Give Thanks to the Lord for He Is Good
Welcome to this edition of the Athenaeum Magazine! It is always a joy to know that so many of you look forward to reading about us, and respond so generously to the needs of this seminary, house of formation and school of theology. As part of our extended family, you are very important to who we are and what we do.

Every year The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary is delighted to bring you this particular edition of our magazine. In it, we highlight the “Honor Roll” of benefactors who make it possible for us to make the mission of the Athenaeum a reality. With this in mind, the scriptural theme of this first publication for the academic year 2010-2011 comes from Psalm 136: “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

It seems to me that when we pay attention to what is really going on in life, even with its difficulties and confusions, we cannot help but be moved to give thanks to the Lord. Over and over He shows us that we are loved, that we are His people, and that we matter. When we consider this through the vision of our faith, we are almost compelled to “give thanks” since we see how the hand of God works through all the circumstances of our lives – whether they appear to be positive or not at the time. Our faith gives us the vantage point of gratitude, and this is a marvelous gift from God to His people.

Perhaps, as we look toward the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, it is the perfect time to reflect on the generosity of God, and our thankful response. So many of you who are reading this magazine show your generosity to us at the Athenaeum/Seminary through the support you provide for the work of formation of priests, deacons and lay ministers for the Church. You truly show the goodness of the Lord to all of us. Thank you and may God bless you always.

Sincerely yours,

Edward P. Smith
Reverend Edward P. Smith
President/Rector
In 21 years, the growth of the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society (BFS) has been nothing short of amazing.

Since its founding in 1990 by 21 charter benefactors dedicated to maintaining the mission of the Athenaeum, the society has expanded to a record 621 members.

Because of their steadfast generosity, this year’s annual fund is expected to provide more than $1 million to the institution’s general operating needs, the yeomen’s share coming from BFS members.

Today the Athenaeum recognizes everyone who has provided a little or a lot for its future.

Each and every year through the Honor Roll Edition of The Athenaeum Magazine, the institution recognizes its benefactors whether they have donated a dollar or a million dollars – each contribution counts.

In this edition, you will find page after page of names, each one of them a part of the Athenaeum family of true believers dedicated to supporting the future of our Church in southwest Ohio and beyond, by giving to the mission of preparing priests, deacons and lay ministers for the Church today and the Church of tomorrow.

This annual edition also pays specific tribute to the members of our Bishop Fenwick Society. Membership in the group requires a minimum annual donation of $1,000 or more in unrestricted funds, but many, many members exceed the minimum.

The Cornerstone Circle represents donors who give $25,000 or more annually; the Founder’s Circle recognizes annual gifts between $10,000 and $24,999, the Chancellor’s Circle is comprised of supporters giving $5,000 to $9,999 and the Founder’s Circle those who provide $2,500 to $4,999.

With the success of the Athenaeum’s current capital campaign, the Bishop Fenwick Society’s growth has expanded and the goal of 1,000 members has become attainable in the near future.

The campaign already has surpassed its goal of $15.75 million and the immediate needs of the Athenaeum – from brick and mortar projects, to seminary recruitment and expansion, to new technological requirements – will be addressed.

The 181-year-old Athenaeum of Ohio stands on the threshold of a bright future in fulfilling its mission of preparing men and women to serve Our Lord.

With the support of dedicated Catholics from all walks of life, the Athenaeum has prospered. As you scan the columns of generous donors in this issue we — “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

Parishes Boost Bishop Fenwick Society Memberships

In parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the pastor is most likely to be a priest formed at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, the oldest division of the Athenaeum. Recently ordained deacons, also working in parishes, are often alumni of the Athenaeum and many church employees are Athenaeum graduates or have taken courses at the institution.

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

Photo by Marge Stowe

ST. CHARLES BORROMEOPARISH / KETTERING, OHIO
Yet, until recently, parish memberships in the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society were few. Largely that was because it was never suggested to parish leadership that BFS membership should be considered in light of the fact the Athenaeum provides human resources for local Catholic faith communities.

A concerted effort to increase parish memberships has been launched by the Athenaeum’s Advancement Department and a rapidly growing number of Church communities have responded.

“Saint Charles Borromeo Parish (Kettering) has been blessed by the ministry training of the Athenaeum over the years,” said the Rev. Gerald R. Haemmerle, the pastor. “Since I became pastor, we have had three newly ordained priests, three permanent deacons, two full time staff members, and several volunteer parishioners who received their education and training at the Athenaeum. I am always confident that they will be well educated in theology and trained in pastoral skills. The Athenaeum is a wonderful resource for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.”

The Rev. Lawrence Mierenfeld of Incarnation Parish in Centerville echoed Father Haemmerle: “We are glad as a parish to be a member of the Bishop Fenwick Society,” he said. “Our parish council discussed it a couple of years ago and we felt that the archdiocese has provided this parish with priests for 60 years now and we have been blessed to often have some young seminarians (on internship). The parish at large has developed an interest in the seminary and the formation of priests. We feel this is our way of continuing to see that our priests are well educated.”


“I have many delightful memories of the three years I spent at the Athenaeum over 50 years ago,” Father Robinson said. “At that time it was called St. Gregory’s Seminary. On a personal note, I have been blessed in my ministry through the training the Athenaeum has given to six deacons with whom I worked and numerous graduates of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP).

