The Year of Faith: The New Evangelization
“Shall I abandon, O King of mysteries, the soft comforts of home? Shall I turn my back on my native land, and turn my face towards the sea?

Shall I put myself wholly at your mercy, without silver, without a horse, without fame, without honor? Shall I throw myself wholly upon You, without sword and shield, without food and drink, without a bed to lie on? Shall I say farewell to my beautiful land, placing myself under Your yoke?

Shall I pour out my heart to You, confessing my manifold sins and begging forgiveness, tears streaming down my cheeks? Shall I leave the prints of my knees on the sandy beach, a record of my final prayer in my native land?

Shall I then suffer every kind of wound that the sea can inflict? Shall I take my tiny boat across the wide sparkling ocean? O King of the Glorious Heaven, shall I go of my own choice upon the sea? O Christ, will You help me on the wild waves?”

This is a prayer attributed to the 6th century Irish Bishop St. Brendan, the Navigator who set sail from Ireland to a land across the ocean to the West. It is a prayer where you can hear the echo of the Lord’s words to Peter and the Apostles “put out into the deep.” It is clear from his own words that St. Brendan realizes he must set sail on an inner and exterior journey. His words have the sense of longing and loss, adventure and fear, trust and apprehension that we feel when we hear the Lord speak to us and call us to do something new. It can be difficult to answer God’s call to strike out for a “land you do not know,” leaving behind the comfortable, the familiar, the loved, the home, and the hearth. And yet, everyday young people, and not so young people, do this very thing as they set out to begin a new life as a married couple, as parents, as priests and religious, or embracing the single life.

In this year of faith Christ speaks to us. He is asking us to “put out into the deep” within our hearts, our homes, our communities, our marriages, in our vocation as priests and religious and as single persons committing with our total lives. We must not be afraid to give everything, to love completely, to accept without reserve Christ’s life, Christ’s challenge, Christ’s call to live His life as completely as possible in our particular state of life. Do not be afraid to be a priest, to preach the Gospel, to reach out to God’s people to enrich and change their lives. Do not be afraid to allow Jesus to transform your life. In the inaugural Mass of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI said: “Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to Him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life.”

From the Desk of Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh

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On the cover: Athenaeum fall commencement. In fulfilling its mission to prepare people to serve the Church as priests, deacons and lay ministers, Athenaeum graduates serve in parishes, schools, hospitals and social service agencies and, in performing their duties, are all evangelists. Photo by E. L. Hubbard.

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BENEDICT O’CINNSEALAIGH

The Athenaeum Magazine

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.

THE ATHENAEUM OF OHIO

Our Mission

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.
The Year of Faith, as decreed by Pope Benedict XVI, began on October 12. But just what is this “new evangelization” called for by our Pope?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides us with answers to three key questions:

**What is the New Evangelization?**

“The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize. In a special way, the New Evangelization is focused on ‘re-proposing’ the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith. Pope Benedict XVI called for the ‘proposing’ of the Gospels to those regions awaiting the first evangelization and to those regions where the roots of Christianity are deep but who have experienced serious crises of faith due to secularization. The New Evangelization invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.”

**Why do we need the New Evangelization?**

“The New Evangelization offers hope. Jesus grants all people rest and comfort from the world’s burdens (Mt.11:28) by offering us the hope of salvation and eternal life. Through the ‘re-proposing’ of the Gospel, the Church seeks to comfort all those who are burdened. The New Evangelization offers the gifts of faith, hope, love and new life in Christ.”

**How should we in the United States view the New Evangelization?**

“The Church in the United States can be likened to the mustard seed. The Church has been present in the Americas since the first missionaries arrived in the 15th Century. Over the past five centuries, the Church’s foundation has sprung up and taken root in the United States, spreading her branches and offering shade to the weary. This can be seen simply by looking at the work of Catholic charities on behalf of the poor, the network of Catholic schools offering education to millions, and the commitment of the U.S. Catholics to the Church’s social justice teachings. However, there is still work to do… The seed of the Church is present, but the message of Jesus Christ needs to be re-sown and watered for those who have already heard Christ’s call, but who have not been fully evangelized or catechized. Truly, the seed of Christ’s message has taken root and yielded much fruit in past seasons.”

Our pope is challenging Catholics in the United States to stand up and influence for the better the secular world in which we live. He is asking us to express our religious beliefs to the fullest. This is a time for us to live our lives as devout Catholics; to bring back those who have drifted away, and to evangelize those who seek the truth and love of God.

In this edition of *The Athenaeum Magazine* readers will find the Rev. Robert Hater, professor of systematic and pastoral theology providing an overview of the New Evangelization; Dr. Terrance D. Callan, dean of the Special Studies Division, reporting the views of Archbishop J. Augustine DiNoia, vice president of the Pontifical Commission “Ecclesia Dei”, as presented at the Athenaeum’s LeBlond Lecture in September; the Deacon Jeremy Miller, a seminarian at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West who will be ordained in June for the Diocese of Toledo, discussing how Pope John Paul II planted the roots of a New Evangelization, and Dr. Susan McGurgan, director of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program, discussing the lay Catholic’s role in...
The New Evangelization

Evangelization, in simple terms, is sharing the Good News of God’s love. This love is made possible because God so loved us that he sent Jesus to reconcile us from sin and death. Christians are privileged to share with an uncertain world the amazing news that God will never abandon us. As members of Christ’s body, the Church, we can enter ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s love and offer it to others.

This ongoing invitation to grow in holiness and share Jesus’ Good News is an essential aspect of our lifelong journey with God. We share this love in our family, with friends, at work, and by the life we live. A parent’s sacrifice, a neighbor’s kind deeds, an employer’s just actions, an employee’s dedication, a parish’s hospitality, and the witness of a good life testify to this love. To share this love is to evangelize, whose content never changes.

Dramatic shifts in world culture and the growth in the number of non-practicing Catholics in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere, led Pope John Paul II to call for a new evangelization. Pope Benedict XVI, who stressed the dangers inherent in the growth of secularization worldwide, reiterated this call. This led him to call for an International Synod on the New Evangelization in October, 2012.

The initial impetus to focus on the new evangelization came in 1975 with Pope Paul VI’s Encyclical, On Evangelization in the Modern World (EN). This prophetic work has been called the “Magna Carta” of Catholic evangelization. Before this time, the term, “evangelization”, was rarely used by Catholics. The following statement of the Pope bears special consideration. He says:

“….Evangelization will always contain – as the foundation, center, and at the same time summit of its dynamism – a clear proclamation that, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all men, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy.” (EN, 27).

