The Challenge of Christian Witness
FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BENEDICT O’CINNSEALAIGH

A few years ago, when I visited home in Dublin, Ireland, my sister Deborah asked me to drop down to her house and have tea with her and her family before returning to the States.

My sister has five children — four girls and one boy. As I sat with them, little Mia, the third child, about four at the time, came over and offered me a piece of candy. I unwrapped and popped the candy into my mouth. I handed Mia the wrapper and said: “It’s trash, put it in the garbage.” Mia took the wrapper and turned to her mother with an inquisitive frown. My sister, Deborah, immediately and intuitively understood her unspoken confusion and said: “It’s rubbish put it in the bin.” The child looked at me with a new light in her eye and holding up the piece of paper said: “Trash - rubbish,” “garbage – bin.” She then scrunched up the paper in her tiny hand and threw it on the floor and ran off. But something changed; Mia had learned something new.

The words we use in the United States and the words used at my home in Ireland for simple things can be different. To my niece, Mia, my use of the words trash and garbage were incomprehensible, until Mia turned to her mother, who was sharp enough to interpret the unfamiliar to the familiar terms of rubbish and bin. At that moment, I could see the satisfaction of accomplishment in Mia’s face as she connected the dots and learned new word associations.

My sister Deborah, Mia’s mother, is the most important and influential teacher in the life of her daughter. This is an influence that should not be underestimated. What my sister says; what my sister does; how my sister lives; who my sister is; are essential elements in raising her children. Another way to say this is that my sister is a witness to how to live for her children. As it happens she and her husband are excellent witnesses because they are outstanding people and parents.

My sister and brother-in-law give witness to a way of life. My niece, her sisters and brother, learn how to live from their parents, who are what we would call disciples, or witnesses. From parents, children receive the witness of faith, knowledge of God and the Catholic religion, courage, compassion, honesty, devotion, and love — they learn what it means to be a family and how to care for each other. Such witness is not always easy; it is challenging for those who teach and for those who learn. Parents continue to give this witness; they go through the struggles it entails because they love each other and they love their children.

At the Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, in every Catholic community, school, and family; we are called to be witnesses — teachers of the faith. We who have received Catholic witness from others must now pass along the treasure we have been given. We pass along what Blessed Teresa of Calcutta called “something beautiful for God.” That’s not an out-of-reach ideal; it is the common, everyday love that we give to each other simply because we are family, friends, and a community of faith, disciples of Jesus and witnesses to His Gospel. Love is the great challenge of Christian witness.

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On the cover: The tabernacle of the Triumphant Lamb situated in the mosaic in the apse of the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Photo by E. L. Hubbard.
Through the generosity of a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, inspired by the vision of Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West has renovated a small chapel in the east wing of the building.

The newly renovated chapel has retained its original name — the Immaculate Conception Chapel — and was dedicated in December.

The project was promoted by the archbishop because he saw a need to provide space at the Athenaeum more conducive to private prayer, meditation, and silence. The design of the chapel was motivated by the desire that all of the elements help form theologically and artistically, seminarians for the priesthood and students — men and women — studying at the Athenaeum for ministry in the Church.

The remodeled chapel includes a large, new crucifix. A new mosaic of the twelve apostles and St. Paul worshiping the Eucharist present in the tabernacle and depicted on the front of the tabernacle by the image of the Triumphant Lamb of the Book of Revelation, is on the wall behind the altar. In niches to the right and left of the altar are mosaics of St. John the Theologian and the Blessed Mother under the title: The Immaculate Conception.

“What is necessary for the formation of priests and laity in the Church today and for the years ahead?” asked the Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

“When one enters the chapel, what would be beneficial for them to see and meditate on in order to form their hearts in this way – this is the question we asked ourselves?

“The answers to these two questions provide the overall theological vision of the chapel. The answer to the first is the same as it was for the first followers of Jesus: to be formed in such a way as to be His witnesses to the world; to know the nearness of Christ, to bring others near to Him and bring them into communion with His Body, the Church.

“The answer to the second question flows from the first: To meditate with those who are near to the Lord, meditated on His Word, and passed that Word on to us,” Father Brausch said. “This is why the chapel, in terms of its theological structure, centers on the interaction between the Cross, the altar, the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the men and women, present and past, who are gathered into the life made possible through, with, and in Christ.”

What was a small chapel used for a few meetings and sacramental training for seminarians, has become a vibrant space for prayer and meditation and part of the life of the seminary and Athenaeum — a place for all to visit, to contemplate and to reflect on the cost of discipleship and….
The liturgical and artistic elements in the chapel draw a person into the drama of a life lived in Christ and His Church.

As you sit in the pew, behind you and on your left will be the images of saints in the stained glass windows -- persons chosen because of the challenges they faced in living out the Gospel and their heroic witness of fidelity.

In the wall to the right is a large reliquary where the relics of many saints are contained. So a person sits in the midst of those who have gone before, have lived the Gospel in their own lives and, because we are all in the one body of Christ, still accompany us in our own efforts to respond to God’s grace and live in His Body, the Church.

This explains the position of the Crucifix. It is placed on the wall to the left and at such a point that it marks the transition from the nave where the pews are to the sanctuary, where the altar is located. The Crucifix is still in the nave area, signifying that Christ accompanies us in the carrying of our own crosses and that we are able to carry ours only because He carried His first. It is also through the cross that we have access to the altar.

Those responsible for the design of the chapel made a conscious decision that the only three-dimensional representational items in the chapel would be the cross, the altar, the ambo and, to a lesser degree, the tabernacle. Most people think of what is real as that which has three dimensions — those things that exist in space and time. For us as Catholics the basis of all reality is the cross, the altar, the Word; in short, the mystery of our creation and redemption. So these things are “solid,” have three dimensionality while the other
The Drama of a Life
Lived in Christ

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHAPEL

ARTISANS
Rohn Studios
- design liturgical
Mellini Studios
- mosaics
Bill Watson
- architect
Roberto Pedrini
- Marble
Pietro and Ida Vinotti
- Crucifix
Restoration and painting
Todd Brausch

NEW ENTRANCE TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHAPEL

Entrance procession for the dedication of the Immaculate Conception Chapel
Photo by E.L. Hubbard

New entrance to the Immaculate Conception Chapel
Photo by E.L. Hubbard
The cross, the altar and the Word, that come together in the Eucharistic liturgy, grant access to the realm of glory, the beginning of the heavenly kingdom here. This is the kingdom depicted on the back wall. The scenes are taken from the Book of Revelation -- that book of the Bible in which the drama between heaven and earth is told in figurative language. This drama, this contest between Babylon and the New Jerusalem, is our own. By being baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death and resurrection. But we are also baptized into the great contest between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God.

