Not to Be Served, but to Serve
FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BENEDICT O’CINNSEALAIGH

I wonder what the writer of Psalm 136 was thinking when he wrote the words “give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.” Let me tell you what I give thanks for every morning as we celebrate Mass at the seminary and I look around the beautiful Chapel of St. Gregory.

I give thanks for the generations of Catholics, laity and clergy, who had the vision, tenacity, and generosity to look beyond their own day and provide for us and future generations. Their loyalty to Christ and His Church continues today in you who are reading these words. You are the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those who built and sustained the Catholic faith in Ohio and beyond. This great seminary and school of theology is part of that legacy of courageous and sacrificial faith.

I give thanks for the priests who minister here at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and The Athenaeum of Ohio. They provide a living witness of good shepherds, faithful teachers, humble service, and brotherly fraternity and care. I give thanks that God has allowed me, our seminarians, and students to know and work with such men of integrity, intelligence, faithfulness, and joy.

I also give thanks for the many faculty members, staff, and students who bring a variety of gifts, energy, professionalism, and expertise to our Athenaeum. Each of them is an indication of the fact that the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the mission of the Church and the building of the Kingdom, continues to “rain down” God’s gifts upon us. With such outstanding individuals, God affirms that people are continuing to respond to the call of Christ, to put their lives, gifts, and talents at the service of the Church.

I have to be completely honest and tell you what impresses me most of all is our group of seminarians. Every morning I sit in admiration of these young men from Youngstown, Toledo, Kalamazoo, and Cincinnati.

They are profiles in courage, faith, hope, and self-sacrifice. They are men of varied backgrounds and experiences. Some have already experienced difficulties and challenges in life making hard choices and courageous sacrifices. Some have faced ridicule, opposition, and even rejection for choosing to enter the seminary. Some have had to overcome their own doubt as to their worthiness to receive and answer the call of the Lord to follow Him along this path. And yet, today, they all share a common call, a common vision, and in spite of all the challenges, they all still believe.

They are men of integrity and courage willing to risk everything because Jesus called them. He calls as certainly as He called, James and John, Matthew and Peter. Our seminarians also have heard the words of Jesus and are leaving everything to follow Him. They are “putting out into the deep” and are willing to “cast their nets,” formed and shaped by what previous generations have handed on to them. Our seminarians are looking into the future and they desire to build a better tomorrow.

This is the season for thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for and what I am most grateful for is you, our benefactors, supporters, our ambassadors, our family, and friends. You, who are listed on our “honor roll,” provide for us in so many ways and with such generosity of heart.

Dear friends of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, I want you to know that without you, our work would be impossible. Without you, there would be no seminary, no Athenaeum, no formation and education program that focus exclusively on the work of Christ to prepare “laborers for the harvest.” How can we ever give enough thanks? How can we ever repay the good done for us or the generosity shown us? Let me assure you that when we pray the words “give thanks to the Lord,” we think of you – all of you – because we realize that in your generosity toward our seminarians and students, our priests, faculty and staff, you are the living expression of God’s love – and the memory of that love “endures forever” in the heart of God.
Look around southwest Ohio and you will be amazed at the number of organizations whose existence is reliant on the philanthropy of others.

There are charities focused on curing devastating diseases or other medical conditions. These range from cancers to congenital conditions to addictions and disabilities.

There are a vast number of social service agencies dealing with hunger, homelessness and the welfare of families in need.

There are private schools of higher learning as well as elementary schools dependent on the helping hands of others to survive.

Then there are the arts – from music to theater to painting and sculpture. There are museums.

There are relief efforts to ease the suffering of others caused by the random acts of Mother Nature – tsunamis and droughts and outbreaks of disease in third-world countries without vitally needed medicines.

There are faith-based organizations dependent of the contributions of their supporters.

We Americans are a giving people. Many of us choose favorite charities because we are connected in some way to the missions of those organizations. It often is a difficult choice and it is made difficult because each and every cause is valid and needs our support. Collectively we givers mean a lot to the world in which we live. Often, we are the lifeline.

Those of us who give find our mailboxes filled with requests for support and can't address every deserving request although our prayers should go out to all of those in need.

This issue of The Athenaeum Magazine is dedicated to a group of men and women who do more than simply write a check. They give of their time and talent because they believe the Athenaeum is critical to the future of our Church. It is for that reason they serve on the Athenaeum's Board of Trustees.

This is a busy group – business owners, those who work in the upper echelon of management. There are lawyers and finance officers, bishops and executive officers all of whom have literally bought into the mission of the Athenaeum to prepare priests, deacons and lay ministers to serve our Church.

This mission touches the core of our faith. Without priests, without deacons, without lay ministers, the Church, as we committed Catholics know it, would be jeopardized.

These members of our board steer our beloved Athenaeum – our seminary and graduate school of theology – into the future.

They give of themselves to give to others and to the future of a mission they hold dear to their hearts. These are people who have made it a point that they are leading us ….

Not to Be Served, but to Serve.
“The vital work of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in producing holy, well-educated priests, permanent deacons, and lay ministers obviously would not be possible without the institution’s dedicated teachers and staff. At the same time, however, even the considerable abilities of those professionals would not be sufficient to accomplish all that God has planned for the Athenaeum if it were not for the gifts and talents contributed by the board of trustees.

“As Chancellor and Chairman of The Athenaeum of Ohio Board of Trustees, I am profoundly grateful for the time, expertise, dedication, and prayerful support that the trustees bring to the seminary and the Athenaeum from the worlds of academia, business, and the Church. They have been a great asset in helping the Athenaeum to grow not only as an educational institution, but as a house of spiritual formation.”

–MOST REV. DENNIS M. SCHNURR
ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI

“I t is the arrogance and zeal of youth to think we can conquer the world and the wisdom of age that realizes we didn’t. However, youth and age are not necessarily opposing forces. And it is the wisdom of the Church that knows when you bring the young and the old together you create the synergy necessary to make things happen, to move things forward, and to build a better tomorrow. Energy and wisdom – what great potential comes into play when these two elements of human life are brought together. Any seminary and college should be a place where the wisdom of age and experience gained by teachers guides the search for truth, knowledge, and the desire to transform that characterizes youth. The need for guidance is not confined, however, to the young alone. Wisdom, experience, guidance, energy, vision, hope and zeal, these are the human elements and gifts which should be brought together in all the committees of The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West but especially in the board of trustees. These are the gifts that are needed to guide a president/rector as he “puts out into the deep.”

“Father Ed Smith always told me he felt the input of the board was very important to him and was influential in helping him steer a smooth and positive course for the seminary and Athenaeum. To be quite frank, I never really appreciated the role of the board, or board committees, as I had no direct contact with them. Now, as if overnight, the world has changed for me and I am amazed at the extent of the work of all these committees, their energy, enthusiasm, and their willingness to serve, to give generously of time, talents, and treasure, and their individual commitment to promote our programs. It is with admiration and genuine gratitude that I thank all those who serve on The Athenaeum of Ohio Board of Trustees. We are so fortunate to have you all as part of our mission – thank you. Together we will put out into the deep, we will cast our nets, we will be successful, and we will expect a miraculous catch.”

–FATHER BENEDICT D. O’CINNSEALAIGH
PRESIDENT AND RECTOR

“One of the great blessings for me was the opportunity to study at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West from 1988 to 1994. During those years, I had the opportunity to meet members of The Athenaeum of Ohio Board of Trustees. I was impressed with their interest in the Athenaeum, its mission, in me and other students, and most importantly, in serving the Lord by sharing their gifts.

“A few years ago, I was asked to serve on the board of trustees of the Athenaeum. I readily accepted and consider it a privilege and a blessing to serve my alma mater. I admire all the members of the board of trustees. They are people who share their talents in helping to direct the Athenaeum. They make sacrifices so the Athenaeum is successful. They are a blessing to all of us!”

–REV. JOSEPH R. BINZER
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF CINCINNATI
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair

Among a bishop's many duties none is greater than providing for the Church's future priests. As Bishop of Toledo I am happy to continue a long tradition in our diocese of sending seminarians to the Athenaeum in Cincinnati. I am confident that at the Athenaeum they are receiving the spiritual, academic, pastoral and personal formation they need to discern their vocation and to be prepared, God willing, for priestly ministry.

