“Not a bad time to be a seminarian,” was the understated reply of seminarian Pete Rodgers as he commented on the Pope’s recent visit to the United States. Indeed, the Seminary was blessed to be able to participate in a Mass that our Holy Father celebrated at Nationals Park in Washington D.C. on April 17th. Not only did every Mount seminarian attend—while many people all over the country scrambled to find a ticket—but a number of seminarians studying for the Archdiocese of Washington were privileged to serve the Papal Mass!

The day started earlier than usual, as seminarians boarded the bus headed for Washington at 4:15 am. As the seminarians arrived at the stadium (though not all fully awake), everyone was excited to discover our seats would be very close to the sanctuary set up in the outfield. Of the 47,000 people who crammed the stadium, the Mount seminarians on-the-field seats rivaled only the bishops for best view!

When the Pope arrived at the stadium at 9:30 am, everyone was on the edge of their seat, anxious to see Pope Benedict XVI in person. The stadium erupted upon his entrance, and seminarians turned towards the periphery of the field to catch a glimpse of our Holy Father as he passed by in the popemobile. Mass began promptly at 10:00, and the liturgy was beautiful. “It was great to attend Mass celebrated by the Holy Father and to hear his message of hope to the United States,” seminarian Benjamin Sawyer reflected. With the great seats, the beautiful weather, and the reverent liturgy celebrated by the Pope, it was truly a perfect day.

As for those seminarians who served in the Mass, they recognized that this was a once in a lifetime experience. First year seminarian and candle-bearer, Shaun Foggio said, “At first I was nervous and worried about remembering what I had to do, but suddenly I remembered that this was the Pope I was so close to, and I relaxed and took it all in.” One of the things that struck the servers was the Pope’s evident gentleness and humility, something very clearly seen from up close.

Pope Benedict’s visit and the privilege of celebrating Mass with him energized our community and gives us great hope for our Church and our country. The Holy Father came to confirm us in the Faith, and we hope and pray that his inspiring visit may bear much fruit in our lives. Viva le Papa!
E.S.L. AT THE MOUNT
“GO, THEREFORE, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS!”

Rev. Mr. John Rapisarda, Fourth Theology, Archdiocese of Baltimore

This is the command given by Jesus to His Apostles before He ascended into heaven. The Catholic Church, from it’s founding by our Lord, has sought to fulfill the Savior’s command. The Church is Universal – Katholikos in Greek, or “Catholic” – and thus the Gospel is proclaimed by the church throughout the world. We know that there is much work to be done before “all nations” have heard the Gospel. However, one look at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary will show that much work has already been done, and that it is bearing great fruit: Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Spain, the Philippines, Poland, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kenya, Togo and the Cameroon – men coming from all over the world to study and serve in America, to proclaim the Gospel in the United States, and to fulfill the command of Christ to make disciples of all nations.

This past year, 30% of the seminarians at the Mount came from international communities. In response to the needs of these missionary seminarians, seven years ago the Mount implemented the English as a Second Language program (ESL) at the seminary. At this time, Ms. Deborah Wentling came to work full time at the seminary, working at the college since 1991. Reflecting on her service to the seminarians, she calls it a “privilege” to work with people who “really love God…[the seminarians] work so incredibly hard because it’s their intention to serve God well.” Ms. Wentling also notes the remarkable support given by Msgr. Steven Rohlf’s, Rector of the Seminary, Fr. J. Daniel Mindling, O.F.M., Cap., Academic Dean, and the entire faculty, whom she commends for their patience with the students.

In order to accommodate the growing demands of the ESL program, the seminary hired an additional instructor, Mrs. Caroline Purcell, this past academic year. Mrs. Purcell comes to us from the English Language Institute in Columbia, Maryland. She has found her first year “very rewarding,” as the students are, “motivated, focused, and bring wonderful insight” into their theological work. Both Ms. Wentling and Mrs. Purcell noted the depths of understanding as well as the dedication that the seminarians have in their studies.

The ESL program at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary focuses on five key areas: 1) Group Instruction, in which the average class size is three to six seminarians, 2) One-on-one tutoring, 3) Peer tutoring, 4) Note-taking (assistance by an English speaking seminarian), and 5) Workshops on topics such as culture and academic work. Helping these seminarians improve their written and spoken English at every level so that they can not only be able to make it through their studies but also use English more effectively in their parish ministry.