In the Book of Revelation, the elders worship the Lord God upon the throne and the “Lamb standing as though slain”. In the mosaic, the hand of God is seen about the tabernacle and somewhat hidden from view. On the door of the tabernacle is the depiction of the Lamb standing upon the book with its seven seals.

To the right and left, bowing in worship, are the 12 apostles and St. Paul; Paul representing the multitude of the nations that are saved through the Gospel. At St. Peter’s feet is the papal tiara, laid on the ground before the Lamb, representing the text in the Book of Revelation in which all the crowns of this world are cast before the throne of God (Rev. 4:10).

The mosaic in the niche to the right presents St. John the Evangelist, the author of the fourth gospel and the Book of Revelation. It was John who stood with the Blessed Mother at the foot of the cross and heard the words from Jesus, “Behold your Mother.”

The mosaic in the niche to the left presents the Blessed Mother under the title “The Immaculate Conception.” The Blessed Mother is the prototype of the Church, the first disciple, the one who responds wholeheartedly to the grace of God and is the woman in the Book of Revelation pursued by the dragon. This original image of the Blessed Mother, depicted in this mosaic, indicates with her hands the great mystery of her Immaculate Conception. Her fingers are held together in such a way as to indicate the mystery of the Trinity (the thumb, little finger and ring finger drawn together) and the Incarnation of the Son (the index and middle fingers held together).

It is in light of these two great mysteries of the Faith that her own mission within the drama of salvation takes form. She challenges us to contemplate and interiorize these realities in our own lives so that God may live in us as He came to life in her (the hand on her womb).
The Crucifix

By Monsignor Frank Lane,
Spiritual Director, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West

The crucifix in the newly renovated chapel of the Immaculate Conception was created by wood sculptor Pietro Vinotti of Walloon Lake, Michigan and his wife Ida Vinotti.

The Vinottis came to the United States in the 1980’s from Oberammergau, Germany. Pietro had studied sculpturing in the Dolomite region of Northern Italy, his home, and went to Oberammergau to work in the wood carving trade. He married Ida there. She was Bavarian and a painter and did the polychroming for his carvings.

In the 1980’s, new methods of carving were introduced in the German and Italian wood carving business. Instead of the individual skill of the artists, computer imaging and laser cutting were used to help meet the demand for a greater volume of wood carvings for religious and secular forums.

Pietro and Ida would not comply and therefore could not compete. Leaving their two older sons in Germany and Italy, they decided to immigrate, along with their young son, Lorenz, to the northern part of the United States. They settled in northern Michigan near Petosky in a small area called Walloon Lake. There they kept the old craftsmanship alive and began to carve and paint primarily religious work for churches and schools around the country.

When discussion occurred about creating a unique and artistic crucifix for the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Pietro was chosen to carve the piece.

The decision was made because the theme of the chapel was the “cost of discipleship” — cognizant of the great wave of martyrdom in the modern world and the desire to tie that into the crucifixion and help that lead to “the marriage feast of the Lamb”. The instrument of that journey between Heaven and Earth was the Blessed Mother, the first of the redeemed (the Immaculate Conception) and the doorway to the coming of the Christ.

It was decided the only three dimensional figure in the chapel should be the crucified One. Through that which had already happened, the doorway to the promise lay open to us. The crucifix should be dominant, powerful and show the agony of the dying Christ as he opened his heart for the salvation of the world.

The windows are to show the witnesses of the modern era as they shared the agony of the dying Christ. These will include those killed by governments, religious fanaticism, sexual deviants, and those accepting death rather than offend revealed truth concerning the human person. The crucifix would stand as the sign of redemption even in the face of the powers of the world.

Pietro, after talking with priests of Mount St. Mary’s, began the carving in the fall of 2010. Representatives of the Athenaeum visited him over the Christmas break and saw the torso and the face, but learned also that Pietro had lung cancer. Ida assured us he would finish the work. But, in February, he was given a heavy dose of chemotherapy and could no longer work. Knowing he was dying, he asked his student, Ivo, who lives near Trent in Italy, to finish his work for him. Pietro died on April 10. Ida and Pietro had worked side by side for 40 years.

Ida took the corpus as Pietro had left it and sent it to Ivo. The corpus was returned in late August, 2011. Ida was dissatisfied by some of the work and directed her son, Lorenz, as he refined the sculpture. Seminary priests visited again over Labor Day, 2011 and discussed the finish for the corpus. Ida wanted it painted but the seminary priests feared painting would obscure the detail of the carving.

We learned that when a figure is to be painted, the artisans feel free not to match wood grains and could use different colors of wood. A natural finish would show every difference in color and wood grain so we agreed that it be painted and “antiqued”.

For 40 years, Ida had mixed the paints for Pietro for that particular style of painting but he refused to allow her to actually do the painting. He trusted her completely to do polychroming, but this style was very particular and difficult to execute.

When asked if she would do it, she simply said “yes”. The corpus is made of maple and is heavy. Ida had to physically struggle to turn the corpus and suffered many delays because of pulled muscles in her back from lifting and turning. In early November, she asked for more time but was told the dedication by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr was set for December 8. She said she would have it done.

The crucifix was ready by Thanksgiving. The quality of craftsmanship and beauty of the piece is stunning. It was the first time in those many years that she had painted with Pietro’s technique although she had always mixed the paints for him and assisted him as he did each piece. It requires at least ten coats of paint.

Ida and Lorenz were invited to the chapel dedication but were unable to come as she was exhausted and had become ill. Perhaps someday at least Lorenz will be able to visit and see where his parents’ masterpiece has been placed and where it will remain for years to come.
The Windows: Answering the Challenges of Our Time

Interestingly, discussion about the Immaculate Conception Chapel’s renovation started with the stained glass windows – the only element of the project yet to be completed.

The windows remain unfinished because funding received to date has been exhausted. The decision was made not to scrimp on the theological and liturgical elements of the chapel. It was felt important to complete the construction parts of the renovation first knowing that revisiting those areas would not be feasible. A decision was then made to wait for additional financial support to finish the job as envisioned.

“In designing the chapel we were conscious of those issues we thought the Church is going to face in the next 100 years. We want to form the seminarians and lay students who come here in an awareness of not only what those issues are, but also the cost of being witnesses to Christ and His Church,” said the Rev. Anthony Brausch, vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. “The saints selected for the windows were chosen because of the specific challenges they faced in giving witness to the Gospel in their own time. And, almost all were martyred for that witness.

“We decided the two windows in the back of the chapel would represent Sts. Peter and Paul, certainly because of their apostolic witness on which the Church is founded, but also for more specific reasons. Peter because of Christ’s challenge to ‘put out into the deep’ and his thrice repeated question to Peter, ‘Do you love Me?’ A question we must all answer. Paul, because of his preaching to the nations, his missionary zeal, but also remembering Paul’s words to the Colossians, ‘I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the Church.’