Pope John Paul II, in a homily he delivered to the Polish people at the Shrine of the Holy Cross in Mogila, Poland in June, 1979, issued the initial call for a new evangelization. He stressed that this was the time for such a focus. Then, speaking to the Latin American bishops four years later, he reiterated his desire to inaugurate a new evangelization. On this occasion, he summarized what was needed in three words. These words contain the key to understanding the real meaning of the new evangelization.

Put simply, the Pope said that the new evangelization must be new in “ardor, methods, and expression.” (John Paul II, opening address of CELAM, March 9, 1983).

Following upon Pope John Paul II’s words, Pope Benedict XVI focused on evangelization to address the critical challenges of secularism and to reawaken the Church’s efforts to increase Her missionary and evangelical activity. For this purpose, he called the XIII Synod of Bishops, called “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith”. A preparatory document (Lineamenta) for this Synod in 2012 used Pope John Paul II’s words to challenge the Church to awaken a new ardor, methods, and expression to evangelize a changing world. It said, “…..Consequently, the new evangelization … is the courage to forge new paths in responding to the changing circumstances and conditions facing the Church in her call to proclaim and live the gospel today.” (Ch. 1, # 5)

This new evangelization is directed to countries that once were Christian, but where the faith is no longer active and living. It also focuses on those Catholics who were baptized and received the Sacraments of Initiation, but no longer practice the faith. In conversations with committed parents and grandparents, they grieve over the fact that their children no longer practice the Catholic faith, stop going to the Catholic Church, or attend non-Catholic churches, often of an evangelical kind. These non-practicing Catholics are a special target of the new evangelization.

While inviting former Catholics to return home, parishes also are encouraged to focus on what they need to do to keep the current crop of Catholics in the parishes, to ask why many have left, and to take steps to change what did not work in the past. How much good will it do to ask former Catholics to come back to the parishes, if once they return, they discover that the reason they left has not changed? The new evangelization challenges parishes to take a look at their organizational structures, liturgies, catechisis, and ways of making newcomers and parishioners feel welcome and important. This is as great a challenge as devising ways to welcome back former Catholics. As a parishioner recently said, “Parishes must keep their current parishioners and stop the exodus. This goes hand in hand with effectively welcoming back those who have left. Both are necessary to make the new evangelization work.”

The new evangelization is rooted in faith, knowledge of the Church’s basic teachings, and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Any significant renewal focused on the new evangelization must center on the Eucharist and how Christ’s presence there gives today’s Catholics the energy and courage to share Jesus’ Good News in the entirety of their lives. Coming to faith and living by faith is a slow process. It takes time for God’s Word to filter into our souls and change them in light of the Gospel.
On Wednesday, September 12, 2012, Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia OP gave the LeBlond Lecture to more than 300 people gathered at the Athenaeum: “What Is the New Evangelization and Why Does it Matter?” What follows is a summary of his talk.

After an introduction, the first major section of Archbishop Di Noia’s lecture surveyed the emphasis on evangelization in recent Church teaching that serves as a background to the new evangelization. He spoke about Pope John XXIII’s convocation of the Second Vatican Council as arising from concern for evangelization, and the council document *Lumen Gentium* as viewing the Church through the lens of evangelization. Pope Paul VI’s encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi* is the most extensive recent Church teaching about evangelization, attempting to inaugurate a new period of evangelization. This impulse was embraced and promoted by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. The latter has established a Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization; convoked a 2012 Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization; and has declared a Year of Faith as a means of promoting the new evangelization.

The second major section of the lecture attempted to define the “new evangelization.” Archbishop Di Noia first referred to the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the 2012 Synod of Bishops titled: “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Faith.” This document implies that the new evangelization is a matter of pursuing the ordinary evangelizing activity of the Church with “renewed vigor” and using “new methods and new forms of expression … to convey to the people of today the perennial truth of Jesus Christ, forever new and the source of all newness” (Preface). In his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* 33, Pope John Paul II referred to three different groups to which evangelization is addressed: 1) those who do not know Christ and his Gospel; 2) Christian communities fervent in faith and in Christian living; and 3) groups of the baptized who have lost a living faith. It is this third group that particularly needs a new evangelization.

Archbishop Di Noia listed ten traits of the new evangelization drawn from *Evangelization for the Third Millennium* by Cardinal Avery Dulles SJ. The new evangelization is christocentric, biblical, comprehensive, cultural, ecumenical, dialogic, directed to Christians themselves, the responsibility of all Christians, uses new methods of communication, and is primarily the work of the Holy Spirit.

Archbishop Di Noia said that the principal challenges to the new evangelization are a new social and cultural situation that is much less congenial to Christianity than formerly, and most of all, secularization of the Church itself, the erosion of Catholic faith and practice. The less congenial culture in which the Church finds itself is also within the Church and within each member of the Church. This means that many Catholics deviate from the teaching of the Church without realizing that they are doing so.

In the third main section of his talk, Archbishop Di Noia enumerated ten central themes of the new evangelization and commented briefly on some of them. The ten themes are:

- Communion with the Blessed Trinity and adoptive participation in Christ
- Nature and grace: The unity of God’s purposes in creation and redemption
- The primacy of Catholic liturgical and sacramental life
- Doctrinal truth and orthodoxy as personal knowledge: Christ the Teacher
- Moral life as transformed life: “Fitness” for Trinitarian communion
- The universal call to holiness: The unity of dogmatic, moral and spiritual teaching
- The centrality of matrimony and family life
- The Church in the world: Culture, society, education, politics, health care, the economy
- The importance of authentic and solid catechesis
- Recovering Catholic devotional life: Eucharistic adoration, Mary, the Saints

Concerning the first theme, Archbishop Di Noia said that relationship with God is the substance of what the Church has to offer people in evangelizing them. He also emphasized that in Catholicism this relationship with God involves the body as well as the mind through the sacraments and other lived expressions of faith.

Archbishop Di Noia concluded the lecture by noting that the coming Year of Faith is a good opportunity to undertake the new evangelization.

Archbishop Di Noia’s full address is available at: [http://www.athenaeum.edu/DiNoiaPresentation.aspx](http://www.athenaeum.edu/DiNoiaPresentation.aspx)
The Lay Catholic’s Role in the New Evangelization

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19).

For most lay Catholics, the opportunity to evangelize emerges in the midst of everyday life. We witness by our lives and actions; by the choices we make and the values we uphold. This “indirect” evangelization is both vital and powerful. Friends and strangers notice that there is “something different” about a Catholic living his or her faith with integrity and purpose.

