks. I think of Athenaeum staff members. Sister Nancy (McMullen) is leaving. Father Ed Smith is moving on. They know hundreds of students, seminarians, benefactors, alumni and staff and it affects all of them.”

Bishop Binzer said times of change should lead us to think of Our Lord’s followers after His crucifixion. “That was certainly a significant change for them. Yet, they stuck together, and the Lord appeared to them and they realized life was going to be different. And, life was going to be better than before.

“When change takes place in our lives, it is part of the hopefulness of life, too.”

Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh Takes the Helm

As the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh begins his tenure as president/rector of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary many feelings come into play.

“I’m honored and I’m excited. I am also anxious about this new role. I’m intimidated. I think there is an unknown and that leads to a certain amount of anxiety and trepidation. But change is something that either happens to people or they make it happen,” said Father O’Cinnsealaigh, who has served the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s for the past 11 years. He came to teach and direct the diaconate program and then became the seminary’s formation director, before being appointed to lead the institution by Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr.

“I was very happy when Father (Edward P.) Smith told me in the presence of the archbishop that he was happy I was appointed his successor. We have worked together for a long time,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said.

“For us here at the Athenaeum and seminary,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said, “we have to take control of our future. We have to shape it. As the Second Vatican Council noted, we have to read the signs of the times. We have to engage in our mission according to the needs of the Church, according to the needs of the world, and according to the needs of the Kingdom of God.

“That means we have to be ready to change because change is a sign of life. If you look at it scientifically, every day our bodies change because cells die. Our bodies (over a lifetime) completely change many, many times yet we remain the same persons. In some ways, we remain the same and in other ways we do not. That happens on a natural level and we believe it occurs on a spiritual level as well. You are being formed into something different. So if you are not changing it means you must be dead. Change is something that will always be a part of life.”
One would have to look hard to find someone who would disagree with the old saw that “change can be difficult”. The fact is, for many of us this is the case. We get used to things as they are, and even if they are not perfect, they are comfortable. But to be a Christian means change is not a threat and is, in reality, a new opportunity to discover the presence of God afresh. The last thing we need is a static, “comfortable” faith that does not challenge, provoke, engage, or grow.

The beauty of our faith is that, with all the change that can and does happen in life, we are able to remain calm and accepting and even joyful. The inspired author of Ecclesiastes well understood this when he wrote, “There is a time for everything under heaven.” For so indeed there is.

Consider how many changes occur in one’s life from day to day: from the experience of a new morning to encounters with others; from things learned that were not known before to challenges that were not present yesterday; from news of the world now made known to a deepening of relationships with those who are close to you. All of this and more are part of our daily lives and all of this involves change.

For the believer, the conviction that God is part of all the changes in life provides stability and focus. Knowing that a loving Father is intimately involved in our lives, and has not let us fall haphazardly from one new experience to another with no purpose, gives us confidence to trust even when change proves confusing or even painful. It also enhances joy when the change is embraced happily. This is what it means to be a person of faith. And it is the only way to live.

For the Athenaeum, these days are bringing about some significant changes. A dozen faculty positions will be different for the next academic year. Some people are leaving, others coming on board. Some are taking on new administrative responsibilities, others becoming more focused on teaching. There will be new students in all the divisions, and those who have completed the program will no longer be here. People have retired from the board of trustees and new members have joined the Bishop Fenwick Society. Along with all this, the Archdiocese, and therefore the Athenaeum, has a new auxiliary bishop: the Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, who has for the past several years been the chair of the finance committee of the Athenaeum Board of Trustees.

These are exciting realities to contemplate. They are changes that show it is God who leads us from one day to the next. They will change the face of the Athenaeum, but not its essential mission to prepare men and women for service to God’s people. The zeal and deep faith of our students continue, and the desire to work for the Church prevails.

I am grateful to have been a small part of this great mission for the last eleven years, seven as the president and rector. It is now time for me to move on. But as I go, I will take with me the many good lessons, memories, friendships and examples of faith that you have given me.

Thank you for your many kindnesses to me over the years. May God who provides a time for everything under heaven grant us a time to see one another again, so that we may rejoice in His gifts of faith, vocation, service and love.

May God bless you.