“These are the spiritual sentiments that motivate the saints and in which we need to be formed if we, as a Church, are to meet the challenges of the coming century,” Father Brausch said.

Moving from the rear to the front of the chapel the windows will depict:

● Saint Oliver Plunkett (1629-1681): The last martyr of the English Reformation, he was Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. He maintained his duties in Ireland in the face of English persecution and was arrested and tried for treason. “He was chosen because of the witness the Church must give in the face of persecution by civil governments and government’s attempts to co-opt and divide the Church,” Father Brausch said. He was canonized in 1975 – the first new Irish saint in almost 700 years.

● Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions (1860 or 1865-1886): Saint Lwanga gave witness to the Church’s teaching on human sexuality. A Ugandan, he was leader of a group of pages under the regime of religiously oppressive King Mwanga II who asked Saint Lwanga and his group to renounce their faith. They refused. The king condemned them to death. Twelve Catholic boys and men (including Lwanga) and nine Anglicans were burned alive. The king was inflamed with Christians because they refused his sexual advances and Saint Lwanga, in particular, protected the pages from the king’s sexual advances. He was canonized in 1964.

● Edith Stein (Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1891-1942): A German philosopher and nun of the Discalced Carmelite Order, Saint Teresa was born Jewish, turned atheist, and converted to Catholicism — baptized in 1922. She moved from Germany to the Netherlands to avoid Nazi persecution in 1942 but was arrested there and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp where she died in the gas chamber. “Her death was the result of racism and those forms of government based on ideologies that deny God’s existence and think humanity can create its own values without reference to the Creator,” Father Brausch said. She was canonized in 1998.

● Blessed Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916): A French Catholic religious and priest living among the Tuareg people in the Sahara in Algeria, he was assassinated outside the door of the compound he built for protection of the Tuareg in southern Algeria. He was killed by passing Bedouin marauders. His inspiration and writings led to the founding of the Little Brothers of Jesus and other congregations. He gave witness to Christ among the Muslims. He was beatified in 2005.

● Blessed Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) and Blessed Mother Teresa (1910-1997): John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa were chosen to share one window. “John Paul II called for a ‘New Evangelization’, a reawakening within the Church and a renewed zeal for preaching the Gospel to others. His focus in this effort was on culture and the creation of a culture of life instead of a culture of death,” Father Brausch explained. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India in 1950. For more than 45 years she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying. “She gives witness to the fact that creating a culture of life will be through our love and charity, not simply through our beliefs and arguments in the public square,” Father Brausch said. Pope John Paul II was beatified in 2011; Mother Teresa in 1997 by Pope John Paul II.

● Saint Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962): An Italian pediatrician, wife and mother, refused an abortion and a hysterectomy while pregnant with her fourth child, despite knowing that continuing the pregnancy could result in her death. She opted for removal of a fibroma in lieu of the hysterectomy and a hysterectomy while pregnant with her fourth child, despite knowing that continuing the pregnancy could result in her death. She gave witness to life by having a child doctors said should be aborted. She was canonized in 2004.
Where beauty fades, God’s image is tarnished by the dulling of vision and the dimming of dreams. Since all beauty: art, music and wisdom flow from the depth of the Triune God, it becomes the task of those who believe in this living God to restore to humanity, as best they can, treasures of vision and possibilities of dreams. Part of believing is seeing beyond the simply ordinary and momentarily touching the wonder that is unfolded in Faith. The Immaculate Conception Chapel at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West was moved forward by this conviction.

The creation of the art in the chapel came from a theological discussion about the reality of the Church today and its needs as well as its long story of redemptive love. The phrase “The Moment of Christian Witness” surfaced as a theme that could be prayed about and developed into the Church’s story of suffering and triumph. The medium of this story would be artistic creativity within the chapel. This mission led the priests, artists and craftsmen into a world of artistic possibilities and a search for beauty, truth and the proclamation of the Word.

Thoughts that helped identify the various components of the chapel’s artwork centered on the tremendous persecution of the Church throughout the world today. There were more martyrs for the faith in the 20th Century than in all previous centuries combined. The present century promises to see no decline in the intensity of violence against the Church and her people. Our awareness grew into an articulation of the theme of “Christian Witness”. The idea was to trace the story of heroism and martyrdom from the early apostles Peter and Paul to the victims of our modern age. Two threads were woven to do this: Those who fell victim to the tyranny of dark human powers and those who defended morality and life itself. Both of these threads are illuminated with hope and strength through the heroism of those who have walked with the Christ in dangerous times. Our hope is that those who, today, hear Christ’s call may find courage and joy in the story of these holy men and women.

This light is to be expressed in glass, the stained glass windows that lead from the back of the chapel to the greatest witness of all, the crucified Lord. The sacrifice of the Lord on the cross was, therefore, the dramatic passageway for all witnesses to join in the triumph of the Lamb. The Lamb’s triumph is cast into the tabernacle door, behind which is the true presence, the body and blood of the Lord. The iconic “Holy Rood” (the classic depiction of Mary and John at the foot of the cross) remained but moved from the cross to the triumphant Lamb deep in the spirit of the Apocalyptic visions of the man who witnessed the events and wrote what he had seen and heard. The mother of the Lord, the Immaculate Conception herself, stands by the triumphant Lamb reminding all of the origin of her Son in the Trinity and within herself, while the disciple writes down the story of the wedding of the Lamb for all ages to come.

Mary and John remain crucial to the story of redemption because as Jesus was dying on the cross the ancient forces of Chaos began to engulf and threaten creation itself – earthquakes, the darkening of the sun, the temple veil rent. Alone, while the Word fell Silent, the Virgin, the icon of the Church and the disciple, the priest, held creation together until the Word again spoke and all was saved from destruction as in the beginning. “In the beginning was the Word………….and through Him all things were made.”

Through the faithfulness and power of Church and Priesthood, the Word began the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, a place where all those “washed in the blood of the Lamb” would find eternal peace, eternal life.

Our new chapel reaches into the vision of faith retelling in forms, shapes and colors, the story of our people and our savior. What we have grown accustomed to hear, perhaps, we could now see. The beauty of the Lord might speak more forcefully than could our mere human words. Especially here in this place, where priests are formed, the chapel’s real gift might be to instill in the hearts of those called by Christ something of the vision of the “Glory of the Lord”. A gift they can carry into the lives of those they serve. It is the gift which for millennia has called forth and will call forth the witnesses to faith, hope and love - those who have surely been and will surely be “washed clean in the blood of the Lamb.”