There are times, though, when we are invited or challenged to speak directly about our faith, sharing what we believe with someone else. Too often, we allow these opportunities to simply slip away. We may think we have nothing to say and dismiss the richness of our own experience. Or, we have too much to say and cannot organize our thoughts into a fruitful conversation. We may see evangelization as the job of the clergy or professional parish staff. We hold back because we are not slick or smart, or sometimes even very nice. We wonder what anyone could learn from our ordinary lives; our everyday challenges; our recurring struggles and sins. Yet, God has summoned each Christian to be a witness of what he or she has “seen and heard” (I John 1:3).

Two thousand years ago, Jesus looked at the flawed and fragile people around him—people just like us, and said, “Go, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Their witness to others was the first form of evangelization. It is how the Church spread from a small group of believers in the remote villages of Judea to the vast stretches of the Roman Empire—by person to person combustion.

Among those early disciples were men and women wounded by sin and blinded by greed. They argued over privilege and position, struggled with doubt and despair, wrestled with demons, demanded proof and even denied Christ. Yet, in spite of their imperfect lives, they found the courage to share the Good News.

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) graduate, Louise Karas, who is an evangelization consultant to the Archdiocesan Advent & Christmas Evangelization-Catholics Come Home Project (ACE), says this:

“Everyone has a story to tell. People talk about longing for meaning in life, searching for God, asking questions about family, marriage, prayer, suffering, forgiveness, and desiring to belong. As people began to share their personal stories with me, I began to share my story of faith and speak of my happiness in being a Catholic, the joy of hearing God’s Word in Scripture, the strength from receiving Holy Communion, and the lifting of guilt in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

We are God’s beloved, and we each have a Gospel story to tell; a testimony that someone else desperately needs to hear. As witnesses, we are people who have seen something, perhaps something powerful and dramatic that few could deny. Or perhaps our testimony is quiet and small—something so simple that it might seem unimportant, except to that one person who is truly searching.

Sharing our faith with others is always risky. It requires stepping out on a ledge, trusting that our footing will hold and our support will not crumble. It challenges our presumptions and invites us to view our experiences with new eyes. It will take us to people and places outside of our comfort zone and in the end, it will transform us, as much as we long to see others transformed.

What sustains us in this work is the promise that we are never alone. We dare to evangelize, knowing that there is no place so dark, so lost, so filled with brambles that God has not been there first and is there now, waiting for us. It is the crucified and risen Lord who leads us in this work, giving life to our halting and inadequate words and guiding us onto paths we might otherwise fear to tread. What sustains us is the understanding that giving testimony is not about us. It’s about God.

Louise Karas adds, “What keeps me going on difficult days is knowing that I have prayer partners praying for me and my efforts to evangelize. I go to daily Mass and receive the Eucharist and spend an hour in prayer thanking, talking, and listening to Him. Daily I ask God “What do you want me to do for You today?” and then I act on His request.”

Others can dispute the existence of God, question the power of the sacraments and reject the doctrines of the Church, but no one can deny your personal experience of God. Telling your story and sharing how your Catholic faith has blessed and sustained you will always move the discussion from a debate on theology into a dialogue about relationship. And that alone, changes everything.

by Dr. Susan McGurgan

Dr. Susan McGurgan

Photo by Christian Cone-Lombarte
John Paul II and the New Evangelization

by Deacon Jeremy Miller

This past summer, I was privileged to spend a week with the legendary Monsignor Beiting about a month before he passed away (see obituary, page 39).

One afternoon when Monsignor Ralph Beiting was visiting with a group of us seminarians, one of my brothers asked him what he thought Pope John Paul II meant by the “new evangelization.” With no hesitation, he spoke profound but simple words about moving beyond our parish boundaries and committing ourselves to a more missionary outlook. He lamented that we as Catholics can become too parochial, too internally focused, and this can stifle our ability to carry out our missionary activity in the world. Everyone needs to hear the Gospel, he insisted, and no parish activity in the world should stop us from fulfilling that divine mission.

Monsignor Beiting’s ideas on this issue were not based in any documents on the new evangelization, but rather in a profoundly experiential and pastoral sense. For him, the Church in some quarters had lost Her missionary flare, and She needed to regain it if She was to meet the demands of an increasingly secular society. Monsignor Beiting was fond of saying that all Christians are called to be “missionaries,” an insight at the core of the new evangelization. All Christians, all Catholics are called — whatever their state in life — to share the “good news” of Jesus Christ with the world.

Early in Pope John Paul II’s papacy, in a 1979 speech in Poland and a 1983 speech in Haiti, he began speaking about the need for a new evangelization. This concept was fleshed out in greater detail later in his pontificate with the publication of Redemptoris Missio in which he lays out what distinguishes the new evangelization from other forms of evangelization.

The target of the new evangelization, he says, are those people and cultures to which the Gospel has already been preached and has even become part of the cultural heritage, but which now ceases to exert any substantial influence on those same peoples and cultures.

How true this is in our own culture! For many in this country, the Catholic faith has become something stale and boring. Many look upon the truths of the faith with indifference, if not with downright opposition. It is not as if our culture is ignorant of the basic claims of Christianity; seemingly everyone in America knows the basic narrative — a star, a manger, walking on water, a cross, and an empty tomb. The problem is not ignorance of this basic narrative, but rather that this basic storyline no longer engenders excitement among the masses. It no longer elicits a passionate desire to proclaim from the rooftops all that our God has done.

The antidote to this, according to Pope John Paul II, is an evangelization “new in its ardor, methods and expression,” a phrase he used in 1983 to characterize the new evangelization. The newness of ardor called for is not a kind of delirious fervor that tends toward fanaticism. Rather, it is primarily manifest in holiness of life. Unless we as the spokesmen for the faith are credible and authentic witnesses our efforts in spreading the Gospel are certain to be in vain. If we fail to strive for the level of perfection demanded by Christ, we reek of hypocrisy when we preach the faith. However, if our lives for the most part match the faith we proclaim to others, then real evangelization has begun.

This renewed zeal is a challenging task, but so too is the pope’s call for “newness in methods and expression.” This creativity and flexibility in presenting the faith is not to be confused with changing the content of faith. Rather, it is to be understood as restoring a sense of the “good news” of the message we preach. It means convincing those bored in the faith that salvation history is the greatest love story ever told. It is:

• The story of a Lover whose love is so strong for His Beloved that He desires to give her everything;
• The story of a Father who loves His children so much that He will do anything in His power to keep them safe;
• The story of a God who has withheld nothing in His love for us, including His only Son; a God whose desire for union with His children is so strong that He continually pours His Spirit into their hearts; a God whose passion for His people is so real and tangible that He gives us the sacraments to actually touch Him.