"It also is a privilege for me to share in the work of the Athenaeum as a member of its board of trustees. As the name suggests, the board is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring not only the material and financial viability of the institution, but also the highest quality of programming and formation for all the Athenaeum's students.

"Under the leadership of Archbishop Schnurr, and Archbishop Pilarczyk before him, I have been honored to share in this responsibility. I have witnessed first hand the commitment, enthusiasm and competence of my fellow board members, which can only inspire confidence in the future of this great institution."

About Bishop Blair

Bishop Leonard Paul Blair was named the seventh Bishop of Toledo in October 2003, and installed in December of that year. Bishop Blair was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 following studies at Sacred Heart Seminary College, Detroit; the North American College, Rome; and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

Bishop Blair's previous assignments include: Ecumenical officer for the Archdiocese of Detroit; dean of studies and assistant professor of theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary College; service in the Papal Secretariat of State Office, Vatican City; administrative secretary to the Archbishop of Detroit; Vicar General and chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit; consultor, Archdiocese of Detroit; instructor in Church history and patristics, St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth; and archivist for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Bishop Blair serves as a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (UCCCB) committee on doctrine, as a member of the committee on evangelization and catechesis, and is the chair of the subcommittee on the Catechism.

Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J.

"First of all, I am honored to serve on The Athenaeum of Ohio Board of Trustees. It is an important responsibility and partnership and very important for me to actively participate in the formation of our future priests."

About Bishop Murry


In 1995, Pope John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Fuerteventura and Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago where he was ordained to the episcopacy. In 1998, Pope John Paul II appointed him Coadjutor Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Bishop Murry succeeded to the see in 1999.

Bishop Murry has served on numerous boards including the University of Detroit and Loyola Academy, both in Detroit, Mich.; St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa.; Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md., and Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. He is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and serves on the domestic policy and education committees. Since 2002, he also has served on the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, the overseas arm of the U.S. Bishops, which provides food, clothing, shelter and medicine for those in need.

Monsignor William B. Neuhaus

"Six years ago, I was appointed director of diaconal formation for the diocese, and at that time the bishop decided we would not be running our own instructional program for deacons. The matter was explored and we very happily decided to send deacon candidates to the Athenaeum. "I've been director of diaconal formation for six years. Father Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh has been a friend of mine for many years – since not long after he came to the archdiocese. So, it has been an especially happy thing to be working with him over these years. I've been very impressed with him and his team in diaconal formation and I have been very happy that our guys are there. I'm thrilled now that he is the president/rector and I know he will do incredibly good things for the seminary and as president of the Athenaeum. I am also looking forward to working with Father Anthony Brausch who is now directing the deacon program.

"I was asked to serve on the board. I'm very interested in what's going on and I wanted some way to be supportive and show our gratitude for the diaconal program."

About Monsignor Neuhaus

Monsignor William B. Neuhaus, director of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, holds a bachelor's degree in history from Thomas More College, a law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, a bachelor of sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a licentiate in canon law from the Angelicum in Rome. In 2005, he was made a monsignor.
Michael J. Conaton

“When I got out of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956, I worked for an accounting firm and we did the audit of the Athenaeum. So, for a couple of years during that period from 1957 to 1958 I was out there doing the audit and of course could not believe the beauty. “Years later, Tom Westerfield, who I had known for a long time, asked if I would be interested in serving on the board and I said of course I would because it is the salvation of the Church. That’s how I became re-engaged. I walked back in there and déjà vu – it’s the same beautiful building after all those years. “I’m very interested, obviously, in the Catholic Church and its future and its education so it is pretty easy for me to support what we do. “When you buy into and love the mission, it is no problem to commit.”

About Mike Conaton

Michael J. Conaton and wife, Nancy, have a long history of philanthropy in Greater Cincinnati. Mr. Conaton has been recipient of Xavier University’s Founder’s Day Award and named Athenaeum Philanthropist of the Year. He serves on many area boards and committees. A Detroit native, Mr. Conaton, grew up in Indianapolis and entered Xavier University in 1951 on a football scholarship. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps serving as a lieutenant. After joining Midland in 1961, he was promoted to treasurer (1968), vice president and chief financial officer (1980), president and chief operating officer (1988). He was named vice chairman in 1998.

Mr. Conaton also has served as chairman of the Athenaeum Advisory Council where presently he leads the Annual Fund, Bishop Fenwick Society Committee. Mr. Conaton then co-chaired the Athenaeum’s Legacy Campaign with board member Robert Conway and was co-chair, with his wife, of the Athenaeum’s recent capital campaign: Investing in Our Future…Preserving Our Legacy. It raised more than $19 million.

Mr. Robert A. Conway, Sr.

“I attended Mount St. Mary’s Seminary for six years. I got to the ordination for first minor orders. I knew I loved being in the seminary and I loved the atmosphere and the life, but I did not think I had a vocation. “When the Athenaeum had some money-raising initiatives, they contacted me...I think the time I really reconnected with the Athenaeum was during the first capital campaign in 1992 or so. I was approached to help. It was Tom Westerfield who called me. “The institution reached out and I said, ‘Yes.’ It was a tough campaign because it was the first one. People weren’t used to it. We were not as successful as we were later on but there was a lot of work put into it. “Being able to do things for the Athenaeum means a lot to me; being on the board means a lot to me. The feeling I have towards the seminary is respect for it. I give it recognition for having had a major Catholic influence in this area. It reaches out to the whole Church, and it has been improving in the past few years. When I got out of the seminary, I was not allowed to abandon it. The connection has always been there, and I feel close to it this way. It comes up in my prayers a lot. I may sound a bit sentimental, but in my value grouping the Athenaeum is way up there.”

About Bob Conway, Sr.

Robert A. Conway, Sr., is chief executive officer of Cincinnati-based Bistro Group which owns about 30 Friday’s restaurants in eastern Pennsylvania, southern Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia; Karlo’s Bistro Italia in Florence, Ky., and area McAllister’s restaurants.

Prior to entering the restaurant business in 1989, Mr. Conway worked in his wife’s family business, the Jung Corporation. The company was sold to Colgate. In 1986, Mr. Conway’s wife, the late Ruth Conway, proposed creating the Ruth A. and Robert J. Conway Foundation which supports the work of the Church and the schools their children attended. Recipients include the Athenaeum, where Mr. Conway studied as a seminarian for six years; St. Xavier High School, Ursuline Academy, St. Ursula Academy, and Xavier University.

Mr. Conway also serves as chairman of the Athenaeum Advisory Council. He and his wife first became active in raising awareness of the Athenaeum during the institution’s first capital campaign – Our Faith, Our Future. Mr. Conway then co-chaired the Athenaeum’s Legacy Campaign with board member Michael Conaton. He and his wife were named honorary chairs of the Athenaeum’s recent capital campaign: Investing in Our Future…Preserving Our Legacy. It raised more than $19 million.

Mr. John C. Eiting

“I have always been proud of my association with the Athenaeum, its board of trustees, staff and the archbishop. My wife and I were able to host a reception for Archbishop Schnurr at our home last year. Everyone at this reception visited with the archbishop on a personal level and he made a lasting impression on all who attended. Access to a great leader means much. “I look forward to my remaining term serving the Athenaeum as a member of its board of trustees. The future of the Church depends upon our ability to recruit and ultimately ordain the next generation of priests. It has been my pleasure to contribute toward the ongoing success of the Athenaeum in achieving that goal.”

About John Eiting

John C. Eiting of Minster, Ohio, is founder and owner of Machine Concepts of Minster. The company, founded in 1994, designs and builds machinery for manufacturing customers on a world-wide basis. Mr. Eiting holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He has played an active role in two Athenaeum fund-raising campaigns concentrating on the northern counties of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
Thomas G. Wimberg

"Father Ed Smith, the Athenaeum past president/rector, saw my name when I was leaving the board of Catholic Charities when it was announced in the Catholic Telegraph. Father Smith knew me from the time we were at Christ the King Parish when he was there 15 years ago. So, he asked if I would be willing to join the Athenaeum’s board of trustees.