The hidden treasure is Jesus Himself, the Kingdom in person. In the Sacred Host, He is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us.
Twenty-nine men were instituted to the Ministry of Acolyte by Covington Bishop Roger Foys on Sunday, January 15, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington. Of the group, 21 are from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati with eight from the Diocese of Covington. Another Covington candidate was unable to attend and is expected to be instituted at a later date.

Institution to the Ministry of Acolyte is one of the offices provided for by Pope Paul IV in his *motu proprio* *Ministeria Quaedam* (1972), said the Rev. Anthony R. Brausch, director of permanent deacon formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West. It is an ancient office that is directed toward service to the altar. “The acolyte is appointed in order to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest. It is his duty therefore to attend to the service of the altar and to assist the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially in the celebration of Mass.”


Those instituted for the Diocese of Covington are: Stephen J. Bennett, Benton M. Clift, Ralph B. Grieme, Tom E. Kathman, Richard J. Malsi, Dave D. Philbrick, Dave R. Profitt, Gary R. Scott. Jim Fedor, was unable to attend the ceremony and is expected to be instituted at a later time. Diaconate candidate William Staun was instituted years ago when he attended the seminary.

The institution to the Ministry of Acolyte is preceded by the reception of the Ministry of Lector and roughly marks the half-way point of the candidates’ formation for the permanent diaconate. There is another year and a half of formation before ordination to the diaconate.

Also present at the ceremony were Monsignor William Neuhaus, director of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Covington; Barry Mersmann, director of the permanent diaconate office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and Father Brausch.

Prominent Psychologist Addresses Seminarian Conferences

Dr. Paul Vitz, professor and senior scholar at the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Va., spoke at three conferences for Mount St. Mary’s seminarians in January at the Bartlett Pastoral Center.

The institute is a free-standing, fully accredited graduate program, awarding the doctor of psychology degree in clinical psychology. The program trains psychologists within an orthodox Catholic perspective.

Dr. Vitz’s presentations addressed: Psychological Harms of Common Sexual Practices; Hatred and Resentment as Barriers to Forgiveness, and The Importance of Fatherhood for the Priesthood.

Dr. Vitz served a long tenure as professor of psychology at New York University where he now holds the title of professor emeritus. He completed his studies in psychology at Stanford University (1962). He serves on the advisory board of The Catholic Education Resource Center.

Currently Dr. Vitz’s work is focused on the integration of Christian theology and psychology, breaking from the secular humanism and post-modern relativism prevalent today. His books include: *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship, Sigmund Freud’s Christian Unconscious, Modern Art and Modern Science: The Parallel Analysis of Vision, and Faith of the Fatherless: The Psychology of Atheism.*

A native of Cincinnati, Dr. Vitz and his wife live in Manhattan; they have six children, and 15 grandchildren.
Director Named for Evangelization Initiative

Dr. Patricia Pintado joins the faculty of The Athenaeum of Ohio as director of a new evangelization initiative of the Athenaeum named the St. James Project: Fides, Opus, Ratio.

The mission statement of the project highlights its focus: Renewal of Catholic culture through faith, work, and reason. This new evangelization initiative is made possible through the Investing in our Future—Preserving Our Legacy Capital Campaign which was successfully completed last year.

“Father Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh has reminded us that praying and learning are, together, building blocks of work for Christ and the Church,” Dr. Pintado said. “Knowing about the faith is not only necessary to deepen our relationship with Christ, but will in turn permeate all aspects of our lives, especially the family and the workplace.

“The St. James Project therefore wants to offer resources for the formation of lay Catholics, with an emphasis on means of intellectual formation that foster a deeper understanding of the faith, growth in virtue and holiness, and an awareness of the challenges posed by modern culture,” she added.

“As the logo of the St. James Project highlights, our response to the need for a new evangelization calls for a renewal of Catholic culture through faith, work and reason,” Dr. Pintado said. “After all, as Pope Benedict XVI describes, every human being ‘remains a being in which not only the stomach hungers but also the mind and the heart; a being which endures hunger not only for food but for meaning, for love, for infinity, and which cannot live without these truly human, no, godly gifts (Dogma and Preaching, 179).’”

Dr. Pintado is a native of the Canary Islands, Spain, and a member of “Communion and Liberation” (CL) a new ecclesial movement founded by Monsignor Luigi Giussani and supported by Pope Paul VI, Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Dr. Pintado holds a doctorate in philosophy from The Catholic University of America and a Licentiate in philosophy from the Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain. Presently, she is preparing to complete a Master of Arts Degree in theology.

Prior to joining the Athenaeum faculty, Dr. Pintado was assistant professor of philosophy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, assistant professor of philosophy at Sales University, Center Valley, Pa.; director of cultural affairs at the Instituto Cervantes. Chicago, Ill., and taught at The Catholic University of America.

During his inauguration address the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president of the Athenaeum and rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, outlined a clear vision in which evangelization was to be the hallmark of the entire Athenaeum program.

“It is our intention,” Father O’Cinnsealaigh said, “to create an environment and a program that encourages both clergy and laity, the men preparing for priesthood, and the laity preparing for ministry, to become more fully engaged in the evangelical mission of the Church.”

“Praying together and learning together are building blocks of this very necessary work for Christ and the Church. It is my intention to build upon our strong foundation and deepen and expand our service to all the People of God. As part of this mission, and through the generosity of some of our benefactors, we are in the process of establishing a new program in catechesis and evangelization that will reach every parish, every school, and every home in our diocese. We will put out into the deep; we will cast our nets; we will make a difference; we will be successful and we do expect a miraculous catch.”
Athenaeum Launches New Website

Athenaeum officials and members of the Athenaeum Advisory Council, working with the website design team at Loveland-based SuperNet, have completed a redesign of the Athenaeum’s website — www.athenaeum.edu

The new site provides a professional look and feel, better navigation and ease of use, including improved frequency of updates and content. This redesign allows the Athenaeum to communicate more effectively with our various audiences, including prospective and current students, faculty, Maly library patrons and the communities served by the institution.

“The goals of the redesign of the website included recruitment of seminarians, deacons, lay ministry and special studies students,” said Dennis K. Eagan, Athenaeum vice president for finance and administration. “In addition, its intent is to build awareness of The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary as a local and national resource for Catholic teaching, increase participation in events and programs, increase support of donors and friends and improve communications with current faculty, staff and students. We believe that this has been accomplished.”

The site also provides the capability to expand service and provide other features such as video streaming yet to be launched.

The Athenaeum Magazine will invite readers to the website to access additional details about items synopsized in the magazine such as recurring events and obituaries.

The new site provides a comprehensive collection of news items, an up-to-date calendar, and pages for each of the Athenaeum’s divisions — Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program, and the Special Studies Division. Additionally drop down menus direct site visitors to specialized areas of interest ranging from the Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library, to giving options, the alumni association, and others.