“The Athenaeum has enriched my service to the Church also by providing worthwhile lectures and other educational opportunities such as a workshop on Reality Therapy and a year of studying Greek,” he said. “Most of our Archdiocese has been blessed by the many priests who received their training and formation at the Athenaeum. We are fortunate to have the Athenaeum here in our archdiocese.”

“The parish at large has developed an interest in the seminary and the formation of priests. We feel this is our way of continuing to see that our priests are well educated.”

REV. LAWRENCE MIERENFELD
Incarnation Parish

INCARNATION PARISH / CENTERVILLE, OHIO

Photo by Marge Stowe
The Rev. Dan Schmitmeyer of Holy Angels Parish, Sidney, said his “parish is happy to be a member of the Bishop Fenwick Society because we see the importance of showing our support for the young men who are discerning a call to the priesthood. By being Fenwick Society members, we hope these men will know of our prayers and support for their call. We also have a number of parishioners who have benefited from classes and workshops put forth by the Athenaeum faculty.”

The value of the Athenaeum is apparent to these parish leaders and to others within the 19-county archdiocese. In recognition of parish support, pictures of Bishop Fenwick Society member parishes are featured throughout this honor roll edition.

“We hope these men will know our support for their call.”

REV. DAN SCHMITMEYER
Holy Angels Parish

ST. BONIFACE PARISH / CINCINNATI, OHIO

HOLY ANGELS PARISH / SIDNEY, OHIO

FALL 2010
Dear Alumni, Priests and Friends of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary:

As you know by now, this issue of The Athenaeum Magazine is dedicated to our benefactors.

The amount of support and encouragement we receive from all of you is amazing, but certainly not surprising. Time and time again I find myself edified by the devotion of our friends and patrons who share their time, treasure and talent with us.

I hope that we are living up to your faith in us as a seminary and a house of formation, committed to being a place where men and women are prepared to do God’s work with gentleness and zeal. I see the results of this lofty goal everyday. I also see that we would not be able to achieve it without you.

Every year when we compile this list of our benefactors, it is a reminder of how fortunate we are to have so many good people like you who deeply love their faith, and are committed to helping us in the formation of effective ministers for future generations of Catholic Christian believers.

Thank you for your support, example and kindness. This “Honor Roll” is a small example of the esteem in which you are held, and the gratitude we have for each of you. “Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good!”

May God bless you!

Reverend Edward P. Smith
President/Rector

These gifts were received for the Annual Fund and burses between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. New special gifts, bequests and gifts for the Catholic Ministries Appeal also are listed. Every effort has been made to keep the listing error-free. If your name was overlooked or improperly printed, please accept our apologies. We invite you to contact us to correct the error:
Mr. Walt Schaefer
The Athenaeum of Ohio
6616 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
(513) 233-6130
wschaefer@athenaeum.edu


O U R  M I S S I O N
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.

This mission is achieved through the three divisions of The Athenaeum of Ohio: Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program and the Special Studies Division.

The Rev. Robert Schmitz, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Symmes Township, presents a check exceeding $5,000 to Athenaeum President/Rector the Rev. Edward P. Smith. The money represents proceeds from a parish fund-raiser organized to fund parish membership in the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society. Behind the two priests is a bronze sculpture of the Good Shepherd recently relocated to the church’s gathering space.

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O u r M i s s i o n

The Athenaeum Magazine
The Bishop Fenwick Society is named after the Most Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, OP, the first bishop of Cincinnati who founded the Athenaeum in 1829. Membership in the society, founded in 1990, is extended to those who make an annual fund unrestricted contribution of $1,000 or more to the Athenaeum to continue to build an institution and mission that began 181 years ago. Designations are as follows:

- **Cornerstone Circle**: Members who contribute $25,000 or more
- **Founder's Circle**: Members who contribute between $10,000 and $24,999
- **Chancellor's Circle**: Members who contribute between $5,000 and $9,999
- **President's Circle**: Members who contribute between $2,500 and $4,999
- **Fenwick's Circle**: Members who contribute between $1,000 and $2,499

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

- **Archbishop Purcell Assembly**: (+++++) Members with 30+ years
- **Archbishop Elder Assembly**: (++++) 25 to 29 years
- **Archbishop Moeller Assembly**: (+++) 20 to 24 years
- **Archbishop McNicholas Assembly**: (+) 15 to 19 years
- **Archbishop Alter Assembly**: (+) 10 to 14 years
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Since it’s founding, charter members with the longest tenure in The Episcopal Order of the Bishop Fenwick Society have supported the Athenaeum for 20 years.

† Names listed with this symbol in italics signify deceased donors.

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Thanks to the Bishop Fenwick Society, The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary prospers as one of our country’s finest Catholic graduate schools of theology.

The following is a list of families, couples, individuals, parishes, organizations and companies who were members of the Bishop Fenwick Society during the 2009/2010 Annual Fund year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). For information about becoming a member of the Bishop Fenwick Society, contact Jim Jackson, director of advancement, at (513) 233-6161.
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The Athenaeum Magazine
Generations Circle

The Generations Circle was established in 2008 to provide an affordable way for people under 50 to become members of the Bishop Fenwick Society. Membership in the Bishop Fenwick Society’s Generations Circle requires a gift of $500 or more with an endorsement from a current Bishop Fenwick Society member. The Generations Circle is an effort to recognize the need to involve younger generations in our future planning.