"From a practical point of view, our company, Deloitte, encourages us to get involved, but that is not an overwhelming reason for me to do it; but it’s a way to get involved in the community and give something back.

"The main motivating factor is that I have always felt that if I’m going to serve I would be more interested in volunteering with something to do with the Church, my religion, as opposed to the fine arts fund or such. I would prefer it to be more of a faith-based activity.

"My thinking is that if you have ability, share it with an organization such as the Athenaeum. As an accountant, there is a certain amount of skill you have and a lot of organizations like and need that sort of help. It seems every organization needs someone who knows their way around books and financial issues.”

About Tom Wimberg

Thomas G. Wimberg, a lifelong Cincinnatian, is a certified public accountant employed as a director in tax practice with Deloitte Tax LLP, where he has worked for 30 years. Mr. Wimberg is a graduate of Xavier University with a degree in classical languages and philosophy. He is member of Our Lord Christ the King Parish, Mount Lookout.

In addition to the Athenaeum, he is a past board member of Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio where he served for 10 years, including two years as board president. He continues to serve as a member of the agency’s finance committee.

Mr. Gary J. Gruber

"I certainly was aware of the Athenaeum for many years. In fact, when I was a fourth grader I was part of the Gregorian program where I spent a week during two summers at the Athenaeum.

"I got involved through Deacon Tom Westerfield. Tom is a deacon at our church and is a neighbor of mine, and he asked me to join what was then called the Athenaeum Advancement Committee 10 or 12 years ago. Two years ago, Archbishop (Dennis M.) Schnurr asked me to serve on the board of trustees. I accepted.

"First of all, I was honored to be asked. When the new archbishop asks you, you feel honored for that but also it is an important institution for our Church and for this archdiocese. The Athenaeum does such great work. I really did not at first know all of what they did except obviously training and educating our future priests. The Athenaeum also includes the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) and other programs to earn master’s degrees. We are really creating and educating the future religious leaders of our community and I just don’t see how that is not a very important part of my life and of this community.”

About Gary Gruber

Gary J. Gruber is executive vice president and director of Great American Insurance Company. Upon graduation from the University of Cincinnati in 1977, began his work career with Great American Insurance Company as an accounting trainee. In 1983, he was named assistant vice president responsible for corporate, investment and expense accounting functions. In 1987, he was promoted to vice president, and was named controller in 1988, responsible for all areas of the accounting division. In 1990, Mr. Gruber was promoted to senior vice president and treasurer, and was named to the board of directors in 1995. In 2010, he was promoted to executive vice president.

Mr. Gruber is active in the community serving Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled, and the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum.

Rev. Christopher Armstrong

"I really believe in the vision of a good and holy priesthood and I also believe in the mission of the Athenaeum. The Athenaeum can be very proud that, for so many years, we have been training priests and deacons and lay ministers.

"The Athenaeum is one of the oldest educational institutions in the country. I often marvel at the vision of our former bishops. Bishop (Edward D.) Fenwick in 1829, when the diocese was barely eight years old, established a seminary and institution of higher learning. What courage that took. I think of Archbishop (John T.) McNicholas, in particular, who sent priests away to earn degrees in higher education. That was continued by Archbishop (Karl J.) Alter.

"The vision of the church and the mission of preaching the good news and teaching all nations are very important. The future priest will be viewed particularly as leader and pastor in the community. He is more and more going to be a resource person who really needs to know the theology of the Church. There is an expression – thinking with the Church – and the Athenaeum, through all of its divisions, really gives us a sense of thinking with the Church.”

About Father Armstrong

Father Christopher Armstrong, pastor of St. Antoninus Church, Cincinnati, since 2003, is former chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and a lecturer in canon law at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

Father Armstrong is past pastor of St. Louis Church, Cincinnati, and past administrative assistant to Cincinnati Archbishop Emeritus Daniel E. Pilarczyk.

Father Armstrong holds a doctorate and a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; a doctorate in sacred theology from the International Marian Research Institute, Dayton; a licentiate and bachelor’s degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

About Father Armstrong
Ms. Barbara J. Howard

Father Jerry Haemmerle was the pastor at Christ the King Parish where I am a member with my husband, Mike Belmont. He went on to become the president/rector of the Athenaeum. Father Ed Smith, my husband and I have a nice friendship. Father Ed Smith married us. Father Jerry asked me to come on the board.

“The culture of being a lawyer is giving back to the community. My family is a family of lawyers. I always feel that for those of us who are blessed to have things it is our obligation to give back.

“When Father Jerry asked me if I thought I have something to contribute, I was really interested in doing that. I have really no connection to a seminary. What was a woman doing on a seminary board? It’s an interesting idea to bring a different perspective. I’ve enjoyed understanding more about how men become priests and what their issues are and the stresses they face and the Athenaeum faces.”

About Barbara Howard

Barbara J. Howard is the principal of the law firm Barbara J. Howard Co., L.P.A. She has been certified by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) as a family law specialist. Ms. Howard also is trained in collaborative law and is a member of the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals (CACP). She is past president of the OSBA as well as past president of the Cincinnati Bar Association. Ms. Howard serves on the board of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor and is active in the American Bar Association (ABA) where she has serves in the House of Delegates.

Ms. Howard has been a member of the Xavier University Board of Trustees since 1995 and is on the board of Cincinnati Union Bethel. She is a graduate of Xavier University and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. In 2011, Ms. Howard gave the commencement address to the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a year earlier gave the commencement address at Xavier University where she received the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Mr. Gregory Ionna

“I became involved after I was somewhat irritated by a radio personality…and by other people who were bad-mouthing the priesthood. Not to say that some of it wasn’t deserved, but not to the extent that I was hearing. For some reason – I’m sure it was the good Lord’s will – I felt there was something I could do. Jim Jackson (Athenaeum advancement director) knew me from Xavier University and called me when I was thinking about how I can get involved with trying to change things.

“I knew of the Athenaeum. I knew it was the seminary; but I really did not know a whole lot about it until I got involved through Jim Jackson, the Bishop Fenwick Society and then with the latest capital campaign – when I got a lot more involved.

“I think the good Lord was telling me: ‘Hey, this is where you have to be. There may be some better ways of doing things and you can help.’ I’ve been excited when I came on the board. Archbishop (Daniel E.) Pilarczyk was there and it was a meeting or two later when Archbishop (Dennis M.) Schnurr came in. I’ve been right from the beginning with him and that was really neat because Archbishop Schnurr has a great vision for the Athenaeum. It’s really going to be interesting to see how it grows; how his vision will enhance what’s being done. Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, the new president/rector, has an exciting vision, too.”

About Greg Ionna

Gregory Ionna is chief executive officer of the C. M. Paula Co., a privately held holding company overseeing three separate subsidiary enterprises out of its Mason, Ohio headquarters. The businesses include a specialty greeting card company, a sports licensing company specializing in gifts, and a children’s education company focusing on nature and geology. Mr. Ionna also is retired executive vice president of Gibson Greeting Cards. He serves on the board of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and on the advisory council at Xavier University. He and his wife, Gloria, are on the board of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, a small group of sisters working with the poor in Covington, Ky.

Mr. Richard B. Kelly

“Some of what I do at the Athenaeum is a part of my job but there other things – there are financial and spiritual reasons.

“The biggest financial risk facing the archdiocese is not things like pension obligations; nor insurance coverage or lawsuits. The biggest financial risk is that we do not have enough qualified priests to effectively administer the parishes in the archdiocese. The training of men at the Athenaeum is absolutely necessary for me to accomplish that goal.

“Spiritually, we are a sacramental Church and we have established that we believe in Christ by following the example of Christ. We need to continue His priesthood and without priests, it feels as if we’re failing to continue that duty. The archbishop has articulated to all of us that vocations are his number one priority and he is the boss. He sets the priority. Wouldn’t it be great to fill up all the rooms out there, all 69 of them?”