Claire Ballinger has been named public services librarian at the Athenaeum’s Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library assuming the position vacated by Jennie Thomas with her recent retirement.

As public services librarian, Mrs. Ballinger oversees circulation and manages the collection.

“I’ve always wanted to work in a special library — something that’s academic but has a very interesting and focused collection; and this kind of collection, the Catholic collection, is a dream,” Mrs. Ballinger said.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; and a master’s degree in library science from the University of Kentucky. She and her husband, Brad, who works in data protection, live in Reading.

Prior to joining the Maly Library staff, Mrs. Ballinger worked as a book buyer at Joseph Beth Booksellers in Norwood and at the Oakley branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

“When I was at Joseph Beth, I worked with Anthony Eichhorn who was a (Mount St. Mary’s) seminarian,” Mrs. Ballinger said. Mr. Eichhorn introduced her to the Maly Library.

“I met Tracy Koenig (former Maly library director) and, a year later, Tracy called to see if I wanted to volunteer,” Mrs. Ballinger said. As a volunteer, she worked with the Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk Rare Book Collection.” A part-time position followed.

Mrs. Thomas plans to continue working two days a week until June when she moves to Columbus to be closer to family. “That helps me a lot,” Mrs. Ballinger said. “She is here if I have any questions.”
Most people remember the class bully from elementary or high school, but today's social media has changed the bullying climate of days past and the issue has become more worrisome. Facebook, Twitter and other hi-tech social outlets have elevated bullying to a new and alarming status.

“Cyber-bullying”, as it's termed, has increased among youth as has dating violence. “Suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in Atlanta, is the third leading cause of death among teens to accidents and homicide,” said Holly Moran. Her Project in Ministry, a required part of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) at the Athenaeum, centered a workshop on the topic at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Butler County's Liberty Township.

About 40 people, mostly parents from St. Gabriel Consolidated Elementary School in Glendale and Mother Teresa Elementary School in Liberty Township attended. Since then, Mrs. Moran, of Hamilton, has been approached to conduct similar programs. But, she aspires to do more.

“I want to create an organized ministry specifically geared to this issue,” she said. Such an undertaking likely would involve volunteer psychologists or psychiatrists, priests, school counselors and officials, parents of victims and bullies and perhaps others.

Mrs. Moran facilitated the workshop at St. Maximilian which included presentations by Sharon Richardson, director of A Violence Free Coalition based in Warren County and Cathy Strunk, a registered nurse in the division of psychiatry at Children's Hospital Medical Center, who formulated and implemented a curriculum called “Surviving the Teens.”

When I completed the needs assessment for my project by interviewing teens,” Mrs. Moran said, “they did not know what to do if a friend confides in them about being bullied, that they are thinking of not being able to take it anymore.

“Bullying is an age-old problem but now, with computers and cell phones, the bully can come into the home 24/7. This takes bullying out of the schoolyard with text messaging, e-mail, 'sexting', Facebook, Twitter — all of these tools,” Mrs. Moran said. “Now, we have — particularly in junior high — children who don't want to tell mom and dad because they may take the cell phone away, or they may not be able to keep their Facebook account. Today, the victim becomes an isolated victim of a bully.”

Bullying often begins as early as fourth grade and continues through high school and even college, she said. There is a difference between the ways boys and girls are bullied and there are similarities. “Girls are a lot more shunning. They isolate a person — she's not wearing the right clothes or she looks a certain way,” Mrs. Moran said. “Both boys and girls pick on someone and target them. Boys in general are involved in more verbal issues and aggressiveness.”

Mrs. Moran became interested in the issue when the daughter of a friend was being bullied by other girls about a year ago and did not know what to do. The topic also received national attention in People magazine.

“My friend’s daughter began acting out and having other issues — feeling isolated, depressed. A youth minister brought it to my friend's attention. The girl was in eighth grade at a Catholic school, and she actually began having suicidal thoughts.

“CDC statistics show that youth threatened or injured in this way are 2.4 times more likely to report suicidal thoughts and 3.3 times more likely to report suicidal behavior than those not victim-ized by peers,” Mrs. Moran noted.

“Tm hopeful I can create this ministry program...because when you think about sacred dignity it is at the core of our Church. As parents, we have these precious gifts brought into our lives,” she said.

Bullies cannot be forgotten either. They need reconciliation. The bystander also needs attention. “Those who stand by and just watch bullying occur and don’t do anything about it later have feelings of guilt or shame,” said Mrs. Moran, who has experienced a minor bullying incident with one of her five children. She and her husband, Joe, belong to St. Ann Parish.

Mrs. Moran said her ultimate goal is to create a ministry with programs aimed at tackling the issue with a religious aspect involved. It could develop into a not-for-profit charitable organization.

Mrs. Moran invites anyone interested in developing a program to deal with the issue to call her at 513-896-7360.  

SPRING 2012
The Athenaeum Advisory Council, a group of almost 50 volunteer supporters and benefactors of the Athenæum, has launched a number of ambitious projects and developed key goals for 2012.

The council, which meets four times a year, includes seven committees each performing vital functions to advance the Athenæum. The council, chaired by prominent area restaurateur Robert Conway, is composed of business leaders, clergy, and Athenæum faculty.

A synopsis of key projects and goals by committee include:

**Community Outreach**
A beer and wine tasting invitation-only event is planned in September targeting about 200 select attendees to raise awareness of the Athenæum and its mission and develop new support for the institution.

The committee is also continuing to solicit charitable foundations to provide grant support for Athenæum initiatives.

**Bishop Fenwick/Annual Fund Committee**
The committee remains committed to achieving its goal of 1,000 members in the Athenæum’s key donor group – the Bishop Fenwick Society. Membership requires an annual donation of $1,000 or more in unrestricted funds. Presently, there are 681 Bishop Fenwick Society members of which 64 are parishes of the archdiocese and 113 who belong to the Generations Circle, members 50 years old or younger. Also, the committee is working with the Athenæum’s advancement department to reach the annual fund goal of $1.18 million by June 30.

**Generations Circle Committee**
The newest advisory council committee continues efforts to raise awareness of the Athenæum and increase membership in the under-50 demographic to help solidify the long-range financial wellbeing of the institution. The second “Step Up to the Plate Challenge” hosted by Bob Castellini, long-time Athenæum benefactor and owner of the Cincinnati Reds, will be held at a Reds’ game. Bishop Fenwick Society members are encouraged to bring a guest to the event to learn about the Athenæum and enjoy the game. Last year, more than 200 guests attended.

Another event – Fall Fest on the Athenæum’s campus – is in the early stages of planning. It will target membership growth. The event will include Mass followed by a pig roast.