Edward P. Smith
A Life of Service, Devotion, Grace, and a Gift

Farewell to Father Edward P. Smith

Editor's note: On May 4, the Rev. Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh, newly appointed president/rector of the Athenaeum, bid farewell to the Rev. Edward P. Smith, his predecessor at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

Father Ed:

On behalf of the entire community I want to thank you – and there is a lot to be thankful for.

To be honest, when I began to think about the ways you have served the Church and God's people, I had to stop myself, because as I rolled down in my mind the extent of your priestly ministry, it sounded like I was reflecting on the life of a man who was retiring, seeing as you have achieved so much. The fact is, you are still many years from retirement and this makes the extent and quality of your ministry even more impressive and incredible.

Certainly, we want to thank you for your gracious and willing service to this Athenaeum and seminary, but long before you came here, you already served with distinction in a variety of outstanding ministries including: as a high school teacher at Badin in Hamilton and McNicholas here in Cincinnati; associate and resident at St. Thomas More, St. Susanna, St. Peter in Chains, Hamilton, and at Christ the King; as well as, vice-rector and director of liturgy at the North American College in Rome, your beloved alma mater. Your association with Mount St. Mary's as a teacher goes back to 1989. We are very grateful to have had the good fortune to have you here for the last 11 years as formation director, president and rector. It has been an active and successful presidency with many challenges that have taken initiative, insight, vision, courage, and leadership.

Yours' is a life of service, devotion, grace, and a gift. Nevertheless, this is not a retirement party. This is a sending off and a farewell – a thanksgiving for your willingness to continue to hear and respond to the voice of the Lord, which says to you once again: “Put out into the deep and cast your nets.”

As grateful as we are for the many ministries you have undertaken and for the progress this institution has made under your determined, insightful, and steady leadership; we are especially and profoundly grateful for the personal kindness, compassion, patience, encouragement, sensitivity, tolerance; and, gentleness you have shown in your concern for all of us alike – seminarians, students, faculty, and staff.

Every one of us appreciates that yours was a difficult job; and in view of us, we, all of us, can be difficult people. And it can seem, to paraphrase two of my 'favorite theologians,' Luther and Calvin: “We were born in sin, formed in vice, and are resistant to grace.” But you formed us into a working and successful community of ministers in a way that respected and challenged us while you were willing to patiently endure the cross of leading the reluctant and pushing the immovable, all the while, “suffering the slings and arrows,” not of “outrageous fortune,” but from your own spiritual flock. Father, for your graciousness to us all – we are truly appreciative.

Father Ed, your life has been a model of willing service and courage – to put out into the deep. It takes tremendous courage to be willing to surrender, to start over again and again, to let go the familiar, the tried and tested, the good work already done, only to start again, simply because we are called, commissioned, and sent. “Put out into the deep” is the message the Lord has said to you again and again; and over and over, you have responded with that convinced response, “I am the servant of the Lord. Yes! I will put out into the deep.”

As you move on to a new ministry we wish you well. You have always loved this institution and we will always love you. This will always be your home and you will always have friends here.

Let us offer a prayer for our rector:

Fr. Ed,
May God bless you all your days,
may He bless all you do,
and bless all those you meet.
May you be a welcome guest in every heart and home.
May the Lord, who is our way,
ago before you, always and everywhere,
on keep you in His heart and guide you to His own home.
Amen.
Five Men Ordained to the Priesthood

Five men who completed formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary were ordained to the priesthood this spring by bishops in three dioceses.

In May, Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr ordained three new priests for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. In June, Bishop Leonard Blair ordained one priest from Mount St. Mary’s to serve the Diocese of Toledo; and in Youngstown, Bishop George V. Murry, S.J. ordained one new priest in June.

The newest Cincinnati priests are: The Rev. Daniel K. Hess, Holy Trinity Parish, Coldwater; the Rev. Adam D. Puntel, Incarnation Parish, Centerville; and the Rev. Charles Scott Wright, St. Peter Parish Huber Heights and St. Christopher Parish, Vandalia.

The Rev. Stephen C. Zeigler of St. Michael Parish, Canfield, has been ordained for Youngstown, and the Rev. Michael P. Roemmele, of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Perrysburg, has been ordained for Toledo.
Four Deacons Ordained for Cincinnati; One for Youngstown

Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr in April ordained three transitional deacons from Mount St. Mary’s Seminary to serve in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The ordination ceremony was held at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains.