With the excellent service provided by Ms. Wentling and Mrs. Purcell and the support of the administration, faculty, and seminarians, those who come here to study will find themselves welcomed and well-prepared to preach the Gospel and to serve the Church as priests.
As men progress in seminary formation, they develop a practical understanding of what it means to be a pastor, including the development of a shepherd's heart. The Pastoral Field Education program provides second theology seminarians an experience to work, to learn and to practice the skills of pastoral care.

For many seminarians, this may be their first opportunity to work as a hospital chaplain, or as part of a nursing home or hospice care team. Some may even work in prisons or mental health institutions. Some are sent to various Catholic Sponsored programs to help people with addictions or to assist the poor. No doubt, this is often times a challenging opportunity! Yet, the challenge helps each man develop compassion and skill to care for God's people.

Seminarians work with different supervisors, all of whom are long time and devoted members of these care providing institutions. Many of the supervisors comment how the men are initially a bit nervous about this experience. But, in the end they benefit tremendously. In imitation of Christ's service and compassion for the poor, broken, and lonely, seminarians continue to develop an awareness of their call, and also a heart to love and suffer with the people they serve.

ARCHBISHOP WUERL GIVES DAY OF RECOLLECTION, MARCH 7-8TH

Peter Sharpe, Third Theology, Diocese of Fargo

Liturgical seasons come and go, and living these seasons appropriately is an important part of priestly formation. The Mount wisely schedules a formal day of reflection in Lent, and this year it was Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington D.C. who graciously came and preached this Lenten retreat. Fr. John Dietrich (S'92), the house spiritual director, introduced the retreat with an admonition to exterior stillness, in order “to be with the Lord.” The men took this to heart and for twenty hours, Grand Silence reigned in the house!

The Archbishop began his talks by saying how glad he was to be with the students, “To step aside ... from all the others things we are engaged in ... to reflect where we are in our spiritual journey ... This is why we have the Lenten season.” With an air of refinement and a clear catechetical manner, the Archbishop spoke on the theme: “Our Encounter with Christ in the Sacraments.” Using Sacramentum Caritatis, the post-synodal address from 2004, he gave three reflections, taking for each a different sacrament and discussing how they can spiritually transform us.

Archbishop Wuerl also shared some practical initiatives, including one recently implemented in Washington. For the last two years, the archdiocese decided that in every parish there would be reconciliation from 6:30-8 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent. People came in large numbers, to the surprise of some, and both priests and people were given a new realization of the beauty of the sacrament.

This sort of encouragement helped the seminarians to realize that steps to renewal are often very simple. The day of reconciliation was truly a chance for strengthened commitment to serving Christ’s faithful.

GOLF AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL!

For those who like to play golf, one of the most coveted experiences is that of playing a round at the famous Augusta National Golf Course, the home of the Master’s Golf Tournament. Viewed as one of the most difficult courses in the world, and known for its pristine beauty, especially in the weeks immediately following the tournament, Augusta National is a great test of golf. As one professional golfer said, commenting on the greens, “It’s like putting on the hood of your car!” On April 25th, Fr. Brett Brannen, Vice Rector, was able to arrange a round with Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, and Bishop Kevin Boland, Bishop of Savannah, as an act of gratitude for their support of the Mount. The Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah send 17 and 7 seminarians respectively to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary! Fr. Brannen commented at the end of the day, after looking at his score, “I don’t think I will quit my day job.” A special thank you to Mr. Bill Gary, member of Augusta National, who hosted the round.
ALL GOOD THINGS...

By Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Doyle, Jr., Fourth Theology, Diocese of Rockford

This has been quite a year. From the fall arrival of fifty new men; to a visit by two hundred vocation directors; to the death of a long-time faculty member; to the installation of another Rector’s Cup championship; to the celebration of another Archbishop; and to a visit by Pope Benedict XVI to the United States: the seminary has seen its share of highlights, both joyful and somber, in the past nine months. Now, the school term draws to a close for the summer hiatus, bringing with it a respite for most of the seminarians and a new beginning for others.

Traditionally, the end of the term is celebrated by the annual Deacon Night celebration. The entire community gathers together as a family for one last night to pray, eat a sumptuous meal, share memories of the past year, roast the deacon class, and express best wishes to the deacons as they leave for ordination and ministry as priests of Jesus Christ.