**Nominating Committee**
The committee is seeking nominations to fill the seats of five existing members who have reached term limits and is working to secure four membership renewals.

**The Alumni Executive Committee**
The committee continues efforts to strengthen the parish ambassador program by developing criteria needed to function effectively as an ambassador prior beginning the process of identifying new ambassadors in parishes without representation and connecting with existing ambassadors.

This effort will become a deanery by deanery process with personal contact between representatives of the alumni association leadership and ambassadors. Dialogue between the ambassadors and the association will continue with each representative of the alumni board assigned to provide guidance to ambassadors on an ongoing basis.

To date, about 60 percent of parishes have ambassadors.

**Marketing and Communications Committee**
The committee is committed to assisting other committees on marketing and communications strategies including alumni, Bishop Fenwick Society/annual fund, Generations Circle, and community outreach. Another goal is development of a strategic marketing plan for the Athenæum.

Other specific plans include using the seminary’s Minor Prophets basketball team to promote the Athenæum and generate interest and plant the seeds for vocations with games against grade school, high school intramural and faculty teams. The group also is investigating use of Facebook, Twitter and other social media to see how those fit into the overall Athenæum communications program. Another goal is improved database coordination throughout the Athenæum.

**Estate and Trust Services Committee**
Committee efforts to connect with individuals generous enough to remember the Athenæum through bequests in their wills continue. Such donors become members of the St. Gregory Legacy Society. Two mailings are planned – Thanksgiving greetings to existing members and a prospect mailing to all ordained Mount St. Mary’s Seminary alumni within the archdiocese. The Legacy Society section of the Athenæum website – www.athenæum.edu – has been enhanced with interactive tools to assist members and prospects.
Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, recently appointed bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., and former bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, has been named the 2012 Athenaeum of Ohio Distinguished Alumnus. He will receive the award during a visit to the Athenaeum in March.

Bishop Conlon, a Cincinnati native, received his master of divinity degree from the Athenaeum’s Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in 1975. He was selected as the 2012 distinguished alumnus by the Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealigh, Athenaeum president/rector, from a slate of four nominees presented him by The Athenaeum of Ohio Alumni Association.

“We are very proud of Bishop Conlon,” Father O’Cinnsealigh said. “As a graduate of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, a priest of our diocese, who served as a pastor and our chancellor, and as bishop of Steubenville, and has now been appointed by His Holiness Pope Benedict as bishop of Joliet, he has proved to be an outstanding servant of the Lord. We wish him every blessing as he takes up his new mission and ministry.”

Bishop Conlon, 63, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI last year and assumed leadership of the Joliet diocese in May — its fifth prelate. He moved from Steubenville, a diocese of 35,000 Catholics in eastern Ohio, to Joliet, a rapidly expanding diocese, with 655,000 Catholics in seven counties. He succeeded Bishop Peter Sartain who moved to Seattle in late 2010.

Bishop Conlon grew up in Cincinnati’s Hyde Park neighborhood and attended St. Mary’s Church there. He was ordained in 1977 by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin who, at the time, was archbishop of Cincinnati.

Within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop Conlon chairs the Bishops’ Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People and serves on the Marriage and Family Life Committee. Since 2005, he has been Episcopal Advisor for the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

Bishop Conlon received doctorates in canon law and philosophy in 1987 from St. Paul University, Ottawa, after which he was named chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and director of the department of executive services. Prior to going to study in Ottawa, the bishop served as director of the office of planning and research in Cincinnati and as assistant chancellor.

Following ordination, Bishop Conlon was associate pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Anderson Township, prior to working in the archdiocese’s administrative offices. Just prior to being named bishop of Steubenville, Bishop Conlon served as pastor at Holy Redeemer Parish, New Bremen, Ohio.

Greg and Gloria Ionna Honored as Athenaeum Philanthropists of the Year

Greg and Gloria Ionna, leading benefactors of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, were honored as Philanthropists of the Year by the institution at the annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon November 17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals organized the local 2011 National Philanthropy Luncheon where honorees of many Greater Cincinnati non-profit organizations were recognized. The event was presented by the Fifth Third Foundation.

“This marks the 19th year The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West participated in National Philanthropy Day. It provides a great opportunity for us to publicly thank and recognize special people who significantly invest of themselves to make a positive impact on our mission to prepare people to serve the Catholic Church as priests, deacons and lay ministers,” said Athenaeum Advancement Director Jim Jackson.

“Our institution has been blessed with many such benefactors and it is a tribute to Greg and Gloria Ionna that their passion and commitment to our purpose made them our obvious choice this year.”

Mr. Ionna served as co-chairman with Michael Conaton, another long time benefactor and past Athenaeum National Philanthropy Day honoree, on the recently completed Athenaeum capital campaign: Investing in Our Future – Preserving Our Legacy. The campaign raised more than $19 million funding a host of Athenaeum needs from bricks and mortar projects to smart classrooms to faculty chairs.

Mr. Ionna is chief executive officer of the C.M. Paula Co., in Mason, a privately held holding company overseeing three separate subsidiary enterprises — 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 is also retired executive vice president of Gibson Greeting Cards.

The Ionnas, long-time Xavier University boosters, are active in Catholic causes throughout the Greater Cincinnati community.

Mr. Ionna is a member of the Athenaeum’s Board of Trustees, serves on the board of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and on the advisory council at Xavier University. He and his wife are on the board of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, a small group of sisters working with the poor in Covington, Ky. Mrs. Ionna is a committee chair for Birthright of Greater Cincinnati — the oldest pregnancy crisis center in the area. Her husband is a committee member. While they reside in Clermont County’s Miami Township, the Ionnas belong to St. Francis Seraph Parish serving the poor in Over-the-Rhine.

Mrs. Ionna, a former records manager at Blue Cross/Blue Shield and an active pro-life advocate, launched two stores in Loveland and Mason — originally called Truly Blest — resale enterprises specializing in donated clothing for infants, children, adults and expectant mothers. The Ionnas donated the Loveland store to Birthright of Cincinnati and its name was changed to Twice Blest. The Mason store has closed.

Photo courtesy Diocese of Joliet

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon Named 2012 Distinguished Alumnus

Greg and Gloria Ionna Honored as Athenaeum Philanthropists of the Year

Photos/Photos courtesy Diocese of Joliet
A few years back, one of the local pastors asked Mount St. Mary’s seminarians to come for Vocation’s Week and play his 8th grade boys basketball team in front of the entire school. After an hour of fun but intense basketball and a captivating halftime vocations talk, there seemed to be a general feeling that this was an event worth continuing. The seminary’s team, the Minor Prophets, soon began to receive more calls from Cincinnati pastors as well as Catholic elementary schools requesting a game and their vocations talk.