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Parish

Parishes within the archdiocese have joined the Bishop Fenwick Society as a way of showing appreciation for the mission of the Athenaeum to form priests, deacons and lay ministers for the future Church. These parishes appreciate that their leaders and many paid and volunteer staff members have received Athenaeum educations.

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In late 2008, The Athenaeum initiated a very critical fundraising campaign – Investing in Our Future, Preserving Our Legacy. At the time, there were concerns, rightly expressed, about the timing of this effort. Among others, the after effects of the Church’s crisis along with one of the worst economic recessions were certainly formidable hurdles that needed to be navigated.

However, to maintain The Athenaeum as a world class institution of learning for future Catholic priests, deacons and lay ministers, this campaign was inescapable. Funds were needed to keep and attract the best educators. With the anticipated increase of seminarians, the facilities required capital improvements and an enhanced endowment. The financial target became $15,750,000 and it was time to go to work.

The hope of the campaign was placed squarely on the shoulders of those who most cherished this institution and their unending generosity of time, talent and treasure.

Generous Team
Members of administration, the faculty, development staff, regional chairpersons, pastor advisory committee, alumni association and Bishop Fenwick Society all came together in leadership roles. As a well focused team, they spent endless hours phoning donors, visiting homes and businesses as well as hosting receptions. The fundraising team reached out to every corner of the archdiocese. Their generosity and perseverance are most appreciated.

Whenever asked and wherever needed, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr and Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk were available to meet with donors. Not only generous with their valuable time, their love for and commitment to the Athenaeum made them the campaign’s best closers. We are blessed by their leadership.

Generous Donors
There would be, of course, no success in this campaign without loyal and generous donors. The 12-month “quiet” phase began in the spring of 2009. The support for the Athenaeum became clear from the outset as donors pledged more than 90 percent of the objective during this time. In fact, 97 percent of those solicited made campaign pledges. Many had participated in past Athenaeum campaigns and were now willing to again step up, often increasing their pledge. While their generosity is most extraordinary, it is their sincere love and gratitude for the mission of the Athenaeum that is most impressive.

During the Bishop Fenwick Society & Archbishop’s Dinner this past spring, the campaign was made known to the general public and remains active. Many more generous donors have responded with pledges to this effort. In fact, because of your generosity, we can report the campaign’s financial goal has been met. Congratulations! We are most grateful!

However, this campaign is not over until the end of the year. There is work still to do and we need your help. Numerous solicitations remain open and in progress. If you are contacted, we ask for your kind consideration of a financial pledge. Furthermore, because the Athenaeum remains somewhat of a secret throughout the diocese, would you be so kind as to share this story with others? Hopefully, this article will inspire a prayerful and generous response from those who read it. For more information, contact the Athenaeum Advancement Office at 513-231-2223.

Generous Friends
Finally, this campaign has been truly blessed by outstanding leadership and direction from Mike Conaton and the honorary chairpersons, Bob and Ruth Conway. On a personal note, it has been an honor to work with these fine and giving individuals. I thank them for their guidance and generosity of friendship. As many of you know, a short time ago Ruth Conway returned to our good God. While this campaign introduced me to Ruth, I, like you, have been touched by her generous spirit, her generous heart and that most generous smile she shared everyday. Thank you, Ruth and God bless all of you.
The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary graduated 44 students during ceremonies October 17 in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great on the Athenaeum campus. The degrees were conferred by Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, chancellor and chairman of the board of the Athenaeum.

The graduation address was given by Archbishop Schnurr as he presided over his first Athenaeum graduation ceremony since being named to lead the Archdiocese.

The graduates are:

**Master of Divinity:**
The Rev. Kevin Kahmann, the Rev. Robert Muhlenkamp, the Rev. Matthew Rader, the Rev. Timothy Ralston

**Master of Arts in Biblical Studies**
The Rev. Tuan P. Do

**Master of Arts in Theology**
Tracy Koenig

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling**
Lisa Debbeler, Sister Patricia Dittmeier SC, the Rev. Matthew Kumi

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry**
Jane Anderson, Donald Brockmeier, Michael Collins, John Homoelle, Jerold Kosey, Stephen Lindner, Ken Meymann, Alan Pickett, Kenneth Schnur, Michael Trimpe

**Certificate in Lay Ministry**
Marc Alexander, Dennis Berry, Michael Brock, Cheryl Ann Foti, George Freudenberg, Lawrence Gronas, Robert Gutendorf, Ralph Gutman, Annette Huber, Daniel Huber, Henry Jacquez, Cheryl Kircher, Donald Luebbnering, Vincent Lutz, John Lyons, Gregory Marx, David McCray, William McGrath, Linda Newcomer, Christopher Rauch, Thomas Shea, Kenneth Stewart, Jason Wheatley, Louis Wong, Dave Zink

Family and friends gathered in the Athenaeum’s Chapel of St. Gregory the Great for the Athenaeum’s commencement in October. The Rev. Tuan P. Do (1) accepts his diploma from Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr while Athenaeum Dean Terrance D. Callan (far right) looks on. The Rev. Timothy P. Schehr, senior faculty member, leads the post-graduation procession (2) from the chapel. Archbishop Schnurr (3) gives the commencement address. Deacon Max Schellman (4), chairman of the Athenaeum Alumni Association Executive Committee addresses the new graduates. The Rev. Edward P. Smith (5), Athenaeum president/rector greets the graduates. Sister Patricia Dittmeier, SC (right), with Jane Anderson, (6) leave the chapel with smiles and their diplomas.
Father Rob Jack Earns Teaching Award

The Rev. Rob Jack, instructor of systematic theology and a member of the Athenaeum faculty since 1999, received this year’s Celebration of Teaching Award in conjunction with the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities (GCCCU).