Fr. J. Daniel Mindling, OFM Cap., Academic Dean of the seminary, presided and preached at the night’s opening event, Solemn Vespers. The deacon class of 2008, he said, is “the most diverse graduating class in the history of the seminary.” They go out to join almost 28,000 priests currently serving in the United States. Suffice it to say, he commented, “You have your work cut out for you.” After the homily, University President Dr. Thomas Powell and Seminary Rector Msgr. Steven Rohlf’s (Peoria, ’76) assisted in handing out Certificates of Completion to eighteen pre-theologians and degrees to thirty-five deacons. Included in their total was Rev. Mr. Collins Anaech (Hartford, ’08), the first Mount recipient of the school’s new Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree (S.T.B).

Following Vespers, everyone proceeded to Patriot Hall for a night of dinner and reminiscing. Around the room, camera flashes could be seen and much laughter was heard. Toasts were given by Dr. Powell, Fr. Robert Zylla, O.S.C., and the class presidents from each level of theology, congratulating (often humorously) the deacons on their graduation and offering prayers for the success of their future ministry. The most memorable toast of the night came from the pre-theologian class, whose serenade and skit brought the crowd to its feet.

Following dinner, the community watched the world premiere of Called to Hope, a 30-minute video produced by filmmaker Richard Mauro and the deacon class to honor the university’s bicentennial year. Rev. Mr. Daniel Ketter (Atlanta, ’08), the class coordinator of the project, said that the video is the class’ gift to the seminary and the Church, with the hope that it would inspire men to think about a vocation to the priesthood and foster hope in the whole Church. Afterwards, a slideshow of the deacons was also shown, put together by the third theologians. Msgr. Rohlfs closed the night with a final benediction.

The seminary has had quite a year. For some, the year passed by too quickly. For others, and for probably not a few deacons, the end could not come fast enough. But, for all, the end of the school year stands as a reminder of the seminary’s purpose: growing closer to Christ and learning to follow his call, wherever it may lead. Whether that entails the road to ordination or the road to other pursuits, the Mount will always remain a home for all those who pass over her threshold. For all of the “sons of the Mount”—those leaving only for a short time or those leaving for good—the road ahead is bright and hopeful, lit by the Light that is Christ and protected by his Blessed Mother, spes nostra.

For more information on obtaining a copy of Called to Hope, visit www.sacredheartfilms.com.

May 6, 2008
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
Parish Center, Baltimore, MD

The Seminary Committee of the University Board of Trustees received a very positive report from Msgr. Steven P. Rohlf’s, S.T.D., Rector. This committee sits in advice to the Seminary Chancellor, Most Rev. Edwin F. O’Brien, Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the Rector of the Seminary.

Present: Most Rev. Edwin F. O’Brien (Chair), Dr. Thomas H. Powell (ex officio), Msgr. Steven P. Rohlf’s (Rector), Mr. Daniel Curtin, Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly, Mr. Thomas G. O’Hara (ex officio), Very Reverend Edward J. Quinlan III, Fr. Gerard C. Francik, Mrs. Sandra McMurtrie and Mrs. Suzanne Nicholson


Other Guests: Fr. Brett A. Brannen, Fr. J. Daniel Mindling, OFM Cap., Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland, Fr. Leo E. Patalinghug and Fr. John J. Dietrich

www.msmary.edu/seminary
NEW ACOlyTES INSTItuTED BY BISHOp TOBIN

Tom Crowe, First Theology, Diocese of Arlington

Twenty-one new Acolytes were instituted on April 11, 2008 by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. The new Acolytes came from ten different dioceses across the nation, with one, Chigoike Ogbuka, hailing from Nigeria (though studying for the Archdiocese of Atlanta.)

In his homily Bishop Tobin instructed the new Acolytes that, as ministers specially appointed to assist with distribution of Holy Communion, they are called to mold themselves more fully according to the Lord’s sacrifice.

Kris Meiergerd (third theology, Wichita) reflected that this further step on the path to priesthood allows him to serve more closely with the priests and deacons at the altar, helping with the sacred vessels. He said "This is a sign of a deepening commitment to our Lord and a real moment that brings ordination to the diaconate closer to being a reality rather than a distant goal."

MINISTRY OF LECTOR INSTaLLaTIoN aT MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY

Kevin A. Williams, First Pre-Theology, Archdiocese of Baltimore

The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Columbus, recently instituted 23 seminarians into the ministry of Lector on April 25, 2008, the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist. The ceremony took place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

Seminarians normally receive the ministry of Lector during the spring of First Theology. Instituted Lectors are appointed to the task of reading the Word of God at Mass. Bishop Campbell challenged the men to grow in their love for the Word of God in order to bring the message of salvation to all God’s people.