About Rich Kelly

Richard Kelly, a former finance official with several major corporations, is chief financial officer of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, a position he has held since August, 2008. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter. He is a fellow of the Life Management Association. Mr. Kelly earned a bachelor’s degree in business finance from Xavier University in 1977, a law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1980, and a Master of Arts in theology from Xavier in 1999.

As a captain in the U.S. Army, Mr. Kelly worked in the Judge Advocate General’s Corp. as a prosecuting attorney. He was senior vice president and chief investment officer at Ohio Casualty Corp. in Hamilton, vice president and chief investment officer of National Grange Mutual Insurance Co. in Jacksonville, Fla., and senior vice president and chief investment officer of Safeco Insurance Co. in Seattle, Wash.
Mr. Terence L. Horan

“...I got involved with the Athenaeum when Mike Conaton, another board member, called me and asked me to join.

“I had this wonderful experience as a kid with a parish – All Saints. The priest would come down to our house as a part of the family and I just feel that I have grown up Catholic and am very glad of that. It is something that has sustained me through marriage and seven kids.

“I just think the concept of training priests so that we can continue that tradition is vital to the community. That’s why, when Michael asked me, I thought to myself: ‘Well this is different, but on the other hand I think it is important.’

“I assume he knew I was involved in St. Xavier (High School) and with the Jesuits and that could be a reason I was asked. One of my classmates, Greg Ionna, is on the board. Then I made a little trip of discovery and I became much more attuned to seminaries. I looked for information regarding them around the country.

“I made a trip over to St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana because I just wanted to go see another one. I wanted to understand how these things work and it has helped me… It is broadening my scope a bit. Our first job is to survive and to understand how to make the Athenaeum attractive to other dioceses in the region. You have to outwit your competitors. I would tell you as I reflect on this that maybe we are being told here to take our Church back. You’re not there to just go to the performance on Sunday and then come back next Sunday.”

About Terry Horan

Terence L. Horan, president Horan Associates, Inc./Horan Securities, Inc., is a lifelong resident of Greater Cincinnati. He is a graduate of Fairfield University, Connecticut. He obtained his Chartered Life Underwriter degree in 1976 and joined his father in 1973 as an agent with The Great-West Life Assurance Company. In 1981, they formed Horan Associates, Inc. Mr. Horan is a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Chartered Financial Consultant. He also is an accredited estate planner. Horan Securities, Inc. was formed in 1996 to provide a broader range of services in the retirement planning area.

Active in the local community, Mr. Horan has served as president of the Cincinnati Chapter of the March of Dimes, the Cincinnati Estate Planning Council, and the Cincinnati Association of Life Underwriters. He is past chairman of the Board of St. Xavier High School and continues to serve on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

Mr. Horan also is a member of the institutional advancement committee of Children’s Hospital Medical Center, the Planned Giving Committee of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Tocqueville Society of the United Way, the board of executive advisors for Xavier University’s Williams College of Business, and the board of trustees of the University of Cincinnati Economics Center for Education and Research.

Dr. John D. Tafaro

“It is interesting that I arrived at Chatfield almost 3 years ago and Chatfield housed Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in the 1830s. Our building here is part of its history.

“One of our board members and our vice chair is (former director of the Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program), Mary Sue O’Donnell, who has been very involved in both institutions and that was an immediate connection.

“Father Ed Smith and I served together on the board of trustees of the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities where our relationship deepened. I then reached out to Father Ed when we were going through our re-accreditation process and he put me together with the Athenaeum’s Dr. Terry Callan. He was kind enough to read a draft of our self study and help us with comments. “It has been a wonderful relationship between the two institutions. Of course, I got very excited about getting to know the archbishop who came out here for my inauguration in the fall of 2009. He has been very kind to Chatfield and all of the Catholic college activities and functions. I’ve been invited to several educational forums and Masses.

“We are a Catholic school and that’s a very important part of our identity. But, we serve mostly non-Catholics. We have increased our involvement in campus ministry. The archbishop received an honorary doctorate from us and was our graduation speaker. He is very fond of Chatfield and our history.”

About John P. Tafaro

John P. Tafaro, J.D., fifth president of Chatfield College, has more than three decades of experience in business and community service, as well as an active background in higher education.

Prior to his appointment at Chatfield College, he was a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Kohnen & Patton, LLP, and has done extensive consulting work with numerous businesses and has served as CEO of many local companies. He has been an adjunct professor at Ohio University, Xavier University and Tiffin University, and has been a board member and officer of several area non-profits including 4C for Children, ProKids and the Cincinnati Children’s Museum (now Duke Energy Children’s Museum).

Mr. Tafaro earned his bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg University, master of education from Ohio University and a Juris Doctor from Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.
Dear Alumni, Priests, and Friends of Mount St. Mary’s of the West Seminary and The Athenaeum of Ohio:

Generally older people read lists while young people don’t. My mother, for example, reads the obituaries every day. In typical Irish fashion she will call out to my Dad, “Ah Gerry! Do you know who died today?” As the years go by, she is more likely to find the names of people she knows. My mother is 68. I never read the obituaries. I’m only 47. I reckon there is time yet before I start reading the newspaper looking for the names of family, friends, and acquaintances.

Frequently, here at the seminary, I see older people stop and read the lists on the capital campaign plaques. They spend time looking over the names and identifying people they know or knew. Seminarians on the other hand, run past these plaques and are barely aware of their existence, although they know that they are important. The young are busy making memories while older people are busy remembering.

Moreover, lists of people’s names have always been important in the life of the People of God. Lists of people are so important they are commemorated in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Sacred Liturgy of the Church. One of the most important and earliest lists is that of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Gospels begin with a list of the generations of faith that led to the birth of Jesus. It concludes: “Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah” (Matthew 1: 16). The Litany of Saints is a record of the generations of faith flowing from the time of Jesus until today.

This honor roll edition of The Athenaeum Magazine continues this tradition of lists, and more importantly, presents a list of our contemporary witnesses of faith. It is an important list; a list we, young and old, should pay attention to because it is a list of people to whom we are most sincerely grateful. It calls to mind those who have ensured that this generation of seminarians, lay ministers, and deacons has the opportunity to fulfill their vocation and mission. It is a list that guarantees that the next generation can share in the vision, the hope, and the faith, that only Christ can give.

And so, I want to thank you – all of you – our friends and our family, who appear on this litany of generous benefactors. Without your incredible commitment to the Catholic faith, our work would not be possible. Let me assure you that everyday we think of you, pray for you, and give thanks for you. And some day, soon, I will be calling on you! God bless and keep you. May He send His angels to watch over you, and may the Mother of God always intercede for you before the face of God. Amen.

Yours in Our Lord and His Holy Mother,

Rev. Benedict D. O’Cinnsealaigh
President and Rector
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.