The award was presented to Father Jack at the Athenaeum graduation ceremony October 17. The GCCCU has been sponsoring the Celebration of Teaching program for 23 years and the Athenaeum has participated since its inception. Father Jack was selected on the basis of demonstrated development as a teacher, student course evaluations, general professional development, support of the Athenaeum, and community service.

“This past year Father Rob developed one new course and taught one over-load course, and all of his courses were well-received by his students,” said Athenaeum Dean Dr. Terrance D. Callan at the presentation ceremony.

“As an aid to student learning, (Father Jack) began to record his lectures, burn them to CDs, and distribute them to his students. He also presented this strategy to other members of the faculty and offered to help them make use of it if they wished. This summer he took some workshops on web design to help him further develop his use of instructional technology.”

Students appreciate Father Jack’s knowledge and his ability to communicate it. One said he is “brilliant and is able to express the depth of his understanding to us in a pleasurable way.”

Students also appreciate Father Jack’s enthusiasm for his subject matter and his sense of humor. One cited his “expertise, passion and experiences;” while another commended his “excitement about subject material.” A third said: “He has incredible fortitude and clarity. We loved this class and his sense of humor.”

Monsignor Frank Lane, a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus, has been named spiritual director assuming the role held the past two years by the Rev. Michael W. Davis, who returned to the Diocese of Miami, Fla.

The Rev. Paul Keller, OP, a Dominican, has accepted a position as assistant professor of sacramental theology after most recently serving as an adjunct professor at Franciscan University, Steubenville.

Dr. David Foster, who taught philosophy at Seton Hall University for 24 years, has become an associate professor of philosophy assuming some of the course load previously taught by the Rev. Francis W. Voellmecke.

Monsignor Lane

Monsignor Frank Lane, a western New York native who retired from the Diocese of Columbus about a year ago, held an adjunct faculty position at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

The school announced a re-organization this year and suspended instruction while researching the school’s direction, Monsignor Lane said.

“I was giving a retreat in North Carolina. The phone rang and it was Father (Edward P.) Smith, (Athenaeum president/rector) asking if I was willing to help out … for two years. I’m not sure what will happen after that.”

The role of the spiritual director is to help the seminarians’ development, hear their confessions, and act as a personal advisor whom seminarians may privately consult in confidence. Monsignor Lane does not teach classes.

“My experience here has been very good. I think there’s a fine faculty, a very fine student body, and it is a very good place,” Monsignor Lane said.

The monsignor holds a bachelor’s degree from Ohio Northern University, attended St. Charles College, Columbus for two years of philosophy and then went to the University of Innsbruck, Austria, earning a master’s degree in theology. He also holds a doctorate in European history from The Ohio State University.

Monsignor Lane served diocesan parishes for 25 years and taught part time at the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary, Columbus, and at Kenyon College. He spent 10 years in the National Guard.
Father Keller

Father Paul Keller has assumed his full-time position teaching sacramental theology after five years at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island and another year filling in for a fellow Dominican professor at the Franciscan University in Steubenville.

At the Athenaeum, Father Keller teaches in the seminary as well as in the diaconate and Lay Pastoral Ministry Programs.

“That means I’m teaching in all of the Athenaeum’s divisions. It is very important for the seminarians to have a rigorous program to prepare them to meet the needs of the Church in the 21st Century. I am very excited for the future of the seminary here because I foresee big things happening. I have been able to talk to Archbishop (Dennis M.) Schnurr on a couple of occasions. We have had some wonderful discussions and I’m grateful to be working in his seminary.”

“I love working with seminarians. There is zeal in them to be good and holy priests and that is really what we need in our Church,” Father Keller said. “We need to lead the Church to greater holiness, to teach the people about their faith.”

Following implementation of a hiring freeze at Franciscan University, Steubenville, last year, Father Keller knew the Athenaeum was looking to add a sacramental theologian to its faculty and the Athenaeum “knew I was available. I was invited to apply for the job. We have a (Dominican) priory here at St. Gertrude in Madeira so it will be the best of both worlds to teach here and live there and do some work with our novices.”

Besides his duties at the Athenaeum, Father Keller will assist at St. Gertrude where he is parochial vicar. He also is promoter for continuing formation and education for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph and he oversees provincial-wide lectures. He is president of the Society for Catholic Liturgy and will appear on the Franciscan University Presents television show in Lent.