This is the “good news” of our faith! This must be the message of the new evangelization!

The new evangelization, then, is neither a new gospel nor a substitute for other forms of evangelization. It is simply the recognition that where the faith has become stagnant, new measures should be employed to make the Gospel ever-new. The Gospel truth will never change, but what can change are the hearts of those who express it and the means by which we profess it.
The story of Jesus inviting Peter to come out to Him on the water can serve as a very strong challenge for the Year of Faith.

Of all the gifts given by God, faith is the most precious. It makes everything else possible. God makes Himself known and invites us to come to Him. Jesus seems to be asking the impossible from Peter. This is a challenge the world has always faced. People often falsely assume that faith narrows one's experience of life. People who live an active life of faith know that faith in Jesus Christ opens

Peter answered him, “Lord if it is you, bid me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

The story of Jesus inviting Peter to come out to Him on the water can serve as a very strong challenge for the Year of Faith. Of all the gifts given by God, faith is the most precious. It makes everything else possible. God makes Himself known and invites us to come to Him. Jesus seems to be asking the impossible from Peter. This is a challenge the world has always faced. People often falsely assume that faith narrows one's experience of life. People who live an active life of faith know that faith in Jesus Christ opens
up great possibilities for the believer. With the gift of faith, the impossible becomes possible, weakness becomes strength. Obstacles become opportunities to give praise to God by committing one’s life to the love of God and neighbor through the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

In this passage from St. Matthew, the disciples are tossed about in a small boat in the dark of night, drenched by the waves coming over the bow, fearful that they may not make it to shore. People’s lives are like small skiffs that they sail through life, and they can become overwhelmed with worries about the world and their families that threaten to sink them. It can get so bad that they may not think they can continue.

When the disciples see Jesus walking on the water, seeming to go past their boat, they think it is a ghost. But when Jesus tells them not to be afraid, Peter decides to test Jesus. If this person is really Jesus and not a ghost, then Jesus can call him to come out on the water. But the one who is testing Jesus quickly becomes the one who is tested by Jesus. Peter asks for the impossible, and Jesus grants his request. Peter leaves the boat and his physical security for the sake of being close to Jesus, even if it meant walking on water. We are like Peter in the sense that Jesus Christ is always on the horizon, always ready to walk to us and reach out His hand to offer salvation. He does not come all the way. He asks something from us. He asks us to step out of the boat and come to Him. But Matthew makes it clear that the early steps of faith are sometimes uncertain. We do not know what to make of our unfamiliar new place, the sea, and begin to think about the familiar old place, the boat. As Peter reflects on what is happening, doubts creep in and he begins to sink, because he looked back to the boat and did not keep his gaze on Jesus. Matthew reminds the believer of an important aspect of the life of faith, just because you are walking on water does not mean that you are not going to get wet. Challenges and obstacles do not go away just because one has faith. These challenges may become even more difficult, but now one must muster the courage to keep walking ahead to Jesus and not look back at the boat.

Pope Benedict XVI has been moving the Church toward this Year of Faith since the beginning of his Pontificate. He first produced an encyclical on love, Deus Caritas Est, and then followed up with an encyclical on hope, Spe Salvi. With the Year of Faith, the Church is asked to look into Her heart with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discover anew its mission to proclaim the love and presence of Jesus Christ, who raises us to new life by the power of His cross and resurrection. Pope Benedict has wisely observed that people today are seeking answers from the world and not from Jesus Christ. Economic, moral, political waves toss people in their own little skiffs as they try to make it to a safe harbor without a conscious awareness of the presence and power of God in their lives.

As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, Jesus calls all believers to be witnesses to a living faith that is rooted in love, service, prayer and worship. As believers, we need to encourage others not to be afraid to leave the skiffs of their fears and wants and false sense of security, and instead set out on a bold adventure of faith, by accepting that invitation to come to Jesus on the water. In Jesus they will find their security. In Jesus they discover that nothing is impossible, if God asks them to do it.

Father Rob Jack is an instructor in systematic theology at The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.
Dear Alumni, Priests, and Friends of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West:

A few years ago a friend of mine back in Dublin gave me a Bible as a gift. It was no ordinary Bible. It was a translation of St. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate by the great English convert, theologian, and author, Ronald Knox. I said to her: “You can’t afford this Bible. It’s too expensive.” At that time it cost about seventy Irish pounds (or then called “Punts”). She said in reply: “He who helps the holy man shares in the holy man’s reward.” This was a paraphrase of the teachings of Jesus: “He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.” (Matthew 10:41) And, “I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” (Mark 9:41)

Over the last 183 years many gifts have been given to support this sacred institution. Likewise, many constant gifts have flowed from this institution, all in the service of the Lord and His Holy Church. Through the continuous mission of St. Gregory Seminary, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, and The Athenaeum of Ohio; cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers, and teachers have all been educated, formed, and sent forth. Through their ministry Christ has been made present, has reached out and touched hearts, and changed lives. Every aspect of human existence has experienced Christ’s presence because of their willingness to serve and minister. The contribution of this one, small, humble Catholic school to the mission of the Church, through its alumni, is incalculable and beyond estimation — except to the loving awareness of God.

The following list includes incredible benefactors who, built on past generations, created a firm foundation to make our work possible. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your generosity to the Athenaeum. I extend this appreciation from every cardinal, bishop, priest, deacon, lay ecclesial minister, sister, brother, teacher, father, mother, layman and woman, who have passed through these doors and benefited from your generosity. Your gracious support and courageous commitment makes it possible for us, for them, and for future generations to fulfill God’s plan in each of our lives to carry on Jesus’ mission.

In addition to my thanks, I want to encourage you, even challenge you, to join us in doing more. What we have done is not enough. Let’s grow and make an impact that will be felt around the Church. To that end we can resolve to expand our mission so that the Athenaeum becomes a place of vibrant faith and a living witness. We can shape a Catholic college of outstanding quality and orthodoxy that is open to strengthen all generations of Catholics in all states of life. We will continue to build a community of lively faith and action at the service of the whole Church, every family, every school, and every ministry. The Athenaeum will be the center for Catholic education, formation, and ministry training in our Archdiocese and a resource for other dioceses.