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

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<td>†Mr. Lawrence F. Bunke, †Rev. James O. Byrne</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>†Msgr. Ferdinand DeCneudt</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>†Rev. Gerard A. Evers</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Rev. Henry E. Villerot</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>†Mr. William J. Blume</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>†Rev. Erwin J. Bertke</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Rev. Benedict E. Ringholz</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Msgr. George J. Adams, Mr. Walter A. Hauser, Mr. John E. Wilp</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Msgr. Robert L. Noon</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Rev. Richard L. Klug, †Rev. Raymond G. Wiemeyer</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph B. Bruening, Rev. Louis R. Hohlmayer, Mr. George J. Klett,</td>
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<td>Rev. John J. Mattscheck, Rev. Glen W. Perin, Rev. J. Omer Rethinger,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Charles W. Theuring</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Mr. Henry J. Averbeck, Rev. Joseph F. Beckman, Mr. Donald J. Weber,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Lawrence J. Ziegler</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>†Mr. Raymond W. Asbrock, Rev. Msgr. Carl P. Clagett, Mr. Robert A.</td>
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<td>Keller, Rev. Donald G. McCarthy, Rev. Francis H. Niehaus, Msgr. James B.</td>
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<td>Nugent, Rev. James J. O’Connor, Rev. John R. Rathfon</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Rev. Edward G. Trippel, Mr. Robert B. Wurtzler</td>
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<td>Guntzelman, Rev. Edward Neroda, Mr. Donald E. Roby, Mr. John P. Romanoski</td>
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<td>Rev. Frederick J. Schill, Msgr. Robert E. Schneider, Rev. Edward J.</td>
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<td>Shine, Rev. John E. Wall, Rev. Francis P. Walsh</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>Rev. Raymond P. Aichele, Rev. Robert B. Buening, Mr. Robert J. Burger,</td>
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<td>Mr. Thomas A. Dorenbusch, Rev. Stephen J. Emerick, Mr. E. Thomas</td>
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<td>Peters, Dr. Paul W. Wood, Ph.D</td>
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<td>1959</td>
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<td>Higi, Rev. Gerald R. Niklas, Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Most</td>
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<td>Vonderhaar, Rev. John E. Wessling</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>Rev. William E. Bantz, Mr. Victor B. Craft, Dr. James J. Fisko, Most</td>
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<td>Reverend James H. Garland, The Reverend Joseph W. Goetz, Dr. Thomas D.</td>
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<td>Kraft, Mr. Gerald H. Lohman, Mr. Thomas E. Mentrup, Rev. Francis W.</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Mr. James E. Cavanaugh, Rev. Ralph V. Coletta, Mr. L. Ronald Frommeyer,</td>
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<td>Mr. Robert J. Lang, Rev. Stanley H. Neiheisel, Rev. Robert A. Obermeyer</td>
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<td>1962</td>
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<td>1964</td>
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<td>1965</td>
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<td>1966</td>
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If you would like to make an ongoing commitment to the Athenaeum's mission and become a member of the St. Gregory Legacy Society, contact Kathy Symons, director for estate and trust services at (513) 233-6153.
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Ten things you can do to leave a legacy to The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West:

1. Prepare a will. Only 50 percent of those who pass away have one. Without a will, you lose control of the possessions and wealth you worked a lifetime to acquire.

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

3. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will to the Athenaeum. The provision can be part of a new will or added to your existing will with a simple amendment, called a codicil.

4. Consider using assets for your charitable gift. These can include, but are not limited to: stocks, bonds, CD’s, real estate, vehicles, art and jewelry. Such gifts may even provide a tax savings to you and your family.

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

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

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

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

9. Encourage family members and friends to leave gifts to the Athenaeum in their wills.

10. Ask your financial advisor to include charitable giving as part of their counsel to other clients.
Catholic Ministries Appeal

We are grateful to all of the individuals and couples who supported The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West through the 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal (formerly the Archdiocesan Annual Fund Drive) with their contributions and matching gifts from their employers. Donors listed below contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal between February 2010 and March 2011.

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Reflecting

By Deacon Thomas E. Westerfield

Twenty-three years and I still have that love affair with the Athenaeum. It has been a period of spiritual enrichment through wonderful people whose friendship will last a lifetime.

My association with Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West began in 1988 when Monsignor Robert Tensing, then pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, suggested I consider taking some classes at the Athenaeum. Retirement was getting closer and I believed he was beckoning me toward the diaconate although it was not specifically discussed.

Living in the Western Hills area of Greater Cincinnati, I wasn’t even sure where the Athenaeum was located. That chat with Monsignor Tensing began a 23-year association I will always cherish.

I was immediately caught up with the expertise and caring nature of the faculty, the competence and friendship of the administrative staff, and certainly the camaraderie that existed with my fellow students. Those five years in the classrooms of the Athenaeum led to my ordination in 1992 as a deacon of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In 1990, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk invited me to join the Athenaeum Board of Trustees. The seminary was then in financial need for funding to help offset the annual deficits we were experiencing. I remarked to the archbishop that a more concentrated development effort should be made to put us on sound financial footing. I proposed to him that I be allowed to recruit a few competent and dedicated Catholics to address this issue.

Archbishop Pilarczyk gave me his approval. It was the beginning of what today is known as the Athenaeum Advisory Council. The six men who joined me were Michael Conaton of the Midland Co.; Peter Gomsak and Franz Hoge of Cooper and Lybrand; John Kron, of Deloitte and Touche, Jim McGraw of the law firm of Keating, Muething and Klekamp, and Jim Powers, of the Witt Co.

The primary goal was to increase annual giving to meet the financial needs of the seminary. That goal, with the leadership of Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Carl K. Moeddel and Jim Powers, the Bishop Fenwick Society was formed. From a base of 29 donors in 1998, the Bishop Fenwick Society has 678 enrolled members today who each annually give a minimum of $1,000 in unrestricted funds.

The capital needs of the seminary also became a pressing issue. Structural repairs of the building, renovations and general maintenance had been put off for a number of years. This was coupled with the need for more endowment. The advisory council, with approval of the board of trustees, launched the Athenaeum’s first capital campaign in 1994. It raised more than $8 million in gifts.

The love of the Athenaeum with its mission to form priests, deacons and lay ministers became immediately apparent through the financial support of corporations, priests, deacons and appreciative Catholic families. It was during this time that Archbishop Pilarczyk referred to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West as “the crown jewel of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.” This became the underlying theme used during the initial capital campaign.

Subsequently, the seminary launched two more successful capital campaigns. In 2002, joint campaigns, one for the Athenaeum in general and another to fund room renovations, raised a combined $21 million. In 2010, the most recent campaign generated $19.4 million. This success can be attributed in large part to leaders such as Mike Conaton, Bob Conway and Greg Ionna. We truly have been blessed.

Today, the Athenaeum Advisory Council membership has grown from the original seven of us to 47 dedicated men and women who continue to play a major role in the operation of our seminary and graduate school of theology. The group’s expanded responsibilities have, over the years, led to the formation of seven select committees: Bishop Fenwick Society/annual giving; marketing and communications; alumni executive committee; nominating; community outreach; St. Gregory Legacy Society/estate and trust, and Generations Circle. The advancement office, under the excellent leadership of Jim Jackson, has grown from one person in 1988 to five.

As I leave the board after 19 years, I realize the Athenaeum has become a major part of my life. I have sincerely enjoyed my role and particularly my association with a great group of men and women who have made the advisory council what it is today.

In a flattering statement, Dennis Eagan, vice president for finance and administration, once said that without the advisory council, he is unsure if the Athenaeum would be here today.

As I leave, again, we have been blessed. I personally will always have fond and lasting memories of my service to the Athenaeum. My love affair with this great institution continues.
Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh Installed as Athenaeum President and Rector

The Rev. Benedict D. O’Cinnsealaigh was installed by Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr during ceremonies Sunday as the 35th president/rector of The Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

The installation preceded October commencement at the Athenaeum where Father O’Cinnsealaigh delivered his installation and commencement address.

He told his audience, assembled in the Athenaeum’s Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, that, “education and leadership are critical elements of the mission of the seminary and Athenaeum and it is my intention to work to strengthen and expand this mission.

“However, we cannot be content in seeing our program of education as merely functional, practical, and mechanical in preparing people to do the tasks of priesthood and ministry well…. In fact, to approach all the issues of human society as administrative and organizational problems is the foundation of the modern secular society whose philosophical presumption is that the ‘self-creating’ human person is fully competent to create a civil order on the basis of ideologies instead of values or virtues – a process that often leads to political systems that denigrate human freedom and dignity. Our task is to form, prepare, and provide the intellectual and creative tools allowing our students to engage in the work of evangelization, transformation, and bringing about the reign of God….

Father O’Cinnsealaigh said: “Our institution must be willing to have a big vision; we must be willing to embrace the great tasks; we must be willing to pull up anchor and set off on the great adventure of faith and wisdom into the heart of God as He is in His universe and in His Church. Without the adventures of heart and mind, there is no evangelization and there is no deep and abiding turning away from the nihilism of modern society; no turning toward the mystery of origin and destiny, a mystery that alone can give life an enduring and compelling meaning. Our mission is to have our students engage in the mystery of life, which is the mystery of faith, and this, ultimately, is the mystery of God.