Ordained deacons were the Rev. Mr. Daniel P. Hunt, Old St. Mary’s Parish; the Rev. Mr. Matthew J. Robben, St. Joseph Parish, North Bend; and the Rev. Mr. Marc D. Soellner, St. Andrew Parish, Milford. The fourth new deacon is the Rev. Mr. Jon-Paul Bevak, who has joined the Congregation of the Oratory in formation, to serve at Old Saint Mary’s Parish in Cincinnati.

In a separate ceremony in May, the Rev. Mr. Robert M. Lanterman, of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Streetsboro, was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Youngstown by Bishop George V. Murry, S.J. The Rev. Mr. Lanterman is completing his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

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

In the Book of Acts it clearly states that the apostles appointed men to assist them in their ministry.

Deacons assist priests in liturgical, administrative, and pastoral roles. Among their many Church duties, deacons may validly perform baptisms, witness marriages, celebrate funerals and assist the priest or bishop in the celebration of the Eucharist. The deacon is especially commissioned to serve the needs of the poor and, at the same time, to be a voice for the poor, the forgotten, and the marginalized in and to the Church community.
The annual Archbishop’s Dinner in May culminated the most successful capital campaign in the history of the Athenaeum. It was announced that more than $19,400,200 was raised through the campaign – Investing in Our Future, Preserving Our Legacy.

More than 400 members of the Bishop Fenwick Society gathered for the dinner celebrating the success of a campaign to help solidify the long-term future of the Athenaeum.

Among those celebrating were: Ted Sedler (1), a member of the Athenaeum Advisory Council with his wife, Jody; along with (2) newly appointed advisory council member Jane Anderson and her husband, Ed.

Cincinnati Archbishop Emeritus Daniel E. Pilarczyk (3, left) greets long-time benefactors Mary and Clay Mathile. Those also enjoying the event included (4) benefactors Julie and Frank Gilardi from Sidney, Ohio who helped lead the campaign. Newly appointed Athenaeum dean, the Rev. Earl Fernandes (5, left), shares a conversation with 2011 ordinand Deacon Daniel K. Hess and Deacon Hess’ mother, Carol.

The Rev. Edward P. Smith, then Athenaeum president/rector (6, left), discusses the fund drive’s success with campaign co-chairman Michael Conaton and Franz Hoge, who helped lead the campaign drive in the Dayton area.

Newly appointed Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer (7, left) chats with campaign co-chairman Greg Ionna and his wife, Gloria.

Photos by E.L. Hubbard
Archbishop Schnurr Institutes 14 as Acolytes/Readers

Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr in March instituted eight Mount St. Mary’s seminarians as acolytes and six other seminarians as readers.

The ceremony – the institution of ministers – is an official, permanent commissioning by the bishop of people to serve as readers and acolytes and is an important step on the path to the priesthood.

Seminarians in second year theology were instituted as acolytes: They are in albs (rear, l to r): Andrew P. Cordonnier, St. Remy, Russia, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; James P. Riehle, St. Gertrude, Madeira and St. Columban, Loveland, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Brian W. Phelps, St. Ann, Groesbeck, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Jerome R. Bishop, St. Teresa, Springfield, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Daniel W. Finnerty, Holy Family, Poland, Diocese of Youngstown; John S. Ettinger, St. Joseph, Warren, Diocese of Youngstown; Craig A. McHenry, Joan of Arc, Canton, Diocese of Youngstown; Matthew C. Frisbee, All Saints, Rossford, Diocese of Toledo.

Instituted as readers were seminarians in first year theology (front row, l to r with Archbishop Schnurr): Adrian J. Hilton, Old St. Mary’s, Cincinnati, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Archbishop Schnurr; Paul A. Schreiner, St. Mary, Tiffin, Diocese of Toledo; and, second row (l to r): Ethan M. Moore, Sacred Heart, McCartyville, Archdiocese of Cincinnati; William A. Meininger, St. Joseph, Canton, Diocese of Youngstown; Christopher R. Conlon, Holy Trinity, Norwood, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and Eric M. Wood, St. Denis, Versailles, Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Among the duties acolytes perform are: Assist the deacon and priest at Mass, distribute Holy Communion as an auxiliary minister, lead Communion services, train other altar servers and special ministers of the Eucharist, and carry out Eucharistic exposition in the absence of a priest or deacon.