Father Keller studied at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. and at Franciscan University. Prior to his ordination, he worked 10 years for Michigan Bell now a part of AT&T. He entered the Dominicans as a novice in Cincinnati in 1987 and completed a baccalaureate degree in sacred theology and a licentiate in sacred theology in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in 1993 and worked six years as parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish, New Haven, Conn. while teaching at the seminary at Cromwell, Conn. He then completed his doctorate at Sant’Anselmo in Rome while living with the Dominicans at the Angelicum there.

Dr. Foster

By coming to the Athenaeum, Dr. David Foster with his wife, Lynn Marie, returned to their roots.

“There was a point in our lives when we felt we wanted to be back close to family. We both have family roots in central Kentucky,” Dr. Foster said. “And, a few years ago we decided to look into the possibility of making the move but high on my list was continuing to teach philosophy in a seminary.”

Dr. Foster had been teaching almost two and a half decades at Seton Hall University in New Jersey while his wife, a nurse, was commuting to a health center in midtown Manhattan. She is presently taking a well-earned sabbatical.

The couple is living in Springfield, Ky., a small town about 40 miles west of Lexington. “I’m commuting from Springfield to Cincinnati to teach at the Athenaeum … (but this) fulfills my desire to move back home closer to family, since we have family in the Lexington area.”

Dr. Foster was born and lived in Morgantown, W.Va. where his father, a Kentucky native, taught at the University of West Virginia. His mother also is from the Bluegrass.

“I teach here at the Athenaeum three days a week – Monday through Wednesday – and stay here on campus. That’s how the commute is possible,” Dr. Foster said. “I have known Father Frank Voellmecke (long-time Athenaeum professor of philosophy) and visited here a couple of times over the years and have been impressed.”

Dr. Foster is teaching seminarians a course in “The Philosophy of God” and instructs students in the masters of theology program in the Special Studies Division. “This allows Father Voellmecke to go into semi-retirement and he deserves that,” he said.

Dr. Foster completed his undergraduate study at the University of Notre Dame and his graduate study at Catholic University, Washington, D.C. Having grown up in West Virginia, with roots in Kentucky, and a degree from Notre Dame “when it comes to football season, I have all of these conflicting loyalties and basketball season is even worse” (having taught at Seton Hall), he said.

Dr. Foster is chairman of the American Catholic Philosophic Association’s Committee on Priestly Formation helping start a program dubbed the Faithful Reason Project designed to improve the quality of philosophy courses for seminarians. He co-edited the book Two Wings of Catholic Thought with the Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., a collection of essays on the encyclical Faith and Reason.
Faculty News

The Rev. Edward P. Smith, Athenaeum president/rector, in August led the annual retreat for the bishops of Region VII of the United States – 29 bishops from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin -- at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat Center. The retreat drew its theme from a statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) document On The Teaching Ministry of the Diocesan Bishop, and was entitled: “There are Bishops Because God Cares for What Is Taught in the Church.” The retreat explored the teaching of three great bishops from the past -- Sts. Gregory the Great, Francis de Sales and Robert Bellarmine -- and theological themes that emerge from their writings.

Dr. Terrance D. Callan, dean of the Athenaeum and professor of biblical studies, has published an article “Rhetorogy and Rhetology of Apocalyptic Discourse in Second Peter,” in Reading Second Peter with New Eyes ed. by Robert L. Webb and Duane F.Watson (LNTS 382; London: T & T Clark, 2010) pages 59-90.

The Rev. Timothy P. Schehr, professor of biblical studies, in November gave talks on the Psalms at St. Xavier Church, downtown.

The Rev. Michael A. Seger, associate professor of moral theology who holds the James J. Gardner Chair of Church history and historical theology, for the 25th year gave the ordination retreat for the ordinands of Mundelein Seminary serving the Archdiocese of Chicago; gave a retreat at St. William Parish, Cincinnati, as part of the parish’s centennial celebration; conducted a public program for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Covington, on the “Person and Thought of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman”; lectured to the Catholics at Stanford University, California on “John Henry Newman, a Saint Overdue”

Deacon David Shea, assistant professor of homiletics, recently served as a member of the Deacon Advisory Committee for the Athenaeum’s Investing In Our Future…Preserving Our Legacy capital campaign. The purpose of the committee was to solicit the archdiocesan diaconate community to participate in the capital campaign. In September; Deacon Shea trained 48 Archbishop McNicholas High School seniors to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These new ministers were commissioned in October and will serve at all school liturgies for the remainder of the academic year. He authored a new booklet, Unfulfilled in Their Hearing – Critical Issues in the Sunday Homily. The booklet, being published by St. Anthony Messenger Press, presents results from a two-phase study conducted with grant money provided to the Athenaeum for preaching improvement initiatives throughout the Archdiocese.

The studies concluded there is a significant gap between what Catholics want in a Sunday homily and what they are hearing at Mass. Earlier this month, Deacon Shea attended the annual meeting of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics in Atlanta.

The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and assistant professor of moral theology, recently published an article: “The Demands of Dignity:Addressing Human Sexuality and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in the Seminary Curriculum,” in the latest issue of the Journal of the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry. In September, he presented a paper: “Seeking the Kingdom: Intellectual Formation and Purity of Heart,” at the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, Neb. The paper will be published next June. Father Fernandes joined Father Michael Seger in addressing the convocation of priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in October at Incarnation Church in Centerville; the topic was: Conscience Formation in a Politically-Charged Climate”. In September, he spoke on “End of Life Issues” at St. Susanna Church, Mason and, following the White Mass at Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Father Fernandes addressed the local physicians guild of the Catholic Medical Association on the topic: “The Catholic Church and the Response to AIDS.”