The 23 men in the class of First Theology who received this special ministry were: Donald E. Bedore and Joseph M. Hagood, Diocese of Dodge City; Jeremy S. Huser and Daniel J. Duling, Diocese of Wichita; Adam M. Sughroue, Nathanael Z. Block and Michael J. Zimmer, Diocese of Lincoln; Steven D. Borello, Diocese of Peoria; Brandon L. Granger, Diocese of Lafayette; Dawid A. Kwiatkowski and Christopher D. Ortega, Diocese of Savannah; Joshua A. Voitus, Diocese of Charlotte; Brian J. Wayne, Diocese of Harrisburg; Luke P. Suarez, Diocese of Bridgeport; Br. Sean Hurley, F.P.O., Franciscans of the Primitive Observance; Peter J. Rodgers and Robert L. Turner, II, Archdiocese of Hartford; Juan A. Ortega-Ortiz, Archdiocese of Newark; Vincent A. Y. Vodjogbe, Archdiocese of Togo; Stephen R. Murphy, Michael S. Paris and David K. Verghese, Archdiocese of Washington; and Jaime Garcia-Vasquez, Archdiocese of Baltimore.

A light reception was held after the ceremony.
IN MEMORIAM
Msgr. Charles F. Aucoin
Seminary Class of 1947
Archdiocese of Mobile
John Cardinal McCloskey Award – 1997
March 12, 2008
Fr. Richard J. Canty
Seminary Class of 1985
Diocese of Savannah
May 11, 2008
Fr. Michael A. Meighan
Seminary Class of 1963
Archdiocese of Washington
October 25, 2007

May they rest in peace.

MOUNT TO HOLD BICENTENNIAL MARIAN SYMPOSIUM

As part of its Bicentennial Celebration, Mount St. Mary’s University and Seminary will host a Marian Symposium on October 9 - 11, 2008.

The symposium will include nationally-renowned theologians and academics who will address various Marian topics such as Mary in Scripture, Mary in Catholic Doctrine and Spirituality and Marian Teaching of Pope Benedict XVI.

The three day event will also include Marian music and art, and a variety of devotions to the Blessed Virgin.

“From her beginning in 1808, Mount St. Mary’s has borne the name of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, and promoted devotion to her among the people of God,” says the Mount’s Reverend Frederick Miller who organized the symposium. “The Mount and our community are delighted to host the Marian Symposium.”

For more information including the complete schedule, costs and registration form, visit www.mount2008.com/symposium or email marysymposium@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS MOUNTAINEER PRIESTS!

The following seminary alumni are celebrating milestones in their ordination to the holy priesthood. These alumni account for a combined 1,465 years of selfless service to the mission of Holy Mother, the Church.

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Diocese of Scranton

CLASS OF 1948
Fr. Patrick S. Cortese
Diocese of Scranton
Fr. Paul B. Hogarty
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

CLASS OF 1953
Fr. James W. Beeman
Diocese of Harrisburg
Fr. Patrick J. Gillooly
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Fr. Dominick A. Mamarella
Diocese of Harrisburg
Fr. James J. Mulvaney
Archdiocese of Birmingham
Msgr. Ignatius Wadas
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Msgr. Thomas R. Walsh
Diocese of Charlotte

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Diocese of Richmond
Fr. Joseph P. Donovan
Diocese of Tulsa
Fr. William H. Hart
Diocese of Camden
Fr. Alan R. Helwig
Archdiocese of Washington
Fr. Francis J. Ryan
Diocese of Peoria
Fr. Carl J. Steffen
Diocese of Harrisburg

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Diocese of Mobile

CLASS OF 1968
Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley
Bishop of Salina
Fr. Dennis G. Dalessandro
Diocese of Harrisburg
Fr. John M. Dobrosky
Diocese of Trenton
Msgr. Brian G. Donahue
Diocese of Fargo
Fr. Donald W. Dusza
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Fr. Frank G. Erdeljac
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Fr. Kevin P. Gallagher
Diocese of Allentown
Fr. Joseph F. Daniel
Diocese of Camden
Fr. John Herbert
Diocese of Burlington
Fr. Kevin J. Kavanagh
Diocese of Columbus
Fr. John C. Kemper S.S.
Society of St. Sulpice
Fr. Stephen L. Krile
Diocese of Columbus
Fr. John J. Kulavich
Diocese of Scranton
Fr. Patrick H. Lamb
Diocese of Allentown
Fr. Paul D. Lee
Archdiocese of Washington
Fr. Anthony J. Legarski
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Fr. Joseph G. Luisi
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Fr. William E. Sutherland
Diocese of Erie
Msgr. Timothy J. Thorburn
Diocese of Lincoln
Fr. James M. Torpey
Diocese of Allentown
Fr. George R. Winne
Diocese of Allentown