“It is our intention to muster the resources necessary to enable this institution to be, not only a player but also a leader in the voyage of mind and heart into that which is our true identity and our true mission…. Our program will strive to make sure that those who leave this institution will certainly be able to understand the deeper issues of our times and interpret them for others within our society in a way consistent with the mind of the Church and the wisdom of our lived experience of faith. Our vision, our hope, is to engage society, not abandon the stage. Christianity is fundamentally a message, a proclamation, concerning the most essential and greatest things of life, and our generation now takes up the commission to go into the whole world and proclaim the good news….

“We are setting out here as of this day, in Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and The Athenaeum of Ohio on a great adventure of our time; the adventure of the soul to reclaim its rightful place in the modern human drama. The people of the Church - clergy, consecrated religious and laity - are invited to join the great procession moving out of darkness and nihilism into the light of all things good and lasting.

“With your help and your support, I will take my place now as rector/president to lead our small part of the great procession of the faithful, and here, in this place, we will make our contribution to God and to His people by working in faith and with diligence to lead people home to the seat of all charity and all wisdom.”

Father O’Cinnsealaigh’s appointment as president/rector has been effective since July 1. He was appointed along with the first vice rector of the seminary in more than two decades – the Rev. Anthony Brausch.

Father O’Cinnsealaigh, 47, is a native of Dublin, Ireland. He is the eldest of five children and his parents, siblings and nieces and nephews all live in Dublin. He has served as director of spiritual formation, director of permanent diaconate formation and as assistant professor of theology since 2000. He holds the recently created Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk Chair in Systematic Theology.

The new president/rector holds a diploma in humanities (philosophy) from All Hallows College, Dublin; a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome; a licentiate in sacred theology and a doctorate in sacred theology from International Marian Research Institute, Dayton.

Prior to being assigned to the Athenaeum, Father O’Cinnsealaigh was associate pastor of Holy Angels Parish, Sidney, Ohio, while also serving as head of the religion department and campus minister at Lehman Catholic High School, Sidney. He earlier served as associate pastor at St. Albert the Great Parish, Kettering.
The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary graduated 21 students during ceremonies October 16 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 the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, who was installed during the ceremony as the 35th president/rector of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

The graduates are:

**Master of Divinity:**

**Master of Arts in Theology**
Rev. Godfred Boachie-Yiadom, Deacon Thomas Dushney, Kathleen Kramer, Rev. Daniel Hess

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling**
John Turpening, Sister Patricia Zureick, OSF

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry**
Deborah Flynn Hodge, Keith Pfaller, Georgia Ann Spaeth, Scott Steinke

**Certificate in Lay Ministry**
Brother Daniel Barrett, OFM, Mary Heider, Louise Karas, Phillip Kenzora, Holly Moran, Matthew Ruttle, Paul Timmerman

*Photos above: (1) Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, Athenaeum president/rector, addresses the graduation class. (2) Kevin Prendergast, director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling Program, hoods Sister Patricia Zureick, OSF, after she received her diploma. (3) Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr presents Brother Daniel Barrett, OFM, with his Certificate in Lay Ministry.*

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**Dr. John Gutting Named Teacher of the Year**

Dr. John Gutting, a member of the Athenaeum faculty since 1985, was named the 2011 recipient of the Celebration of Teaching Award. The award was presented during graduation ceremonies in October.

This year marks the 24th time the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities sponsored the Celebration of Teaching. Outstanding teachers from member schools are honored. And, for the 24th time, the Athenaeum has designated a faculty member to participate in the celebration.

Dr. Gutting was selected on the basis of demonstrated development as a teacher, student course evaluations, general professional development, support of the Athenaeum, and community service.

All of Dr. Gutting’s courses were well-received by his students. This past year he redesigned his courses in pastoral leadership and clinical psychopathology. Dr. Gutting is a leader among the faculty in the use of technology in the classroom, making effective use of the Moodle courseware platform. His use of technology has enabled him to expand the availability of courses through online learning.

Dr. Gutting also took part in a number of “webinars” to better understand the dynamics of Catholic parishes and leadership styles. Students particularly appreciate Dr. Gutting’s knowledge, his ability to communicate it, and his engaging, interactive methods of teaching.

One of them says: “Dr. Gutting by far has challenged me professionally, intellectually and spiritually. He is a true gem in the pastoral counseling program.” Another simply said: “He is BEYOND Excellent!”

Having previously been honored in 1992 and 1996, Dr. Gutting becomes the first Athenaeum faculty member to receive the award three times.
Maly Library Leadership Changes:
Director Tracy Koenig Retires; Connie Song Assumes the Post

Tracy Koenig, director of The Athenaeum of Ohio’s Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library since 2003, recently announced her retirement.

Connie Song, who for the past 10 years has served as reference and electronic research professional for the law library of Keating, Muething and Klekamp PLL, has assumed the position.

Mrs. Koenig came to the Athenaeum in 2003 after a decade at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County where she served as assistant manager of the public documents and patents department at the main library in downtown Cincinnati. She succeeded long-time library director Sister Deborah Harmeling, O.S.B.

During her eight-year tenure, Mrs. Koenig catalogued more than 13,500 books and more than 1,740 items for the growing Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk Rare Book Collection. She represented the Athenaeum to professional groups throughout the state including the Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium. She implemented new technologies to enhance service to library patrons and promoted greater efficiency in the library which houses one of the Midwest’s most respected theological collections.

“During the time Tracy Koenig was head librarian she maintained and extended the long-standing excellence of the Maly Library,” said Dr. Terrance Callan, who was Athenaeum dean during most of Mrs. Koenig’s tenure. “Under her administration, the central tasks of operating the library have been executed at a very high level: collection development, service to patrons, and care of the special collection. The library was never better than it has been under her leadership.”

New Director

Mrs. Song, who assumed her new post in late September, fulfills her goal of becoming library director in a seminary and theological graduate school.

“This is a beautiful library. I actually visited here several years ago when I was finishing up my master’s degree in library science at the University of Kentucky. I met Tracy (Koenig) at that time and, as I toured the library, thought this would be a great place to work.

“My plans from the beginning have been to work in a seminary library. I also studied theology because I wanted to broaden my knowledge of my faith. Working here will enable me to enrich my faith, help serve those learning here … and I will finish my theology degree here.”

Mrs. Song came to the United States from Korea when she was four. She graduated from St. Ursula Academy in Walnut Hills and then graduated magna cum laude from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. There she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology which led to a high school teaching position in New York City.

“That year I spent in New York was formational. I was living in Queens and teaching in Brooklyn,” Mrs. Song said.

She also served that year with AmeriCorps - a federal government volunteer service program working in a range of areas from public education to environmental cleanup.

“I was involved in environmental justice issues in an after-school program and one of my co-workers told me she thought I would be a great librarian. They really did not have an environmental justice program, so I found out about all of the resources in the community and I put together sort of a mini-library and became the resource person.”

During her year in the Big Apple her work on environmental justice issues spawned a like interest in social justice awareness. Mrs. Song returned to Cincinnati and started taking theology courses at Xavier University. She then applied for a dual-degree program at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where she sought master’s degrees in library science and theology.

In 2000, while studying in Washington, she met her husband, Raphael, who was studying at Washington Theological Union.

Mrs. Song returned to Cincinnati, began her job at the law firm, and completed her library science degree through the University of Kentucky.

Mrs. Song and her husband, a stay at home dad, live in Mount Airy with their two daughters, Hemmi, nine, and Yumi, six. The girls attend Fairview Clifton German Language School where Mrs. Song serves as the soccer coach. Her parents Charles and Mokok Lee, live in Colerain Township.
Tracy Jamison Joins Full Time Faculty

Deacon Tracy Jamison, who has been teaching philosophy part time at the Athenaeum and at Thomas More College, has accepted a full time position to teach seminarians in the pre-theology program at the Athenaeum’s Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

“I love it here at the Athenaeum and seminary because the students have an intrinsic interest in philosophy,” said Dr. Jamison, who serves as deacon at his parish, Holy Cross/Immaculata, with his wife, Joyce, an organist there.

“In other institutions, you have students with many different majors in a class, so they are not all philosophy majors. For example, some are in nursing or a business program and they do not have as strong an interest in philosophy. Still, nursing students are required to take philosophy of human nature…and I have taught ethics and values for a long time at Thomas More in the business program,” Dr. Jamison said.