The Athenaeum has an expanding vision of life, hope, and joy, which in the next few years will see an increase in the number of seminarians and other students so that our capacity will be stretched. At the same time, we will develop new programs that are relevant to youth ministers, RCIA directors, directors of religious education (DREs), teachers, and Catholics in all walks of life including: fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, priests, religious, and single persons. Please encourage your children, family, friends, and other Catholics to become part of our mission to support the seminary and the Athenaeum. Helping us form priests, deacons, and lay ministers for the work of proclaiming the Gospel and doing Christ’s work will be to share in the “Holy man’s reward” and become a treasure worth having.

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 in 1829. Designations are as follows:

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BENEFACTOR REMEMBRANCE

The following benefactors passed away during our last fiscal year. Please remember each of them and their families in your prayers.

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The St. Gregory Legacy Society was established to perpetuate the mission of The Athenaeum of Ohio/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West by leaving a legacy to prepare people to serve the future generations of the Church. Legacy gifts include a bequest, charitable annuity or trust, life insurance policy or a gift of real estate. There is no minimum amount required to make a gift from your estate, only a firm belief in our mission.

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.
Ten things you can do to leave a legacy to The Athenaeum of Ohio/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, 401K, or other retirement plan. This can save taxes when the funds are distributed.

6. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming the Athenaeum as the beneficiary. This can provide a tax savings to you and your family.

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

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.
We are grateful to all of the individuals and couples who supported The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West through the 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 July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

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The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary graduated 23 students during ceremonies October 21 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 Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer.

The graduates are:

**Master of Arts in Biblical Studies**
Reverend Marc Soellner

**Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry**
Amy Farr
Joseph Hensler
D. Kenneth Jump
Virginia Rush
Jack Schaefer
Matthew Skinner
Deborah Wait
Steven Wertepny

**Master of Arts in Theology**
Deborah Birck
Joseph Schmidt

**Master of Divinity**
Reverend Jon-Paul Bevak
Reverend Daniel Hunt
Reverend Robert Lanterman
Reverend Matthew Robben
Reverend Marc Soellner

**Certificate in Lay Ministry**
Rachel Barber
Nora Belwood
Robert Brazier
Paul Feie
Hugh Lynch
Thomas Sipniewski
Lisa Taylor

**Advanced Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Administration**
William Frantz

*Photos by E. L. Hubbard*
Father Theodore C. Ross Named
Teacher of the Year

The Rev. Theodore C. Ross, S.J., has been named Teacher of the Year by The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

Father Ross has been a Jesuit for 58 years and a Jesuit priest for 45. He holds a master’s degree in History and a master’s degree in Theology from Loyola University in Chicago and a Licentiate in Philosophy from West Baden College and a Licentiate in Theology from Bellarmine School of Theology.

His priestly ministry has been spent teaching historical theology to priests, deacons, seminarians, and lay ministers of the Church at the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago, Mundelein Seminary, the Catholic Theological Union, and for the last 15 years at The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

He has lectured throughout the country. Among other things, he has given diocesan convocations to clergy from Fairbanks, Alaska to Orlando, Florida; from Portland, Maine to Los Angeles, California.

The United States military invited him to give spiritual conferences to all the Catholic chaplains in the United States Army. He did this in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Bavarian Alps. He has previously lectured at Oxford University in England on the occasion of the centenary of the death of Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman.

For the past 25 years, he has preached the retreat at Mundelein Seminary as immediate preparation for priestly ordination. The constant theme for all his work has been the preservation of authentic Catholic tradition in an age of rapid change. This marks the second time Father Ross is being honored with this award by the Athenaeum.

Photos by E.L. Hubbard
Robert A. Conway, long time Athenaeum benefactor, member of the Athenaeum board of trustees and chairman of the Athenaeum Advisory Council, earned national recognition October 1 when he received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award.

The award honors individuals whose work and philanthropy have impacted Catholic education in particular, and/or education in the United States and the nation’s youth in general.

The award, sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association, was bestowed at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The Athenaeum, along with Chatfield College, co-sponsored Mr. Conway’s nomination.

Mr. Conway, with his late wife, Ruth, have supported virtually all Catholic educational institutions in Greater Cincinnati. In 1997, the Conway Foundation was created to support Catholic education. As life-long benefactors of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, the Conways made a significant contribution to the institution’s Legacy Campaign and endowed the Chair for Scholastic and Pastoral Studies. He was named the Athenaeum’s Distinguished Alumnus for 2010.

The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president of the Athenaeum and rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Mr. Dennis Eagan, Athenaeum vice president for finance and administration, attended the event.

“Mr. Conway entered Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West as part of the class of 1955 where he studied for five years,” said Father O’Cinnsealaigh. “While he did not continue on the path to the priesthood, Mr. Conway has remained steadfast in his support of the Athenaeum giving of his time, talent and treasure…

“Of course, we are only one institution that has benefited from Mr. Conway’s generosity. I can’t imagine there is a Catholic institute, charity or cause that Bob has not assisted,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said. “Beyond the Catholic community, I know that Bob and Ruth have supported many charities and causes, civil and secular, interdenominational and faith-based, arts and cultural.

“Mr. Conway is a giant in our community, but more than that, he is a loving husband and a faithful friend, an honest and honorable man, and an outstanding Christian. We have been very blessed to have him as a shepherd for our community.”

Besides the Athenaeum, Mr. Conway has contributed to building and academic campaigns at Chatfield College, St. Xavier High School, Ursuline Academy, DePaul Cristo Rey High School, as well as to community ministries. As alumnus and emeritus trustee at Xavier University, Mr. Conway endowed the school’s Conway Institute for Jesuit Education. An endowed chair in Catholic studies at the University of Cincinnati established by Mr. Conway promotes scholarly research.

In 1989, the Conways co-founded the Bistro Group, a family owned enterprise employing 2,800 people in the Cincinnati area.

The National Catholic Education Association numbers about 200,000 members including diocesan superintendents and vicars, principals, teachers, college presidents, directors of religious education, board members, pastors, parents and seminary directors. #
Fathers Brausch, Fernandes Attend Vocation Directors’ Conference

The Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, and the Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, represented the seminary at the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) convention held in Oakland, California in September.

This was the 50th annual conference and the theme was: “Continuing the Mission of Christ”. Keynote speakers included Donald Cardinal Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, who attended St. Gregory Seminary; Deacon James Keating of the Institute for Priestly Formation, which will be holding its symposium for priests at Mount St. Mary’s in February; and Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Office for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations. He has twice visited Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

During the conference, Father Brausch and Father Fernandes were able to meet with vocation directors, promote the seminary program, and invite them to visit Mount St. Mary’s Seminary to consider sending men from their respective dioceses to be formed for the priesthood.