Alumni News

Dr. Bill Daily, class of ’94, and his wife, Mary Donovan Daily, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at the Sisters of St. Francis Convent on June 12. Joining them were their six children, 11 grandchildren, family and friends. They were married June 11, 1960 at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Mount Washington.

W.M.T. (Bill) Robinson III, (class of ’71), former American Bar Association (ABA) treasurer and past president of the Kentucky Bar Association, was chosen ABA president-elect at the association’s annual meeting in San Francisco. He will serve a one-year term, before becoming ABA president in August, 2011. An ABA member for more than 35 years, Mr. Robinson is the member-in-charge of the Florence, Ky., offices of Frost Brown Todd LLC, a regional law firm of nearly 500 lawyers with offices in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia and Indiana. Throughout his career, Mr. Robinson has been a leader in the legal profession as well as in his community, including serving as chair for the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and the Kentucky and the Northern Kentucky Chambers of Commerce.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 7
6:30 p.m.; Bishop Fenwick Society Reception, Westerfield Room
7:30 p.m.; Advent Lessons and Carols, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Sunday, January 23
7:30 p.m.; Sunday Vespers, Athenaeum Chorale, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Sunday, March 6
7:30 p.m.; Vespers, Athenaeum Chorale, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Wednesday, March 16
7:30 p.m.; LeBlond Lecture, the Rev. Dennis McManus, “Patristic Characteristics of the Roman Missal,” Bartlett Pastoral Center

Saturday, March 28
Noon; Lector and Acolyte Ceremony, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr; Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

Friday, April 1
8 p.m.; Spring Concert, Athenaeum Chorale and Orchestra (tickets required), Chapel of St. Gregory the Great
Robert A. Conway Honored as Distinguished Alum; Archbishop Pilarczyk Recognized for Leadership

More than 95 Athenaeum alumni and friends gathered for the Athenaeum Alumni Association Reunion in August to honor Robert A. Conway, Sr. for his long-time support of the institution.

The alumni association also surprised Cincinnati Archbishop Emeritus Daniel E. Pilarczyk with a framed photograph of the famed painting Christ’s Entry into Jerusalem by Benjamin Robert Haydon (1814) which hangs in the Athenaeum atrium. Archbishop Pilarczyk was recognized for his 26 years in leadership of the Athenaeum.

Mr. Conway received a framed photograph of the Madonna mosaic produced by the Vatican Studios in Rome. The mosaic is displayed in the Athenaeum’s Chapel of St. Gregory the Great.

Holy Days Flower Fund

The Athenaeum is known for the beauty of the chapel, for our patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception, and for the Christmas season. The generosity of donors to honor the Lord and His Mother with flowers is much appreciated. Donors, and those for whom they request prayers, will be remembered in the prayers and Masses of the seminary community. Please consider contributing to the beauty of the Athenaeum during this holy season.

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In honor of:

In memory of:

Send to: Flower Fund, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230
Ruth Conway: A Life of Loving, Caring, Giving

In August, when Bob Conway, Sr. was honored as the Athenaeum's 2010 Distinguished Alumnus, many thought it would be a bittersweet event.

Mr. Conway's wife of 52 years, Ruth, was recovering from a recent fall and many thought she would be unable to attend. But, attend she did, smiling throughout the presentation ceremony as the institution she and Mr. Conway had long-supported gave just tribute.

Mrs. Conway, of Mount Lookout, died of a stroke August 28 after falling and breaking a hip while on a vacation with her family. She was 82.

“She was still healing from her bone fracture; but she was there for dad's award. She was not going to miss it,” said Mrs. Conway's daughter, Loi Drath. “She was dad's support. She empowered him to be the person he is. Both of them have shown great love of the Athenaeum. They have always been excited about the Athenaeum because it is the Catholic center of Cincinnati where ideas are shared in the context of a common love of faith and belief.”

The Rev. Edward P Smith, president/rector of the Athenaeum said, “Ruth was ‘anointed with the oil of gladness’, as Psalm 45 says. She brought that gladness to many lives. We are all the better for having known her, and will miss her greatly. She was a constant friend to the Athenaeum and seminary. We have been blessed by her presence.”

Mrs. Conway and her husband served as honorary chairs of the ongoing capital campaign – Investing in Our Future – Preserving Our Legacy – and had recently created and funded the Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Endowed Chair for Biblical Studies.

“Ruth Conway was an enriching person. She enriched her family. She enriched the community of faith. She enriched all those with whom she came into contact,” said Cincinnati Archbishop Emeritus Daniel E. Pilarczyk. “She will continue to enrich us all from her place in heaven. All of us owe God gratitude for her life and her generosity.”

Mike Conaton, long-time friend of Mr. and Mrs. Conway and co-chair of the present capital campaign, said: “Ruth will always be remembered for her smile. It was there throughout the many years I have known Bob and Ruth. Bob was the point man – the vocal persona. In many ways, Ruth was the silent partner but she was a leading influence in the family’s dedication to the mission of the Athenaeum. She loved the Athenaeum. She supported the Athenaeum. She was a blessing to the Athenaeum.”