The games, which always attract screaming fans and players ready to pounce on their future priests, provide seminarians with an opportunity to be with the youth of the archdiocese. One of the goals of the games is to make seminarians visible so young people can see how seminarians enjoy sports and the other activities they enjoy as well. Another goal of the games is to promote vocations. At each of the games, one of the seminarians gives a halftime talk in which he speaks to vocations in general, encouraging the young people to be open to God’s will in their life.

These games are also a great opportunity for seminarians to strengthen camaraderie. Each year, the Minor Prophets participate in two seminary basketball tournaments — one in Chicago and one in Columbus.

The tournaments provide seminarians the opportunity to spend time with, and compete against, fellow seminarians from around the Midwest. The seminary tournament games and the vocations’ games help broaden the scope of seminarian experiences at Mount St. Mary’s and strengthen fraternity among seminarians.
Visiting Appalachia

During the Christmas season Seminarian Ethan Moore (right) visited with Father Ralph Beiting at Father Beiting’s Appalachian Mission Center serving east central Kentucky. Mr. Moore “hooped it up” with Father Beiting at the mission’s headquarters in Louisa, Ky., surrounded by donated toys and gifts for children living in the impoverished area. Father Beiting, an alumnus of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West is a former recipient of The Athenaeum of Ohio’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Monsignor Charles E. Singler Named to Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Monsignor Charles E. Singler, director of the Toledo Diocese’s Office of Divine Worship and Office of Vocations, has been named to the Board of Trustees of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West.

Monsignor Singler, a Mount St. Mary’s Seminary alumnus, is a past member of the Athenaeum faculty and former director of field education and pastoral internship program at the seminary.

“I feel I’m on home territory. This institution gave me the tools to be a priest and for me, many years ago, I was able to not only experience being and working here as a student but then came back to be on the faculty. Now, I am back in this capacity having been out in the experience of ministry,” Monsignor Singler said.

“I’m now coming back to contribute whatever I can to help continue the quality of this institution. I’m honored to have received this appointment from Archbishop (Dennis M.) Schnurr. Having the investment of coming from a diocese sending seminarians here for education, I am certainly very concerned about the future of the institution. It is in that aspect of the investment that I feel I can give back to the institution.”

Monsignor Singler, ordained in 1984, was appointed a monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011.

He has worked in parishes, diocesan offices and on various diocesan committees.

He served as rector of Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo for seven years, has been director of the office of worship since 2004 and the vocations office since 2010.

He is past pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Bellevue, and former associate pastor and administrator at St. Rose Parish in Perrysburg. After ordination, he served three years as associate pastor at St. John Parish, Toledo.

Monsignor Singler has served on several Toledo diocesan committees including:

Art and architecture, the liturgical commission, Diocesan Synod Convocation, liturgy committees, Renew 2000 core committee, Priests’ Personnel Board, Priests’ Continuing Education Board and the Diocesan Priests’ Council. He is past Knights of Columbus chaplain of the year.

Father Michael A. Seger Promoted to Professor

The Rev. Michael A. Seger, who holds The Athenaeum of Ohio’s James J. Gardner Chair in Moral Theology, has been unanimously elevated to the rank of professor of moral theology by the Athenaeum Board of Trustees.

Father Seger, a member of The Athenaeum of Ohio faculty since 1994, holds a licentiate in sacred theology and a doctorate in sacred theology magna cum laude from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He received a master’s degree in divinity from the Athenaeum and was ordained in 1988.

During his tenure at the Athenaeum, Father Seger has taught: Fundamental Moral Theology, Catholic Sexual Ethics, Catholic Medical Ethics, Catholic Social Teachings, Ethics of Stewardship, Special Issues in Fundamental Morals: Conscience Formation in the Community, End-of-Life Care Decisions, and Modern Moral Problems.

He was Athenaeum Teacher of the Year in 2006 and has written extensively on Catholic moral and ethical issues. Father Seger is a frequent speaker at Catholic events and in Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and beyond.

Father Seger is a member of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia, Pa. and the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Seminarians Caught on Camera

Periodically throughout the year, Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr invites Mount St. Mary’s seminarians to his home for dinner and discussion. Archbishop Schnurr (standing) welcomes his guests for an evening of camaraderie.
IN THE NEWS

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ON THE WEB

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

Ten Seminarians Approved for Candidacy for Holy Orders
Ten men attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West have been approved for candidacy for Holy Orders. Seven of the seminarians are from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; two are from the Diocese of Toledo, and one is from the Diocese of Youngstown.

Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Binzer presided on December 8 over the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at The Athenaeum/Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

Jennie Thomas Retires from Maly Library
Jennie Thomas, public services librarian at the Athenaeum’s Eugene H. Maly Memorial Library, retired January 6 after nine years’ service to the day.

“This is the best job I have ever had. The atmosphere and the work environment, the people who are here, make this a wonderful place to work and I have been a lot of places,” said Mrs. Thomas.

Honduran Exchange Program in Tenth Year
The exchange program between the Athenaeum’s Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West and Honduran seminarians coordinated with Oscar Cardinal Rodriguez, continued for its tenth year this winter as the Athenaeum welcomed two seminarians from Honduras.

The exchange program has been made possible through grants from the Lange Foundation and the German-based Aid to the Church in Need along with a financial contribution from St. Michael Parish in Ripley, Ohio.

Mount St. Mary’s Seminary Marchers among Thousands Supporting Life
Seminarians and faculty members of the Athenaeum/ Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West were able to travel to Washington, D.C. and participate in the annual March for Life Sunday, January 22.

The trip was made possible by the generosity of Athenaeum benefactors including Tony Maas who accompanied the group.

Third Annual “Hoopla” at XU Basketball Draw Record Crowd
The Generations Circle, representing younger members of the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society and their guests, overflowed Xavier University’s Schiff Family Conference Center, the night of Saturday, February 25, before the Musketeers defeated the Richmond University Spiders.

The event was part of the third annual “Hoopla” at Xavier University Basketball — an occasion which has shown remarkable growth each year.

Faculty

Monsignor Frank Lane, spiritual director of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West, gave a retreat in June and July to the Fathers and Brothers of St. Michael Abbey in Silverado, Calif. St. Michael's is an abbey of the Canons Regular of Pre Monte, known as the Norbertines. Their community was founded by St. Norbert of Xanten in the 11th Century. The Rev. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, president/rector of The Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary, was a member of the Norbertines prior to coming to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Rev. Theodore C. Ross, S.J., assistant professor of Church history and historical theology, spoke at Theology on Tap in Cincinnati on the topic “The Life and Thoughts of Blessed John Henry Newman”; spoke at Theology by the Slice” to students at Xavier University on “What Is Authentic Catholic Identity”; made several addresses at parishes within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on “Cardinal Newman, the Church’s Newest Saint”; gave a lecture to the students and faculty of Boston College School of Theology on: “Do I Still Love the Church”; and, for the 15th year led the Day of Recollection for the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Rev. Paul Ruwe, instructor of spiritual theology and dean of students, in February led a Pre-Lenten Day of Reflection for St. Veronica Parish, Mount Carmel on spirituality and daily living entitled, “Renew Our Hearts: Everyday Spirituality in a Restless Age”.  