At the Athenaeum, Dr. Jamison will teach seminarians in pre-theology and, on occasion, lay students who take philosophy but not as part of the formal pre-theology program.

“He taught elementary school at St. Mary’s in Clyde, Ohio, was principal at Our Lady of Consolation School, Carey, Ohio and St. Charles School, Toledo all in the Diocese of Toledo. He also served six years as principal in Ottawa Hills, a Toledo suburb.

Deacon Belcher has taught undergraduate classes at the University of Toledo, Wright State University, Dayton, and Bowling Green State University.

After retirement, Deacon Belcher with his wife, built a home at Grand Lake St. Mary’s in Celina where his family – sons Lyn and Eric, and daughter Lisa Albers – visit with the Belcher’s eight grandchildren.
### Events Calendar

**Monday, November 28**
Winter classes begin

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

**Thursday, December 8**
Patronal Feast of the Immaculate Conception
11 a.m. Eucharist and Candidacy for Theology I, Bishop Joseph Binzer, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

**Sunday, January 8**
7 p.m., Epiphany Vespers, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

**February 18**
Winter quarter ends

**February 27**
Spring classes begin

**March 21**
7:30 p.m. George Findley Memorial Lecture, Monsignor Eugene Morris discusses history of African-American vocations, Bartlett Pastoral Center

**Friday, March 23**
8 p.m., Athenaeum Chorale Concert, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

**Saturday, March 24**
5 p.m., Lector/Acolyte Ceremony, Bishop Joseph Binzer, Chapel of St. Gregory the Great

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### Happenings

**Cincinnati Reds Host Generations Circle**

The Cincinnati Reds welcomed a group of 231 members and friends of the Generations Circle of the Bishop Fenwick Society (BFS) in August. The ball club provided tickets for the event and Reds President Bob Castellini, a member of the Bishop Fenwick Society, spoke to the group prior to the game against the Philadelphia Phillies. The Generations Circle represents members of the BFS who are under 50 years old.

![Reds President Bob Castellini addresses the Bishop Fenwick Society.](image)

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**Findley Lecture to Address African-American Vocations**

Monsignor Eugene Morris, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, will give the George Findley Memorial Lecture at the Athenaeum’s Bartlett Pastoral Center at 7:30 p.m., March 21. The lecture will be the second in the Athenaeum’s annual series of public lectures.

Monsignor Morris’s presentation will discuss the history of African-American vocations in the United States.

The monsignor is a faculty member at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, where he serves as director of sacred liturgy for the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Theology. In St. Louis, he has served as a pastor; was a commentator for the archdiocese’s Catholic radio station, director of liturgical formation for the permanent diaconate, and an adjunct professor at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, where he was also assistant professor and director of worship from 2001-2006. From 2006-2009, he was the resident director of St. Maximilian Kolbe House for men discerning a priestly or religious vocation.

Monsignor Morris holds graduate degrees in theology and Church history from Kenrick School of Theology and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, Rome. He currently is pursuing doctoral studies in Mariology at the International Marian Research Institute in Dayton.

The lecture is free and open to the public. The pastoral center is located on the Athenaeum’s campus, 6616 Beechmont Ave., Mount Washington.
GOLF OUTING

The 23rd annual Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West Golf Outing was held at the Vineyard Golf Course in Anderson Township with some participants who really know how to use a golf club – unlike this foursome.

Rumor has it this team of transitional deacons – (l to r) Rev. Mr. Dan Hunt, Rev. Mr. Matt Robben, Rev. Mr. Marc Soellner and Rev. Mr. Nathan Bockrath – used only one club. The grip is visible in Rev. Mr. Bockrath’s right hand.

WORK WEEKEND

Seminarian work weekend found these four hard at work on erosion control on a hillside behind the main building.

Taking a cue from the classic painting – American Gothic – is seminarian Sean Tessmer who raked leaves during seminary work weekend.

FRISBEE TOURNAMENT

Seminarian Eric Roush discovers Frisbee can leave you exhausted.

Seminarian Frisbee team members (l to r) Eric Wood, Daniel Finnerty and Timothy Fahey

ON THE ROAD TO PRIESTHOOD

Seminarian Ethan Moore becomes a mobile vocation endorsement when he rides his Suzuki motorcycle.

World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain drew an estimated 1.5 million people (top photo). Many were there to greet Pope Benedict XVI. Among them was a contingent of seminarians from Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. (bottom photo), including the Rev. Mr. Marc Soellner (left) and Sean Wilson (right). During the event they met the Rev. Robert Barron (center), a Chicago-based priest, author, scholar and evangelist who created “Word on Fire Catholic Ministries”, a non-profit organization that supports his evangelistic endeavors. Word on Fire programs, featuring Father Barron, have been broadcast regularly on WGN America, EWTN, Relevant Radio and the Word on Fire YouTube Channel.

WORLD YOUTH DAY
IN THE NEWS

Faculty

The Rev. David J. Endres, assistant professor of Church history and historical theology and director of field education, presented a day-long retreat titled “Be Transformed: Lessons in Christian Conversion” in August to the Knights of Columbus of the Maria Joseph Council #4022, Kettering, and at Holy Trinity Church, Middletown; gave a presentation in September titled “It’s a Sin Not to Do It: The Dangers of Worldwide Population Decline” at the Pro-Life Conference in Dayton. The spring issue of U.S. Catholic Historian contained a symposium review of Father Endres’s recent book, American Crusade. The reviewers were Paul Kollman, CSC of the University of Notre Dame, Susan Fitzpatrick Behrens of California State University, Northridge, and Michael Carter of the University of Dayton.

The Rev. Michael A. Seger, associate professor in moral theology who holds the Athenaeum’s James J. Gardner Family Chair of Moral Theology, published an article in the August volume of the Ethics and Medics newsletter. The article was entitled “Elements of Conscience.” The National Catholic Bioethics Center sponsors the newsletter. Father Seger gave a reflection in early November on marriage entitled “Marriage: The Roots in Love” to married couples gathering at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Anderson Township.

The Rev. Timothy P. Schehr, professor of biblical studies, gave a presentation in early November titled “Profiles in Faith” at St. Louis Church, Owensville.


Dr. Susan McGurian, director of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) and assistant professor of pastoral theology; Dr. Tom Giordano, associate director of the LPMP, co-director of field education, and instructor of pastoral studies and Ms. Jan Von Handorf, associate director of the LPMP and instructor of pastoral studies are participating in the two-year lay leadership program, “Tending the Talents”, offered by the Catholic Leadership Institute and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This program is the lay companion to “Good Leaders, Good Shepherds,” recently completed by 30 priests in the Archdiocese. It includes components on leadership in a variety of settings and contexts.

Deacon David Shea, assistant professor of homiletics, in September trained 35 Archbishop McNicholas High School seniors to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These new ministers will serve at all school liturgies for the remainder of the academic year. He also participated in a forum and listening session convened by the Archdiocesan Family and Respect Life Office on the subject of marriage preparation. The session explored issues, challenges, current parish practices and best practices surrounding marriage preparation as a preliminary step for preparing a workshop on “The Pre-Marriage Interview: An Invitation to a Bond that Lasts” that will be offered for priests, deacons and other pastoral staff on May 1 and May 2 with Dr. Lief Noll. In February, he presented a program at St. Columban Parish in Loveland as a “date night” for married couples on the subject of “Communication: Love & Respect.”

Students

Jill Croswell, Lisa Maechling Debbeler, John Turpening and Patricia Zureick, of the Athenaeum’s master’s degree program in pastoral counseling recently had published a paper “Seminarian Attitudes toward Counseling” in the Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling. The paper examines seminarian interest in referring parishioners to pastoral counselors or whether the seminarians would prefer handling counseling psychological and spiritual problems by counseling parishioners themselves. The authors interacted with seminarians during shared classes in the early stages of their degree program.

The research results revealed seminarian openness to referral along with a strong interest in counseling individuals. Also examined were forms of collaboration other than by referral, and seminarians indicated openness to using consultation, training and personal therapeutic support. Implications for Church-psychology collaboration are discussed in the study and areas of further research recommended. For additional information about the paper and its findings, please contact Mrs. Debbeler at lmdebbeler@gmail.com.