Fellow co-chair Greg Ionna, said: “While only getting to know Ruth these past few months, I will always remember her endless friendly smile to everyone she met. She seemed to never take for granted the blessing the good Lord gave. God bless her and her family.”

In 1986, Mrs. Conway proposed the idea of creating the Ruth A. and Robert J. Conway Foundation to support the work of the Church and the educational institutions attended by the couple’s nine children.

The Conways operated Mrs. Conway’s family business – the Jung Corporation – a manufacturer of a broad range of elastic support hosiery, ankle and other braces and other health support products until it was sold to Colgate.

“When we sold the Jung Corporation, a fair share of the money was distributed among the family,” Ruth told Insight the Athenaeum’s newsletter for members of the Bishop Fenwick Society. “It is not our money,” she said. “It was given to us (as profits from the sale). So, we formed the foundation and that has been a more attractive activity for the family than the company.”

Recipients include the Athenaeum, where Mr. Conway studied as a seminarian for five years; St. Xavier High School, Ursuline Academy, St. Ursula Academy, and Xavier University. Mr. Conway is a member of the Athenaeum Board of Trustees and serves as chairman of the Athenaeum Advisory Council.

Mr. and Mrs. Conway first became active in raising awareness of the Athenaeum during the institution’s first capital campaign – Our Faith, Our Future. Since then, they have continued their generous financial support. Mr. Conway then co-chaired the Athenaeum’s Legacy Campaign with Mike Conaton. It raised $22 million.

“When I reflect on Ruth, I think about how truly blessed her children are to have such a special mom, and for Bob to have such a loving wife and life partner,” said Jim Jackson, Athenaeum advancement director. “Ruth had a unique way of extending that love to each of us and including everybody as a part of her extended family.”

Throughout her life, Mrs. Conway gave of her blessings to the less fortunate. She was the surrogate mother of many, often taking in people and providing a meal or a temporary home. She worked at the St. Stephen Soup Kitchen in the East End and, after it closed, at the Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen.

Since 1989, the Conways, of Mount Lookout, have owned Cincinnati-based Bistro Group. The company owns about 30 TGI Friday’s restaurants in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, area McAllister’s Deli restaurants and Karlo’s Bistro Italia in Florence, Ky.

Funeral Mass was at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. Burial was at Spring Grove.
The Rev. Francis J. Miller, a former member of the faculty of Mount St. Mary's Seminary and former pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Cincinnati, died October 13. Father Miller completed his preparation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary's seminaries. He was 86.

Father Miller held a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Angelicum in Rome and a doctorate in education from the University of Cincinnati. He also received a master's in counseling from Xavier University. He authored the book *A History of The Athenaeum of Ohio.*

During his priesthood, Father Miller served parishes in Hyde Park, Price Hill, Dayton, Hamilton, Walnut Hills, and Norwood. He was pastoral counselor for Catholic Social Services of Southwest Ohio and taught on the faculties of Seton High School, Cincinnati, and Carroll High School, Dayton. He was instrumental in planning and building Stephen T. Badin High School, Hamilton. He retired from active ministry in 1992.

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

The Rev. Bernard H. (Ben) Bruening, former pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Cincinnati and Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Miamisburg, died September 15. He was 77.

Father Bruening, who completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary's seminaries, was former dean of the St. Francis de Sales Deanery. He retired in 2003.

During his priesthood, Father Bruening served at St. John, St. Peter Claver and Holy Trinity parishes, Middletown; St. Mary Parish, Franklin, and St. Matthias Parish, Cincinnati. He formerly taught at Fenwick High School, Middletown. Funeral Mass was at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Miamisburg. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery, St. Bernard.

Monsignor George William Rohling, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, Tenn. and graduate of St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary's seminaries, died September 13 at Westmeade Nursing Home in Nashville. He was 97.

During his priesthood, Monsignor Rohling served parishes in Gallatin, Lebanon, Madison and Nashville. Prior to his retirement he was pastor of St. Henry Parish, Nashville and assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish, Nashville. He is a former teacher at Father Ryan High School, Nashville.

Funeral Mass was at St. Henry Church, Nashville. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, Nashville.

Monsignor James J. Wolf, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, died August 31 at the University of Indiana Hospital, Indianapolis, following a brief illness. Monsignor Wolf was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, Ind. He was 70.

During his priesthood, Monsignor Wolf served parishes in South Bend, Decatur and the cathedral in Fort Wayne. He served the diocese as Consultant, co-chancellor and co-vicar general.

Funeral Mass was at Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw. Burial was at Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

The Rev. John Sherbino, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, died February 25 at Parkside Villas, Middleburg Heights, Ohio. Father Sherbino also held degrees from DeSales College, Toledo and St. Meinrad College, St. Meinrad, Ind. He was 87.


Father Sherbino, who owned his own Piper Tri-Pacer aircraft, was a member of the National Association of Priest Pilots and an avid golfer.

Funeral Mass was at Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo. His cremains are in the columbarium at Resurrection Cemetery, Toledo.