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Msgr. Timothy J. Thorburn
Diocese of Lincoln
Fr. James M. Torpey
Diocese of Allentown
Fr. George R. Winne
Diocese of Allentown
Welcome Mountaineer Priests to The National Alumni Association

Fr. David Alcalde-Morales-Archdiocese of Granada
Fr. Collins Anyanwu-Archdiocese of Hartford
Fr. Kelechi Anyanwu-Archdiocese of Hartford
Fr. Juan Areiza Rios-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Henry Atem-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Michael Barone-Archdiocese of Newark
Fr. Andrew Beauregard-Franciscans of Primitive Observance
Fr. Gary Blake-Diocese of Peoria
Fr. Richard Chenault-Diocese of Birmingham
Fr. Stanley Dailey-Diocese of Columbus
Fr. Neil Dhabliwala-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Thomas Doyle-Diocese of Rockford
Fr. Juan Espósito-García-Archdiocese of Washington
Fr. Ildefonso Fernandez-Figares-Archdiocese of Granada
Fr. James Flanagan-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Saúl Fonseca-Martínez-Diocese of Cajamarca
Fr. Frederick Fraini-Diocese of Worcester
Fr. Marius Fuks-Diocese of Savannah
Fr. John Gow-Diocese of Rockford
Fr. Benedict Grant, Franciscans of Primitive Observance
Fr. Roberto Herrera-Castañeda-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Geoffrey Horton-Diocese of Peoria
Fr. Bryan Jerabek-Diocese of Birmingham
Fr. Ian Jeremiah-Diocese of Bridgeport
Fr. Adam Keiter-Diocese of Wichita
Fr. Daniel Ketter-Archdiocese of Atlanta
Fr. Anthony Killian-Diocese of Arlington
Fr. Kevin Lucas-Diocese of Peoria
Fr. Robert Malagesi-Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Fr. José Mera Vallejos-Diocese of Cajamarca
Fr. John Rapisarda-Archdiocese of Baltimore
Fr. Dustin Schultz-Diocese of Peoria
Fr. William Sylvia-Diocese of Fall River
Fr. Tri Truong-Diocese of Charlotte
Fr. Christopher Vaccaro-Diocese of Arlington
Fr. Slawomir Zimodro-Diocese of Rockford

We Welcome Mountaineer Priests to the National Alumni Association!
FATHER HUGH H. MCGROARTY TO RECEIVE THE CARDINAL MCCLOSKEY AWARD

Father Hugh H. McGroarty, a member of the Diocese of Scranton, will receive the 33rd Annual John Cardinal McCloskey Award from the National Alumni Association at the traditional Priests’ Alumni Reunion on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. The announcement was made by Patrick J. Goles, C’64, National Alumni President. Father McGroarty, a member of the College Class of 1942 and Seminary Class of 1945, has ministered in the diocese for 63 years, serving as pastor for many parishes. Currently, he is a senior priest at St. John the Evangelist Priest in Pittston, Pa. and is the oldest priest in the diocese still in active ministry. His pastor, Msgr. Jack Bendik, a former member of the Mount’s Board of Trustees, relates: “Fr. McGroarty is like the Energizer Bunny. He celebrates Mass on weekdays and weekends, hears confessions and visits patients in the hospital, nursing facilities or their homes. He is a great example to all priests.” With the National Alumni Association, Fr. McGroarty is past president of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Alumni Chapter and past member of the Priests’ Alumni Reunion Committee. He also was a member of the McSweeny Hall Seminary Renovations Committee.

CALENDAR

2008

October

2009

June
22-26  Seminary Alumni Summer Retreat Retreat Master – Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, S’60

For more information, contact Phil McGlade, Director of Seminary Development and Alumni Relations at 301-447-5017 or mcglade@msmary.edu

Visit the www.msmary.edu/seminary