Among the duties instituted readers may perform are: Proclaim the scriptures at Mass and at the celebration of the sacraments; coordinate and train other readers and prepare people for the reception of the sacraments.

Lecture Focus: Jesus Misunderstood as Rejecting Judaism

The Athenaeum will offer two public lectures during the 2011-12 academic year - the Marzheuser Lecture in Jewish-Catholic Relations and the George C. Findley Memorial lecture.

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Amy-Jill Levine PhD will give the Marzheuser Lecture in Jewish-Catholic Relations: “Misunderstanding Judaism/Misunderstanding Jesus.”

Dr. Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. She earned her doctorate in religion from Duke University in 1984, and has been a member of the faculty at Vanderbilt since 1994. She has lectured frequently and written a multitude of articles. She has also written and edited a number of books. She is editor of the Feminist Companion to the New Testament and Early Christian Literature series and has written The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006; paperback 2007).

Jesus of Nazareth followed the Torah of Moses, found inspiration in the Prophets of Israel, and founded a community of fellow Jews. Yet often Jesus is misunderstood as rejecting Judaism, and first-century Judaism is misunderstood as legalistic, misogynistic, vengeful, and xenophobic. Correctly locating Jesus in His Jewish context not only brings new meaning to His parables, His politics, and His piety, it prevents anti-Jewish teaching and opens a new path for Jewish-Christian relations.

Information about the Findley lecture will appear in a future issue of the magazine.

Lectures are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Bartlett Pastoral Center on the Athenaeum campus. They are free and open to the public.
Bishop Conlon Named to Lead Diocese of Joliet

The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, a native of Cincinnati and ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., by Pope Benedict XVI. He succeeds Archbishop J. Peter Sartain who was named archbishop of Seattle last September.

Bishop Conlon, 62, has been serving as bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio since 2002. He completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries and earned doctorates in canon law and philosophy from the University of St. Paul, Ottawa.

Bishop Conlon was past chancellor and director of the department of executive services for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati from 1987 until 1996 when he was named pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, New Bremen, where he served until becoming bishop of Steubenville.

From 1981 to 1983, Bishop Conlon served in Cincinnati as assistant chancellor and director of the office of planning and research. He is former associate pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Anderson Township.

IN THE NEWS

Bishop Conlon Named to Lead Diocese of Joliet

The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, a native of Cincinnati and ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., by Pope Benedict XVI. He succeeds Archbishop J. Peter Sartain who was named archbishop of Seattle last September.

Bishop Conlon, 62, has been serving as bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio since 2002. He completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries and earned doctorates in canon law and philosophy from the University of St. Paul, Ottawa.

Bishop Conlon was past chancellor and director of the department of executive services for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati from 1987 until 1996 when he was named pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, New Bremen, where he served until becoming bishop of Steubenville.

From 1981 to 1983, Bishop Conlon served in Cincinnati as assistant chancellor and director of the office of planning and research. He is former associate pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Anderson Township.

Faculty

The Rev. Timothy P. Schehr, professor of biblical studies, has been reading the Book of Revelation at the Cathedral, noon - 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in July as part of the Lunch with the Lord Program.

Dr. William C. Wester, Athenaeum professor emeritus and former director of the master’s program in pastoral counseling, recently published an article, “Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”, in the April, 2011 edition of the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis.

Deacon David Shea, assistant professor of homiletics, has written the lead article in the National Catholic Education Association’s (NCEA) spring 2011 issue of The Seminary Journal titled “Unmet Needs in Catholic Preaching”. The article summarizes the results of primary research Deacon Shea conducted over a three-year period — 2008 – 2010 — under three grants obtained on behalf of the Athenaeum. Also, Deacon Shea will give presentations at St. Joseph’s Parish September 20, at Guardian Angels Parish September 29 and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish October 18 on the subject of The Word titled, “Words are Important: The Word of God and the Words Used in Liturgy”. A second program at Immaculate Heart of Mary will be on October 25, with Karen Kane, director of the archdiocesan worship office, titled “The Eucharist as Source and Summit of Christian Life and Parish Life Meaning of Eucharist: Become What You Eat.”