The Rev. Lee Sciarrotta, S.M., pastor of Emmanuel Catholic Church, Dayton, died September 23. He was 74.

Father Sciarrotta entered the Society of Mary in 1955 and was ordained in 1967. He graduated from the University of Dayton and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He taught at high schools in Cleveland, Ohio; Kalamaooz, Mich. and Toronto, Canada and briefly served as vocation recruiter for the society's Cincinnati Province.

At Emmanuel, Father Sciarrotta developed a vast social outreach network offering aid to Vietnamese and Rwandan refugees.

Funeral Mass was at Emmanuel Catholic Church. Burial was at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Dayton.

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

REST IN PEACE

Friends of the Athenaeum
Francis M. “Frank” Rabbit, alumnus, class of '53, died May 10.
Mary T. Kuhn, mother of the Rev. Thomas Kuhn, Mount St. Mary's Seminary alumnus, died August 8.
Jim Stechschulte, father of the Rev. Barry Stechschulte, Mount St. Mary's Seminary alumnus and member of the Bishop Fenwick Society, died August 14.
Gerry DePiro, uncle of seminarian Adam Puntel, died September 20.
Germaine Moran, mother of the Rev. Martin Moran, pastor of Holy Cross-Immaculata and Old St. Mary parishes, Cincinnati, died September 30.
Alfred Lemkuhl, father of the Rev. Dave Lemkuhl, Mount St. Mary's Seminary alumnus, died September 30.
Leona Pucke, mother of the Rev. Michael Pucke, Mount St. Mary's Seminary alumnus, died October 1.
George Carlson, father of Bob Carlson, father-in-law of Dianne Carlson of the Athenaeum Advancement Department, died October 4.
Robert Zeigler, father of Deacon Steve Zeigler, Mount St. Mary's seminarian, died November 5. ■

Kenneth Griggy, former president and chief executive officer (CEO) of GM Associates and chairman and CEO of Wilson Foods, Oklahoma City, died July 21 following a long battle with brain and ocular cancer. Mr. Griggy was a 1961 graduate of the Athenaeum and former member of the Bishop Fenwick Society. He held a masters’ degree from Xavier University. He was 76.

During his career in the food industry, Mr. Griggy held executive positions with Ralston Purina, St. Louis, Mo.; and Riviana Foods, Houston, Texas. He served on numerous food industry boards and associations.

Funeral Mass was at Christ the King Church, Oklahoma City. Burial was at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery, Oklahoma City.
Learning Our Faith: An Eternal Gift

Among the most lasting legacy gifts the Athenaeum receives are endowed academic chairs.

Not only do these live in perpetuity on the interest accrued from the capital gift, they also fulfill the long-standing commitment of forming priests, deacons and lay ministers for the future Church.

Of recent significance is the gift from long-time Athenaeum benefactors Bob and Ruth Conway creating the Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Chair in Biblical Studies. The late Ruth Conway, whose recent passing saddened the hearts of all who hold the Athenaeum close, will ever be remembered. Her legacy and that of her husband will continue to be a part of the Athenaeum for the life of the institution.

"A key part of the impressive success of our ‘Investing in the Future, Preserving Our Legacy’ capital campaign was the creation of two academic chairs – biblical studies and systematic theology," said Dennis K. Eagan, vice president for finance and administration. "Ruth and Bob Conway, through their foundation, funded the chair in biblical studies. For many years, Bob has served on our board of trustees and finance committee, and knew the tremendous impact this gift would have on our academic budget. Such generous gifts provide significant funding to pay for the salaries and other costs of the faculty member who holds the chair. Because of people like Ruth and Bob Conway, The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary can confidently continue its 181-year-old mission to prepare people to serve the Church effectively as priests, deacons and lay ministers. Their gift truly embodies the theme of our campaign: ‘Investing in the Future – Preserving Our Legacy’.

The impact of the gift also was noted by the Athenaeum’s senior faculty member, the Rev. Timothy Schehr, professor of biblical studies.

“We can hardly say ‘thank you’ enough to the Conway family for funding a chair in Bible at The Athenaeum of Ohio. The Psalms declare that the word of the Lord is a lamp for our feet. By supporting the Bible program, the Conway gift will illuminate the path of life for the generations of men and women who will come here to study and ponder the Word of God.”

To get a glimpse of how esteemed the Athenaeum is held by the Conway family, one need only chat with their daughter, Loi Drath. "The spirit I want people to know about at the Athenaeum centers on faith and religion… Where in your life are you going to find a place so centered on God? How much more wonderful can that be? It is a place founded there for that very purpose. It’s not in Cleveland. It’s not in Columbus. It’s here in Cincinnati – promoting and developing faith, creating an excitement and intensity about God. When you drive by, you know the Athenaeum represents the very body of our faith and a place to nurture it.

“We need to realize it cannot continue without people like my mom and my dad and so many others who make personal sacrifices with time and effort and financial resources. The Athenaeum is a non-profit center. Its future rests with people who believe in its mission and how essential it is to our faith.”

To learn more about creating endowed academic chairs or other ways to leave a lasting legacy at the Athenaeum, please contact Kathy Symons at 513-233-6153, ksymons@athenaeum.edu or leavealegacy@athenaeum.edu