The conference concluded with Mass in Oakland’s Cathedral of Light. The Mass was offered by the Archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone. Following the Mass, Mount St. Mary’s hosted a reception for the vocation directors, bishops, and seminary personnel from around the country. This is the second consecutive year that Mount St. Mary’s has been represented at the NCDVD Convention.

Seminarian Works with Missionaries of Charity in Slums of India

Ethan Moore, a seminarian at the Athenaeum’s Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, spent 12 weeks in India with the Missionaries of Charity founded by Blessed Mother Teresa.

During his stay, Mr. Moore worked at seven of ten facilities operated by the sisters to serve the poor in the slums of Kolkata (Calcutta).

“The sisters taught me the value of poverty and revealed to me the joy of Christ by the constant witness of humble service and radiating love. I went to Mass every day at the motherhouse, the first home Mother Teresa established for her sisters and the place where her body currently resides. I prayed every day at her tomb for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, especially those here at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary,” Mr. Moore said.

At one of the facilities called the Gandhi Center the missionaries feed about 200 people a day who would otherwise go without a meal. The facility also houses a school for children from the slums where between 15 and 25 children from the streets come to learn basic life skills and hear about Christ.

“This is where I came in,” Mr. Moore said. “I helped teach the children basic English and tried my best to bring joy into their lives with a little discipline.”

Seminarian Spends Summer Learning Greek in London

Seminarian Peter Langenkamp returned August 15 from a six-week course in Classical Greek.

The course was offered by King’s College in London, England.

He studied at the Strand Campus, one of several campuses of the college in London.

“Having taken two quarters of Biblical Greek this past year, I expressed to several members of the Athenaeum faculty — particularly Monsignor Frank Lane — my interest in Biblical Greek and my desire to continue studying the subject over the summer. I was told that there were some funds available if I wanted to take a formal course, so I began a search for colleges offering intensive summer courses in Ancient Greek,” Mr. Langenkamp said.

“I chose this King’s College program for its intensive nature, its relatively short duration, and its reasonable fees. I was able to win a small scholarship offered through the college’s Department of Classics; and, through the efforts of Monsignor Lane, I also was able to secure free housing in London. While in London, I stayed at St. Etheldreda’s Convent which is run by the Rosminian Sisters and is located in Ely Place, London. The location was perfect, as it was only a short fifteen minute walk to class each day.

“I am very grateful to everyone who helped make this experience a reality. I thoroughly enjoyed my London adventure and found the entire experience very rewarding. The classes were challenging and required a good deal of work, but at the same time, I was able to explore the city which was particularly exciting with the Summer Olympics in early August,” Mr. Langenkamp said. “My studies in London have left me with a strong desire to continue studying and reading Greek — building upon the foundation the summer course helped to lay.”
First “Taste and See” Draws Large Number of Donors and Guests

The first “Taste and See” event to benefit The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West was held September 11 with 256 people attending. Taste and See, a wine and beer tasting, was created by the Athenaeum Advisory Council as an annual way to gather people interested in joining the Bishop Fenwick Society to learn more about the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s — the mission, programs and facilities. Guests tasted wines and beers, enjoyed light fare prepared by the Athenaeum’s culinary staff, enjoyed music from the band Easter Rising, walked the grounds, and toured the building. People gathered outdoors in the Marian Courtyard. Prospective members had the opportunity to meet and chat with Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Binzer, Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary’s President/Rector, the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealáigh and seminarians, the future priests of the archdiocese and other dioceses. A special raffle drawing for dinner for six with Archbishop Schnurr and Father Benedict concluded the evening. Congratulations to the winner, Tom Joseph.

This year’s event sponsors are: Clark-Theders Insurance Agency; Easter Rising Band; Home City Ice; JTM Food Group; Patriot Signage Inc.; The Regis Investment Company; Ted & Jody Sedler, and Turner Construction.

The Bishop Fenwick Society is comprised of benefactors dedicated to keeping the legacy of Cincinnati’s first bishop alive. The society’s members recognize the increased importance of investing in the future Church by supporting the education of tomorrow’s priests, deacons, and lay ministers, financially and spiritually. All are invited to assist in sustaining this historic trust by joining the Bishop Fenwick Society. Membership is extended to those who make an unrestricted annual contribution of $1,000 or more. The Generations Circle, established in 2008, provides an affordable way for younger people (age 21-49) to become members with the assistance of sponsorship from current Bishop Fenwick Society members. Please contact the development office at 513-233-6159 to join or for more information.

Accreditation Teams Visit the Athenaeum

Teams representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) and the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada (ATS) visited the Athenaeum in October.

The HLC team was chaired by Dr. Tom Howald, professor of philosophy and religion at Franklin College in Indiana, and included three other members: Dr. Dan R. Bruss, president of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn.; Dr. Karen L. Schmid, vice-chancellor for academic affairs at Purdue University-North Central; and Dr. Ronald Shope, from Grace University in Omaha.

The ATS team was chaired by Monsignor Jerry McCarthy, executive director of the National Catholic Education Association’s Seminary Department. The ATS team included two other members: Rev. Dr. Timothy D. Lincoln, from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and Dr. Patricia A. Schoelles, SSJ, president of St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, N.Y. The team was accompanied by the Athenaeum’s ATS liaison, Dr. Tisa Lewis, and another member of the ATS staff, Dr. Tom Tanner.

Before leaving, the HLC team briefly outlined the next steps in the HLC accreditation process for the president and faculty of the Athenaeum, and the ATS team gave a brief oral report of its findings. Within a couple of weeks after their visits, both teams will send the president a draft of their full reports so that he can correct errors in any matters of fact. The reports then will be submitted to their respective organizations; however, it will be several months before the organizations act on the reports.

Initial indications are that the visits went very well.
Jolanta Boehm was a faithful member of Our Lord Christ the King Church, Mount Lookout, since 1951. She was an independent woman who lived life simply, lived her faith, and loved the Church. Many years ago, she decided she could and would make a difference by leaving a legacy gift to the Athenaeum. She wanted to help perpetuate the faith she cherished and to help prepare those who would spread this faith to others.

Honoring her wishes, Jolanta’s bequest is lighting the way by helping provide a new Sacramental Lab to prepare our seminarians.

“Jolanta would be very pleased to see the progress being made on the lab and to know she helped make a difference by helping spread this faith to others. Honoring her wishes, Jolanta’s bequest is lighting the way by helping provide a new Sacramental Lab to prepare our seminarians.