Deacon Shea will conduct the annual retreat for deacon candidates and their wives at the Athenaeum August 13.

Alumni

Most Rev. Michael Warfel, an alumnus of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in Montana, presented an Easter message in The Morning Star, a publication of the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Mont. In his message, Bishop Warfel writes: “I lived in Alaska for over 30 years. My life in Alaska allowed me to experience the richness of Native American peoples and cultures since the Native American population of Alaska is 18 percent… With my arrival to eastern Montana three and a half years ago, my appreciation of Native American traditions and culture has expanded to include the tribes of the High Plains… Each and every culture can carry the Gospel and do so in a way that is unique to itself. This is true in the way in which Native American cultures carry the Gospel. While all cultures are in need of evangelization, the contrary is also true. All cultures have a way of portraying the Gospel that is particular to them…..”

The Rev. Robert Obermeyer, past pastor of Our Lord Christ the King Parish in Mount Lookout and an alumnus of St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries, celebrated his Golden Jubilee in May with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the church. He retired July 1 culminating 50 years of pastoral service to Our Lord and the Church.

The Rev. David Endres, ordained from Mount St., Mary Seminary in 2009, has been recognized by Bishop Fenwick High School, Middletown, with the Cristo Self Esteem Award bestowed by the Cristo Group through the Middletown Community Foundation. The award is presented to a teacher who fosters self esteem in students. The award comes with a crystal prism and plaque along with $1,000. “Father Endres is an outstanding teacher, mentor, and friend to all who are shepherded by him.” Father Endres will be moving on to the Athenaeum faculty next school year to teach Church history. He holds a doctorate from Catholic University, Washington, DC and has taught as an adjunct professor of history at Xavier University. Father Endres also served Bishop Fenwick High School as director of campus ministry and taught senior religion for two years.
God gives special gifts to each one of us. God has given me a great desire for travel and a deep concern for the poor and marginalized peoples of the world.

An early phase of this gift came for me as a navigator in the Army Air Corps during World War II. I flew 44 combat missions in a B-24 “Liberator”. Our pilot was not yet 21 when he finished his 42 missions. I was 23. Our missions averaged over ten hours each flight.

We flew a B-24 from San Francisco to Guadalcanal and then followed the South Pacific War along New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies to the Philippine Islands. We visited Australia twice. We were shot at by Japanese Zeros 18 times, and with ack-ack, (ground fire), on all of them.

Many poor natives wanted to get a flight in our B-24. Many of them were malaria ridden; had yaws — serious skin sores; and a few had elephantiasis, the swelling of their feet and legs two to three times their normal size. My heart went out to these people.

I have been a freelance writer for 63 years and, as a priest, was permitted to travel to 100 countries, studying and writing about the Church’s role in world poverty problems. Over 440 of my articles have been printed in some 65 publications.

Last March, at 89, I visited Haiti for the 13th time since 1973. Haiti, less than two hours from Miami, Fla., is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. When Pope John Paul II visited Haiti in March, 1983, he declared: “It is necessary for things to change. It is necessary for the ‘poor’ of all kinds to begin to hope again.”

Had conditions changed? Was there hope in Haiti?

I wanted to compare my Haiti of 1973 with the Pope’s Haiti of 1983 and the Haiti of 2011, especially after the devastating earthquake in January, 2010. Many people had hoped the earthquake might prove a catalyst to bring permanent concern and assistance to Haiti. I wanted to see if such help was occurring.

Haiti’s population in 1973 was just over five million. Now it is more than nine million. In 1973, the population of Port-au-Prince, the capital, was 340,000. Today, its population is close to three million.

Most Haitians are in dire need of electricity, water and jobs. Unemployment is 70 percent. Haiti’s infrastructure – roads, sewerage, and the like – is extremely insufficient.

Traffic in Port-au-Prince is bumper to bumper. Many streets are unpaved and rocky. Bridges along the country roads are impassable because of earthquake damage. Piles of rubbish from the earthquake still abound. Every open field is filled with tent cities. The Catholic Cathedral is a shell of debris. The diocesan seminary is a gigantic pile of rubble. Seven seminarian earthquake victims are buried under a statue of Our Lady on the grounds.