The Rev. Timothy P. Schehr, professor of biblical studies in February spoke about the Psalms at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Kenwood.

The Rev. David J. Endres, assistant professor of Church history and historical theology and director of field education, in November spoke at All Saints Church, Montgomery on the topic: “Lord, I Am Not Worthy that You Should Enter under My Roof: The Biblical Roots of the Mass”; in February gave the presentation: “The Real Presence”, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Anderson Township; and at...
Sacred Heart Parish, Fairfield; and spoke about “A Franciscan Tale of Two Cities: Ethnic Assimilation and Separatism in New York and Cincinnati;” at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. In February and March, he presented a Church history series—“Why the Early Church was the Catholic Church?”, “The Splintering of Christianity: The Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation”, “Modern Catholicism: Before and After Vatican II” “Catholicism in the U.S.: The American Difference.” Also in March he talked about: “While You Were Sleeping, Crying or Spitting Up: What Happened at Your Baptism and Why It Matters Now,” at St. Albert the Great Parish, Kettering.

The Rev. Earl Fernandes, dean of the Athenaeum and dean of Mount. Mary’s Seminary of the West, published an article in the Linacre Quarterly 78/3 (2011), the journal of the Catholic Medical Association, titled: “Seminary Formation and Homosexuality: Changing Sexual Morality and the Church’s Response”. He published another article titled: “Seeking the Kingdom: Intellectual Formation and Purity of Heart,” in Seminary Theology II: Theology and Spiritual Direction in Dialogue, published by the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. In addition to giving talks in parishes, Father Fernandes recently became a member of the Board of the Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati. As an advisory board member to the Pregnancy Center East, he entrusted the center to the patronage of the Virgin of Guadalupe on her feast.

Dr. Terrance D. Callan, dean of the Special Studies Division, director of assessment, and professor of biblical studies, presented a paper: “The Gospels of Matthew and John in the Second Letter of Peter” at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco, Calif., last November.

Mrs. Connie Song, library director, has been selected by the Ohio Private Academic Libraries’ Directors’ Council to attend the Innovative Users Group Conference in Chicago III. in April. The OPAL consortium sends a representative to the conference in order to stay current with library technology and services available through innovative interfaces.

Deacon David Shea, assistant professor of homiletics, in January, for the fifth year, preached a retreat on the subject “Women of Worth” to a group of women at the Jesuit Spiritual Center. In February, he spoke about: “The Seasons of Marriage” to the Father’s Team at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Anderson Township. The group of about 60 men gather every Friday morning for prayer, fellowship, and discussion with the objective of furthering their relationships with Christ, becoming better fathers and better husbands. Also in February he presented “Communications” as part of the new Marriage Matters program at St. Columban Parish, Loveland. In March, he spoke about: “The Family & the Sacrament of Marriage” to the RCIA team, the elect and candidates with their spouses at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Anderson Township and participated in a Lenten talks program at St. Cecilia Parish, Oakley, presenting: “We All Have Crosses—Without God, We Don’t Have a Chance!”. In August, Deacon Shea will conduct a day-long preaching workshop on the Sunday Homily to the permanent deacons of the archdiocese at St. Peter Parish, Huber Heights.

Alumni

Monsignor William F. Stumpf, class ’85, was appointed pastor of Saint Michael Parish, Greenfield, Ind. last year and was also named a Chaplain to his Holiness.

The Rev. Michael D. Beatty, former faculty member at St. Gregory Seminary and former teacher at Elder High School, died December 14. He was pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish, Delhi, until the time of his death. Father Beatty was 73. A full obituary appears on the Athenaeum website www.athenaeum.edu

The Rev. Donald A. Quinn, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who completed his formation for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, died November 13 at Indiana University Hospital, Indianapolis. He was 55. A full obituary appears on the Athenaeum website www.athenaeum.edu

Bernard L. Downey, whose generosity to the Athenaeum includes the donation of two bronze statues of Mary and another of the Risen Christ all completed in Italy, died January 26. The former resident of Lima, Ohio, and president of the B.L. Downey, Co., of Broadview, Ill., was 88. A full obituary appears on the Athenaeum website www.athenaeum.edu
Estate Planning Made Easy on New Website

The Athenaeum of Ohio's new website — www.athenaeum.edu — offers a new “Create a Legacy Section” with interactive tools and estate planning resources to help people work through the many facets of planning their estate.

It also helps those interested to learn more about different planned giving options and the varied tools available to meet their charitable goals.

“The Athenaeum’s Create a Legacy website contains all kinds of features and information. The website goes beyond just being a tool to help create a planned gift to a charity. It functions as a broad-based estate planning resource for both the general public and professional advisors,” said David Burleigh, chairman of the estate and trust services committee of the Athenaeum Advisory Council.

“The site provides more information than people may expect — presented factually and practically, to help them plan their estate. They can use the website wherever they like, on their own schedule, and in settings that allow them time to reflect. Used this way, it can bring about peace of mind,” said Mr. Burleigh, a member of the Athenaeum’s Bishop Fenwick Society comprising key benefactors of the institution.

Features of the site include a gift calculator which allows users to explore the benefits of a planned gift, estate and financial planning information for every life stage, downloadable forms, tools for building and comparing different planned giving options, information for professional advisors and articles to assist anyone in learning more about the basic estate planning documents everyone should have.

“Another neat feature is that the Athenaeum included its own sample Catholic Advance Healthcare Directive. Catholics who are formulating estate plans often ask about healthcare powers of attorney and living wills. The healthcare area is tricky, and it’s difficult to find good healthcare documents. The Athenaeum’s healthcare directive is a good one. It’s a reliable resource,” Mr. Burleigh said.

The Advance Healthcare Directive was developed by Fathers Mike Seger and Earl Fernandes, resident professors of moral theology at the Athenaeum. The sample document can be used by any person at no cost.

For additional information about the “Create a Legacy” website or charitable gift options, please contact Kathy Kaelin Symons, director of estate and trust services, at 513-233-6153 or at leavealegacy@athenaeum.edu

The Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West are ideal beneficiaries for estate and trust gifts from Catholic donors who view the future of our local Catholic Church as vital for generations to come.