“As a teaching tool, seminarians and faculty will be able to view their practice online in order to assess their performance. The lab will be ready for use on February 1, 2013. The development of the lab is made possible through the donations of our generous benefactors: Dennis and Lois Doyle and The Dennis M. and Lois Doyle Family Foundation, a bequest from St. Gregory Legacy Society member, Jolanta Boehm, and funding from the Archbishop.”

The Sacramental and Preaching Lab will be named in honor of Dennis and Lois Doyle and Jolanta Boehm in remembrance of their dedication to spreading the Catholic faith.

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
Archdiocese 101
An Introduction to Ministry and Services in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Students entering the Athenaeum’s Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) in the fall of 2012 were introduced to a new resource, “Archdiocese 101: An Introduction to Ministry and Services in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.”

This interactive, non-graded, on-line course was designed by the LPMP staff to introduce students to the resources available through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

“One of the goals of the on-line course was to familiarize our students with the excellent ministerial and educational resources that already exist and are available to them from organizations like the USCCB and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati,” said Dr. Tom Giordano, an associate LPMP director.

The course consisted of four modules:
• Module I: The Archdiocese of Cincinnati: An Overview
• Module II: The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Administration and Governance
• Module III: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
• Module IV: The Athenaeum of Ohio/The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

All participants were required to complete a pre-test prior to beginning the first module. The pre-test was designed to assess students’ current knowledge of the material covered in this course. Students concluded the course by taking a post-test. The post-test was used to assess students’ learning as a result of their participation in the course.

Students worked through the course at their own pace, moving from module to module. Each module concluded with students writing responses to assignment questions and posting them to the course pages for all participants to review and discuss. All online posts, assignments and testing had to be completed within a 30 day window.

All course materials were available online so that students were not required to purchase additional materials or texts.

Jan Von Handorf, LPMP associate director, noted, “Course evaluations indicated student learning exceeded expectations. Students enjoyed the online experience itself while learning about the many ministerial resources available to them.”

Twenty-four students participated in the pilot program, Archdiocese 101. Assessment of the post-test results clearly indicated 100 percent of the students had increased their knowledge of the history, structure, leadership, and resources of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); and The Athenaeum of Ohio/Lay Pastoral Ministry Program including its mission, structure and role in the Archdiocese.

Students were enthusiastic in their evaluations of the online course, Archdiocese 101.

Among the students participating were Scott and Michelle (Shelly) Hartings of Cranberry, Ohio, parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi, Prairie, Ohio, parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi, part of the St. Henry Parish Cluster. “It was a great way to learn about all the resources that are available,” Mrs. Hartings said. “As I started investigating, I found website after website. You can use all of the material as a support system if you’re involved in a ministry,” she said. Mrs. Hartings has coordinated a program called Family Life in America and has led study groups as part of the program. “The course opened my eyes to future ministry as time allows. I became interested in small group programs.”

Scott Hartings, comptroller at Whirlpool Corp., in Greenville, Ohio, said “the course was easy to navigate… It gives a better understanding of where to find resources if you have questions about your faith or if you want to start up a ministry in your parish.” Mr. Hartings noted he had just completed a term as parish council president, is a lector, and leads a men’s study group called “Men of Courage.” As a couple, the Hartings work with engaged couples and teach pre-Cana classes.

Archdiocese 101: An Introduction to Ministry and Services in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati was made possible through a generous grant.
Faculty

The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president/rector, will give the annual retreat to the seminarists at Bishop Simon Brunté Seminary, in Indianapolis, January 6-9. He will lead a retreat for the Knights of Columbus in Dayton, January 11-13 and give a Day of Recollection to Marriage Preparation teams in the Diocese of Covington on January 19. Father O’Cinnsealaigh will attend a conference of seminarists at Bishop Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, January 29-31 and will give the Lenten Mission at Queen of Heaven in Covington February 9-11.

The Rev. Paul Keller, O.P., assistant professor of sacramental theology, gave a lecture at the University of Dayton’s Center for Scriptural Exegesis, Philosophy and Doctrine September 19 titled “Confess: Sin and the Sacrament of Its Undoing.”

Dr. Betty Jane Lillie, S.C., professor of biblical studies, attended the 75th anniversary meeting of the International Catholic Biblical Association of America at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. She participated in a working group on the topic: “Jewish-Catholic Relations”. Its primary focus was the interpretation of the “Jewishness” of New Testament texts, using as a focus the Jewish Annotated New Testament, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler.

Dr. Terrance D. Callan, dean of the Special Studies Division, director of assessment, and professor of biblical studies, published a commentary on the Second Letter of Peter in Duane F. Watson and Terrance Callan, First and Second Peter (Paideia; Baker Academic, 2012) pages 129-219. He also published a review of Peter H. Davids, 2 Peter and Jude: A Handbook on the Greek Text in Review of Biblical Literature. The review is available online at http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/8308_9089.pdf

Dr. Susan McGurgan, director of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program, presented a paper at the Academy of Homiletics in November entitled, “Servants of Christ and Stewards of God’s Mysteries: Permanent Deacons and Formation for Mystagogical Preaching”. The annual Academy of Homiletics meeting coincided with the annual meeting of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics where Dr. McGurgan gave a presentation on pedagogy.

The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, held an in-service day for all Catholic school teachers in the northern part of the Archdiocese of Columbus August 15, addressing the subject of the Year of Faith. Also in August he was the keynote speaker for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program’s Day of Reflection on the Year of Faith held at the Athenaeum. He also gave a day of reflection at the Athenaeum in October to personnel from the Archdiocesan offices, explaining the Year of Faith. In October, Father Fernandes with the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh attended the annual Midwest Association of Theological Schools (MATS) conference in Chicago at which Father Fernandes gave a talk: “Preaching and Teaching about Difficult Moral Issues in Seminary Formation: A Response to Dr. Janet Smith”. While there, he was elected to the Executive Committee of MATS. As chaplain, Father Fernandes also celebrated the White Mass for the local chapter of the Catholic Medical Association at Emmanuel Church in Dayton and addressed the physicians’ guild on the theme of the New Evangelization. Father Fernandes has a book review forthcoming in the journal Nova et Vetera.
Ambassador Program Moves Forward: Deanery Representatives Identified

The executive committee of the Athenaeum Alumni Association has begun contacting existing parish ambassadors and, with the help of pastors, recruiting ambassadors in parishes not represented.

The role of the parish ambassador is about to become more active, more visible and more fulfilling.