Haitian politics are tumultuous and confusing. The President’s Palace is badly damaged and unusable.

And yet courage, patience and hope do abound among many of the people. Many Haitians smile easily despite the misery. Many are deeply religious and they dress elegantly when they attend Sunday Mass.

Haiti needs all the help it can get. My favorite charity is the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA). About 340 parishes in the United States and Canada have sent $30 million to “sister” parishes in Haiti since 1978. The executive director, Theresa Patterson, 69, has traveled to Haiti 93 times. The PTPA has a website to find more information and make donations: www.parishprogram.org

Father Joe Beckman is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in residence at The Athenaeum of Ohio. He assists at Sunday Masses at St. Rose Parish, East End
Alumni to Focus on Parish Ambassador Initiative

The Athenaeum Alumni Association Executive Committee has decided to concentrate efforts this year to complete the long-term project of appointing Athenaeum ambassadors in all of the parishes of the archdiocese.

Some 50 to 60 percent of parishes within the archdiocese are represented by ambassadors who are designated to advance the Athenaeum within their particular faith communities by fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and lay ministry.

Athenaeum ambassadors also are charged with promoting Athenaeum opportunities – degree programs, lectures, tours, the speakers’ bureau, chorale performances and other events within their parishes and to introduce the Athenaeum and its mission to parishioners.

Faith in Action, a quarterly newsletter for Athenaeum ambassadors, can be found on the Athenaeum website www.athenaeum.edu. Please go to the “students” drop down menu on the main page, click on alumni and the newsletter is accessible on the alumni main page. Beginning later this year, the newsletter will be mailed to all ambassadors and pastors. Minuteman Press of Anderson Township has generously donated the costs of printing three editions a year.

By reviewing the three available website editions of Faith in Action, persons with interest in serving as ambassadors will be able to learn more about ambassador responsibilities and the vital purpose of the program.

Ambassadors are approved and/or appointed by the pastor and also act as liaisons between the Athenaeum and parish leadership.

If you have an interest in serving as an ambassador, please contact Bill Staun, program coordinator, at wjstaun@fuse.net, or Walt Schaefer, Athenaeum alumni association liaison, at wschaefer@athenaeum.edu.

Athenaeum Professor Honored by Hebrew Union

Sister Betty Jane Lillie, SC., professor of biblical studies at the Athenaeum was honored by the Union for Reform Judaism at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion with the Founders’ Medallion during May graduation ceremonies at the Isaac M. Wise Temple in Amberley Village.

Sister Lillie, a graduate studies alumna of Hebrew Union College, earned the award for her “work to maintain vibrant religious life in (her) community and for bringing its tenets into the lives of so many,” said Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism. “May your efforts continue to bring you much personal and professional fulfillment, and may you go from strength to strength,” he said.

The following parishes were omitted from a list in the capital campaign report contained in the spring edition. All hold membership in the Bishop Fenwick Society. We regret the errors.

Holy Family Parish, Versailles
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Anderson
Sacred Heart Parish, Cincinnati
St. Denis Parish, Versailles
St. Francis De Sales Parish, Lebanon
St. Joseph Parish, Springfield
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Liberty Township
St. Patrick Parish, Bellefontaine
St. Peter Parish, New Richmond
St. Philomena Parish, Owensville
St. Raphael Parish, Springfield
St. Savior Parish, Ross moyne
St. Thomas More Parish, Withamsville
Most Rev. Paul V. Donovan, founding bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, who served there from 1971 to 1994, died April 28. Bishop Donovan completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries. He was 86.

“As shepherd of the diocese … Bishop Donovan worked passionately to further the mission of the Church in Southwest Michigan. Under his faithful leadership, many ministries, services and programs were established that continue today in assisting those in need … Bishop Donovan truly lived his Episcopal motto: ‘to serve rather than be served,’” Bishop Bradley said.

Bishop Donovan was ordained in 1950 in Lansing, Mich. and first served as assistant pastor at St. Mary Church, Jackson, Mich. He was Lansing Bishop Joseph H. Albers’ secretary and administrator at St. Peter Church, Eaton Rapids, Mich. He held a licentiate in canon law from the Lateran University, Rome. He served parishes in Michigan Center and Flint and held other diocesan positions.