New Altar for the Athenaeum Chapel

Over the years there has been considerable reflection on the placement of the main altar in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great. This reflection included liturgical consultants and architects as well as members of the faculty of the seminary. Recently, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr indicated he would prefer a new altar be constructed and placed in the sanctuary area of the chapel. The new altar was designed by Rolf Rohn and Associates Design and Art in consultation with the Rev. Michael Seger. It is a design similar to the “old” high altar on which is placed the tabernacle, but not an exact copy. The altar was built in Italy by Pedrini Sculptors who, in order to have an almost perfect match of material, found marble from the original quarry although that quarry had closed down eight years ago. We are grateful to the generous benefactors who have provided the funding for the new altar.

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Alumni Executive Committee Expands for 2011-2012

The executive committee of The Athenaeum of Ohio Alumni Association has expanded from six to 11 members as the group prepares to complete the parish ambassador initiative.

Two members have left the committee – Jerry Miller and the Rev. Ryan Ruiz. The association thanks both for their outstanding contributions. Mr. Miller is spending more time at his home in Florida and Father Ruiz is studying in Rome.

Deacon Max Schellman continues to chair the executive committee. Other members, with subcommittee assignments, are:

- Bill Staun and Deacon Dave Wallace – special projects
- Suzanne Wade and the Rev. David Endres – marketing and communications
- J. Michael Dempsey and Deacon Mark Westendorf – activities
- The Rev. Jason Bedel – nominating
- Deacon Amado Lim – deacon advisory committee
- Jane Anderson – Lay Pastoral Ministry Program advisory committee
- The Rev. Tom King – priest advisory committee.

New to the executive committee are Deacon Wallace, who fills the seat vacated by Mr. Miller; Father Bedel, who fills the seat vacated by Father Ruiz; and newly added members Father Endres, Deacon Lim, Mrs. Anderson and Father King.

At the group’s first meeting of the year, the parish ambassador program was targeted for completion in 2012. The program – an offshoot of the earlier parish liaison program – has been growing in membership and active participation during the past year. Deacon Wallace and Mr. Staun, with the assistance of the rest of the committee, are coordinating the effort. A donation from Minuteman Press of Staun, with the assistance of the rest of the committee, are

Athenaeum Advancement Director Jim Jackson and Communications Director Walt Schaefer are staff advisory members of the alumni executive committee.

The Rev. James O. Byrne, who completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s of the West seminaries, died July 6 at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Mo. He was 99.

During his priesthood, Father Byrne served as pastor at St. Paul, Yellow Springs; the former St. Paul, Over-the-Rhine; St. Anthony, Madisonville; St. Mary, Urbana, and St. Albert the Great, Kettering. He was associate pastor at the former St. Patrick Church, Northside; Nativity of Our Lord Church, Pleasant Ridge, and St. Francis de Sales. Walnut Hills. In the 1940s, Father Byrne was appointed procurator at Purcell High School, Cincinnati. Father Byrne also served on the archdiocesan school board and was chaplain of the Legion of Mary, Curia of Northern Ohio. He retired from parish administration in 1980 and resided at Holy Rosary Parish until 2004 when he moved to Carthage, Mo. Funeral Mass was at St. Charles Center. Burial was at St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Mary’s.

The Rev. Gerard A. Evers, former pastor of St. Savior Church, Rossmoynne, died August 12. Father Evers, who completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s of the West seminaries, was 97.

Most recently, Father Evers was associate pastor in residence at St. Matthias the Apostle Church, Forest Park. He retired in 1985, but remained active in ministry particularly at St. Matthias.

During his priesthood, Father Evers served as pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, McCarravyille; St. Thomas More Parish, Withamsville, Holy Family Parish, Dayton, and St. Savior where he received the title of pastor emeritus. Father Evers also served at several parishes in Cincinnati. He was first assigned to study at the Teacher’s College a since closed division of the Athenaeum. He served as spiritual director of the East Cincinnati Curia, Legion of Mary, and Chaplain of the Serra Club of Dayton.

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

The Rev. Frank Martin, a priest of the Diocese of Lansing, Mich., who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West died September 23. At 95, he was the eldest priest of the diocese.

Father Martin also attended Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit and held a master’s of education degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. During his priesthood, Father Martin served parishes in Williamstown, WaterVile, Albion, Flint, Jackson and Lansing, Mich. He served as superintendent of the diocesan schools and as president of the diocesan board of education.

Funeral Mass was at the Church of the Resurrection, Lansing, where Father Martin served as pastor for 29 years. Burial was at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Deacon Henry Beck, who served at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Dayton, since his ordination in 1979, died June 26.

Funeral Mass was at Our Lady of the Rosary.

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

REST IN PEACE

Friends of the Athenaeum

Emili Windholz, father of the Rev. Barry Windholz, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary alumnus, member of the Athenaeum advisory council and Bishop Fenwick Society member, died August 23.

Don Fay, 82, husband of Marie Fay, long-time Bishop Fenwick Society members, died September 8.

Dr. Harry J. Konerman, father of the Rev. Greg Konerman and a former Bishop Fenwick Society member, died October 2.

Patricia G. Smith, sister of the Rev. Edward P. Smith, former president/rector of the Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Bishop Fenwick Society member, died October 14.

Alice B. (Bokenkotter) Roesener, sister of Bishop Fenwick Society and St. Gregory Legacy Society member the Rev. Thomas Bokenkotter, died October 16.

Pictured are: (front row, l to r) Jane Anderson, Suzanne Wade and Bill Staun; (back row, l to r) Deacon Dave Wallace, J. Michael Dempsey, Jim Jackson, Deacon Max Schellman, Walt Schaefer, Father David Endres, Father Jason Bedel, Deacon Amado Lim (far right). Not pictured: Father Tom King, Deacon Mark Westendorf.
Every October the archdiocesan priests gather at Incarnation Parish in Centerville for the annual priest convocation. What better time than the Thanksgiving season to show appreciation for those who have answered the call to ministry, especially our archdiocesan priests.

This year the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president/rector, and Kathy Symons, director for estate and trust services, had the opportunity to speak at the convocation. Father O’Cinnsealaigh shared: “Our goal was primarily to thank them (the priests) for their support for the seminary and to provide some useful tools for them to use in their estate planning. Of course, we wouldn’t mind at all if they also decided to support the future formation of priests through a charitable bequest to the seminary.”

Kathy Symons said: “It was an honor to be allowed to present. It was an opportunity to give back to the priests who have served us through the years, and hopefully help them to prepare and organize their estate plans. The generosity of our priests is amazing. They have given their lives to serving the Church and to shepherding us, their flock. Many have not only dedicated their lives, but also dedicated resources to be left as a legacy gift to perpetuate seminarian formation.”

The Rev. Lawrence “Stretch” Mierenfeld, pastor at Incarnation Parish in Centerville, exemplifies this commitment. "There are two reasons why I believe in naming beneficiaries to my estate. The first is as a means of gratitude for the people and institutions that have been instrumental in my life. The second is as a way to help make a difference in a person’s life or to the future of the institution. My hope for my bequest to the Athenaeum is to continue to form priests and ministers for the Church of the future.”

The St. Gregory Legacy Society allows members of our faith community the opportunity to encourage and support those who are called to serve in the future. God has called all of us to serve, be it as a priest, a deacon, a lay minister, a trustee, a committee or council member, a worker, a parent, a single person – all are critical to our faith. The Athenaeum provides the training and formation to prepare those who are called. If you would like to make an ongoing commitment to the Athenaeum’s mission and become a member of the Saint Gregory Legacy Society, please contact Kathy Symons, director for estate and trust services at (513) 233-6153 or at leavealegacy@athenaeum.edu.

Did You Know?
The Athenaeum now has a link on their website to provide you with estate planning resources, such as the HIPAA Release Form and Catholic Healthcare Directive. For more information, please visit us at: Create a Legacy at www.athenaeum.edu/supportus