Athenaeum and archdiocesan leadership view the success of the ambassador program as vital to the future of the seminary, Lay Pastoral Ministry Program and graduate degree programs.

Under the leadership of alumni executive committee members Bill Staun and Deacon Dave Wallace, the foundation of an active ambassador initiative is finally coming to fruition – an effort that has taken many years of hard work and diligence to accomplish.

Alumni executive committee members have started calling each parish in the deaneries assigned to them. Initially, the committee member will begin a dialogue with existing ambassadors or identify potential ambassadors in unrepresented parishes.

The committee member will maintain regular periodic contact with ambassadors to find out what is happening in the parishes, what they are doing to advance the Athenaeum in their parishes, and how the alumni association can work with individual ambassadors to achieve goals.

Each member of the executive committee has been assigned a deanery and will act as the contact person for ambassadors within the deanery. Here are the assignments:

St. Andrew Deanery: Deacon Amado Lim
St. Margaret Mary Deanery: Mike Dempsey
Cathedral Deanery: Jane Anderson
St. Francis de Sales Deanery: Father Tom King
St. Lawrence Deanery: Bill Staun
Dayton Deanery: Mark Westendorf
Hamilton Deanery: Walt Schaefer
St. Martin Deanery: Deacon Dave Wallace
St. Mary Deanery: Father David Endres
Sidney Deanery: Father Jason Bedel
Springfield Deanery: Director of Advancement

PASSINGS

- Monsignor Ralph W. Beiting, a former student at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, and founder of the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, Ky.; died August 9 at Kings Daughters Hospital in Ashland, Ky., following a brief illness.
  Monsignor Beiting, who was recognized as the 2002 Athenaeum of Ohio Distinguished Alumnus for his tireless work for the communities of Appalachia, was 88.

- The Rev. Raymond P. Aichele, former director of spiritual formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West and former pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Greenhills, died September 2. He was 81.
  Michael James Nidek, a seminarian at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in formation for the Diocese of Toledo, died July 29 at Bridge Hospice Care Center in Findlay, Ohio, following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 46. Mr. Nidek was a 20-year veteran of the United States Coast Guard, retiring in 2003.

- The Rev. Thomas J. Grilliot, former pastor at St. Patrick Parish, Glynnwood; St. John Parish, Fryburg; the Church of the Transfiguration, West Milton, and St. Mary Parish, Piqua, died September 10. Father Grilliot completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.
  He was 71.

- The Rev. Kenneth W. Henz, former pastor of St. Mary and St. Stephen parishes, Dayton, died September 13. Father Henz, who completed his formation for the priesthood at St. Gregory Seminary and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, was 88.

- The Rev. Joseph H. Scheetz, a priest for the Diocese of Salina, Kan., who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died July 7 at Trego Manor in WaKeeney, Kan. He was 85.

- The Rev. R. Leroy Smith, a priest for the Diocese of Covington and former vice rector of the former Saint Pius X Seminary Erlanger, died October 11. He was 86. Father Smith was an alumnus of St. Gregory Seminary.

- The Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died October 5. He was 92.


Full obituaries of Father Beiting, Father Aichele, Mr. Nidek, Father Grilliot, Father Henz and Father Scheetz appear on the Athenaeum website: www.athenaeum.edu

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

REST IN PEACE

Friends of the Athenaeum

- Paul Andrew Alexander, former student at St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary’s seminaries and long-time friend of the Athenaeum, died February 20.
- Edward A. Hogan, long time Bishop Fenwick Society member, died August 23.
- Albert C. Hohlmayer, brother of the Rev. Lou Hohlmayer, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West alumnus, died August 31.
- Michael Scherm, uncle of the Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died September 6.
- Ruth Mary Amberger, mother of the Rev. Frank G. Amberger, alumnus of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Athenaeum benefactor, died September 28.
- Robert J. “Bob” McCarthy, Bishop Fenwick Society member, died October 19.
- Susan Roush, mother of Eric Roush, Mount St. Mary’s seminarian, died November 19.
- Margaret Tensing, mother of Judy Tensing, assistant to the Athenaeum’s vice-president for business and administration; and Kathy Ellison, Athenaeum culinary staff member, died November 10.
A Year of Faith

With his Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei, Pope Benedict XVI has called for a Year of Faith, which began October 11, 2012 and continues through November 24, 2013. The Athenaeum is planning a series of events throughout this special year.

DR. THOMAS LICKONA
“Faith, Ethics and Character Formation”
February 8-9, 2013:
Thomas Lickona, a world-renowned developmental psychologist and professor of education at SUNY and director of the Center for the Fourth and Fifth Rs, has authored Character Matters: How to Help Our Children Develop Good Judgment, Integrity, and Other Essential Virtues. On February 8, he will speak on “Faith and Character Education in Schools,” and on February 9, he will discuss “Faith and Character Education of Children.” Public invited.

Institute for Priestsly Formation: Feb. 28- March 2, 2013
The Institute for Priestsly Formation, located on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, holds annual symposia for priests. The 2013 symposium will be held at the Athenaeum. The topic will be “The Beloved Son: Living Christ’s Own Filial Obedience”.

DR. MARY HEALY
“Women and Evangelization”
April 6, 2013
The Athenaeum will host a day for women of faith. Dr. Mary Healy, STD, who teaches sacred scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, will give two talks: “Women of Holiness in Scripture”, and “Women of Holiness Today” - and Monsignor Frank Lane, PhD, will give a talk on “Women and the Crisis of Modern Society”. Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr will celebrate Mass that evening. Public invited.

Mariological Society of America Conference
May 21-24, 2013
“Mary and the New Evangelization”
The Athenaeum will host the Mariological Society of America which will be holding its annual conference for members. This year the conference will address the role of the Blessed Virgin in the New Evangelization.

George Findley Memorial Lecture:
BISHOP JOSEPH PERRY
November 13, 2013
“Father Augustine Tolton: From Slave to Priest to Saint”
7:30 p.m. Bartlett Pastoral Center
Bishop Joseph Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, will propose Father Augustine Tolton, the first African-American priest, as a model of faith for believers. Public invited.

Gardner Lecture in Moral Theology:
CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE
April 24, 2013
“Faith in the Public Square”
7:30 p.m. Bartlett Pastoral Center
Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, will address the role of “Faith in the Public Square” and in contemporary culture. Public invited.

EXHIBITS AT THE ATHENAEUM
“The Patrimony of Vatican II”,
Currently on Exhibit
Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library

“The Pilgrimage of Light” featuring the photography of Robert Flischel
April-May, 2013
Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library