Following his appointment as bishop, the Most Rev. Donovan served on the committee for canonical affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and on the executive committee of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). He served as Episcopal moderator of Region V of the Cursillo Movement. He was a member of the ad hoc committee on Hispanic affairs of the NCCB/USCC and on the board of trustees of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He resigned as bishop in 1994 for health reasons.

Funeral Mass was at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

Father Guntzelman was well known throughout the greater Cincinnati community for the many columns he wrote for community newspapers and the Catholic programming he contributed to broadcast radio.

As part of his priesthood, Father Guntzelman taught at Purcell and Alter and high schools and directed the Dayton Family Life Center. He served parishes in Cincinnati, Centerville, Dayton, Mack, Mason and Hamilton, Ohio. He also served as pastoral minister at Grandview Hospital, Dayton. During his years of ministry, Father Guntzelman was assistant diocesan master of ceremonies for those ceremonies involving the seminary or its seminarians.

Funeral Mass was at St. Cecelia Church, Cincinnati. Burial was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

The Rev. Leo A. Hoying, who served at parishes from Cincinnati to Springfield and Russia, Ohio, died May 22. During his priestly formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries. He was 80.

During his priesthood, Father Hoying served as pastor of parishes in Versailles, Fentenich, Russia, St. Mary’s and Springfield and was associate pastor at parishes in Norwood, Rossmoyne, Cincinnati, St. Mary’s, and Springfield. He taught at Notre Dame High School and was a counselor at LaSalle High School, Cincinnati. He was chaplain of Community Hospital, Springfield. Following his retirement in 2001, Father Hoying provided sacramental ministry at churches in McCartyville and New Bremen and was temporary parochial minister in St. Mary’s, Ohio.

Funeral Mass was at St. Augustine Church, Minster. Burial was at St. Augustine Cemetery, Minster.

The Rev. Charles Theodore “Ted” Thomas, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, died April 24. He was 64.

Father Thomas also held a master’s degree in history from Xavier University. He was pastor of St. Mary, St. Ladislas and Corpus Christi parishes, Columbus. He was a past associate director of vocations. During his priestly formation, Father Thomas also served parishes in Portsmouth, Marysville, Adia, Mount Vernon, and Columbus. He taught at Northstone High School, Portsmouth; Bishop Hartley High School and Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus. Father Thomas held several other appointed positions in the diocese. Funeral Mass was at St. Mary Church, Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

The Rev. John Berry Bentz, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, died December 24, 2010. He was 72.

During his priesthood, Father Bentz served parishes in Cardington, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Marion, Columbus, Dennison, Zanesville, Portsmouth and Lancaster. He is a former teacher at Newark Catholic High School and Bishop Fenwick High School, Lancaster and was past chaplain at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Marysville and Methodist Hospital, Columbus. After retirement in 2008, Father Bentz assisted at several parishes in Fairfield County and at St. Francis De Sales Church, Newark and was a chaplain at Mount Carmel East Hospital, Columbus.

Funeral Mass was at St. Francis De Sales Church, Newark. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark.

Monsignor Edward Joseph McFarland, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus who completed his preparation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, died January 8. He was 82.

During his priestly formation Monsignor McFarland served parishes in Gahanna, Reynoldsburg, Newark, Zanesville, Mount Vernon and Chillicothe. He was past principal of Newark Catholic High School, Bishop Rosecrans High School, Zanesville; St. Joseph High School, Dover; St. Mary High School, Dennison; and Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School, Dover. He was assistant principal of Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus and served on several diocesan advisory boards and committees.

Funeral Mass was at Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

Monsignor James J. Carroll, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus who completed his preparation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, died May 10 in Sun City West, Ariz. He was 91. Monsignor Carroll also held a doctorate in canon law from Catholic University of America.

During his priesthood, Monsignor Carroll served parishes in Marysville, Columbus, and Marion. He was diocesan chancellor, assistant chancellor, vicar general, diocesan secretary and judge of the Diocesan Tribunal. He was past chaplain of Doctors West Hospital and Riverside Methodist Hospital. He served the Diocese of St. Petersburg, the Diocese of Brooklyn Tribunal and the Diocese of Saginaw Tribunal. Until retirement in 1990, he was chaplain of St. Raphael Home, Columbus. Monsignor Carroll provided assistance at St. Clement of Rome Church, Sun City, Ariz., following retirement.

Funeral Mass was at St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne.

Deacon Allen K. Miller, who served at St. Peter Parish, Huber Heights from the time of his ordination in 1962 until retirement in 2006, died March 14 at Mercy Sienna Woods. He was 90 and the first deacon to serve at St. Peter’s. Deacon Miller retired as a chief warrant officer from the U.S. Air Force with 21 years of service and later retired from Allen K. Miller & Associates. He was a member of the Cursillo Group, Over 55 Bible Study teacher and worked in many other organizations.

Funeral Mass was at St. Peter Church. Burial was at St. Paul Cemetery, Yellow Springs.

Deacon Phillip Wersching, who served at Holy Angels Parish, Cincinnati from his ordination in 1979 until 1999 and then at St. Francis De Sales Parish until retirement in 2002, died May 14.

Funeral Mass was at St. Cecilia Church, Cincinnati.

Genevieve K. Maj, wife of Ed Maj, a former Athenaeum development department employee and long time volunteer, died April 8. She was 85. Mrs. Maj and her husband are members of the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society.

Mrs. Maj was past president of the Saint Clare Guild at Franciscan Terrace and was a graduate of the Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing and the College of Mount St. Joseph. She and her husband belonged to St. James of the Valley Church, Wyoming. Funeral Mass was at St. James of the Valley.

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 an @).

Patricia “Patty” Duwel Nobis, Bishop Fenwick Society (BFS) member, aunt of BFS member Mary Jackson, sister of BFS members Maggie Bollin and Theresa Thiemann, died April 13.

Joseph Michael Gebhardt, brother of the Rev. Paul Gebhardt, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary alumnus and pastor of St. Vivian Parish, Finneytown, died April 15.

Lawrence Hilbert, father of Kari Boss of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPM) staff, died April 17.

Flora Kohnen, Bishop Fenwick Society member, died May 26.

Wayne E. Crotty, Bishop Fenwick Society member and member of the St. Gregory Legacy Society, died May 23.

Theresa K. Backscheider, sister of seminarian James Romanello, died June 24.

REST IN PEACE
Creating a Legacy while Changing the Future

St. Gregory Legacy Society

Do you want to have an impact beyond your life? Do you want to perpetuate the Catholic faith?

The St. Gregory Legacy Society allows you to change the lives of people you may never meet by serving as the instrument to provide the future means to educate people to serve our Church and to spread our Catholic faith.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
– Luke 12:34

Established to remember and honor those who have made The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary a beneficiary of their estate plans, either through a bequest, life insurance policy, charitable annuity or trust, or a gift of real estate or other property, the St. Gregory Legacy Society now has 340 members dedicated to keeping our Catholic faith alive and vibrant.

When Bishop Edward D. Fenwick founded The Athenaeum of Ohio in 1829 to form local priests to serve the local Church, he could not have envisioned the legacy he would leave – an institution destined to train thousands of priests, deacons, high school and college students, teachers and lay ministers.

Today:
• 98 percent of the diocesan priests serving our archdiocese were formed at the Athenaeum
• 220 students, on average, study at the Athenaeum each quarter
• 28 percent of the students enrolled at the Athenaeum are women

To ensure that the Athenaeum can continue to provide the education and training needs of our Catholic community, we need a strong endowment – a permanent source of funding to sustain the ongoing training and formation of priests, deacons and lay ministers.

There is no minimum gift amount required from your estate, only a firm belief in the mission of the Athenaeum. Even a small sum will have a big impact over time.

We invite you to prayerfully consider establishing a bequest or planned gift. Your gift allows you to make a statement of support during your lifetime and create a legacy benefiting countless generations to come.

“The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary provides an indispensable resource for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. I decided to support the Athenaeum through my will to continue this important work of preparing local ministers for the Gospel.”
– Father Kyle Schnippel ’04, St. Gregory Legacy Society member, vocation director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

For more information about the St. Gregory Legacy Society, please contact Kathy Kaelin Symons, director of estate and trust services, at 513-233-6153 or at leavealegacy@athenaeum.edu

Your gift to the Athenaeum’s endowment will benefit the Catholic faith forever.”