In 1959, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary was sent a blessing that continues to this day. That September, Mrs. Viola Ott came to the Mount to be the seminary’s housekeeper—a small title for a very large responsibility. In 1975, while Viola was still in charge of housekeeping and after the building of Mulcahy hall, Rector Fr. Harry Flynn decided that they needed some extra help. The new hire was Viola’s daughter, Gloria Krietz, who became the junior member of the team. When Viola retired in April of 1986, Gloria stayed on to care for the seminary building and the priests who live here; a job she continues to do with a smile and dedication.

Viola and Gloria live in Thurmont and between the two of them they have served the Mount community for almost sixty years! Both Viola and Gloria have children (six and three, respectively), grandchildren (Viola has eight, and Gloria has two), and Viola has six great-grandchildren. Since they began their service to the seminary, both of them have “adopted” hundreds of sons who have gone on to serve the Church as priests!

Before Gloria came on board, it was only Viola and her sister Virgie. Msgr. Rohlfs, our Rector (Seminary Class of 1975) recalls that “Virgie and Viola did the work of three men.” Their work included not only the seminary but also the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Viola has fond memories of the Mount community. It was here that she met her husband. She made a lot of friends here and has some special memories of those with whom she served. “Archbishop Flynn treated us like family,” she recalled. She also remembers in a special way the house spiritual director: “Whenever Fr. Manochio had time, he would play the accordion for my sister Virgie and me. He was a very kind soul.”

Gloria has the same grateful spirit as her mother and she, too, serves the Mount community with great dedication. With all the cleaning, small repairs, caring for the rooms and laundry of the priests, Gloria “generally makes certain that the inside building is presentable and immaculate,” says Msgr. Rohlfs. “I never have to worry about any task Gloria takes on. It is done on time and superbly.”

Asked what her main challenges are, Gloria says, “Fr. Manochio always called the Seminary ‘The Happy Hotel’, so I guess that is one thing I am trying to do – keep everyone happy!”

Gloria, as her mother did before her, has been very dedicated! We are grateful for all the friends she has made over the years as well. Asked if she has felt the support of the administration and seminarians, Gloria replied, “Yes, especially during the death of my husband six years ago.”

The blessing that began here at the Mount back in 1959 with Viola’s arrival continues with her daughter Gloria. They have been very dedicated! We are grateful to them for keeping everyone happy in “The Happy Hotel.” When asked if she had any other comments about her work at the seminary, Gloria simply replied, “Like mother, like daughter. It has been a pleasure working with all the priests and seminarians for all these years.”

By Deacon John Rapisarda, S’08, Archdiocese of Baltimore

Like Mother, Like Daughter

It has been a pleasure working with all the priests and seminarians for all these years.

—Gloria Krietz

Gloria Krietz and Viola Ott
GRACE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE MEAL

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

The idea is difficult to deny: “fast food” can be harmful to one’s health. Arguably, though, the most harmful aspect about “fast food” is not dietary. Instead, it is the fact that “fast food” is “fast.” It is cooked fast; it is eaten fast. Few people today take time to prepare a menu, shop, cook, and then sit leisurely through a meal, talking with friends and building up bonds of community. By “grabbing a quick bite” too often, many people hazard losing touch with others.

Priests are especially prone to this danger. For, in their constant rush to hospital visits, meetings, and paperwork, many clerics find it quicker and more convenient to satiate their hunger with “fast food” than with a home-cooked meal. But, as a consequence, they miss a great opportunity to create new bonds of fraternity and to strengthen themselves in those bonds. Not only do such priests risk their health on unwholesome food, but they also risk isolating themselves.

This is one of the reasons why the seminary community takes a break in its schedule every week to gather together as a community for a meal. Like clockwork, every Wednesday night following Evening Prayer, the faculty and seminarians proceed to Patriot Hall for what has become known as the Wednesday “Family Dinner.” Now in its second full year, this gathering brings together the entire house to share a common meal and to build up fraternity among the men.

The food, prepared by Dining Services, is served buffet style. A team of seminarians, coordinated by Rev. Mr. John Rapisarda (Baltimore, ’08) helps to set up the dining room and serve the food each week. Seminarians from every formation level are encouraged to sit together, giving everyone a chance to interact in a more informal way than in a classroom. One chair at each table is always saved for a faculty member. After dinner, time is set aside for everyone to catch up on the latest news, share stories or discuss the Faith amongst their tables. Laughter and chatter is a constant. The evening always ends with a series of announcements, which provide the men a chance to let the entire house know of upcoming events and news.

It may be easy to say that Wednesday “Family Dinner” seems forced or inconvenient to men with busy schedules and projects to complete. But any inconvenience pales in comparison to the abundant graces with which God, through this shared meal, blesses the community. The men establish new friendships and build the camaraderie of the seminary. They are strengthened by the community to continue growing in formation. In their midst, a sense of joy appears that comes only from that one, true community of Persons, the Trinity.

ARCHBISHOP DOLAN THE RETREAT MASTER FOR ANNUAL SILENT RETREAT

By John Williams, First Pre-theology, Archdiocese of Washington

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee spent five days with the Mount community as retreat master for the annual silent retreat from January 7th-11th. Selecting as his theme, “A Retreat with St Peter,” the Archbishop’s meditations revolved around Gospel accounts of St Peter and their relation to the spiritual life and the priesthood in particular.

Archbishop Dolan shared his love of the priesthood and the Church in addition to his insights from decades of experience in priestly ministry and formation. As Monsignor Rohlfs remarked, “It is not easy to find someone who is a scholar, a gentle pastor, a good administrator, a good speaker, and a holy man all at the same time. We were blessed during the retreat with a bishop who exhibits all of these traits.”

The seminarians gathered together three times a day for Morning Prayer, Holy Mass, and Evening Prayer. Archbishop Dolan preached at all three gatherings. For the rest of the day, the seminarians spent time in personal prayer and spiritual reading, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, spiritual direction, or enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather by hiking up to the Grotto. Seminarians also had the opportunity to consult with the Archbishop privately.

As is the Mount’s custom, the seminarians returned a week early from Christmas break to make the retreat before the Spring semester classes begin. The fourth theology deacon class were the only class not present. They made a separate, self-directed retreat at Mary Immaculate Center in Northampton, Pa. since it was their canonical retreat for priesthood ordination.

Camaraderie, growth, joy, and the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: these are not graces found on any “fast food” menu nowadays.
SEMINARY IMPROVEMENTS

Patrick Reilley, Second Theology, Diocese of Wichita

Life in the seminary is always different from life in the secular world, and often-times the niceties of life are the things missed most. That change is much less noticeable now that a number of physical improvements have been made to the seminary. Msgr. Steven Rohlf, Rector, after listing some of the recent enhancements, quipped: “A number of alumni who have seen the improvements have remarked ‘Why would any of the seminarians want to leave?’” Although it is indeed difficult for the seminarians to leave the Mount at the end of fourth theology, a zealous desire for a life of penance and mortification compels them to leave the comfort of the seminary for the drudgeries of parish life!

Among the recent improvements to the seminary (that Mount seminarians forsake for the Kingdom) are, in the recreation room, new chairs, new carpet, a very large flat-screen TV and sound system; and on the patio, two chimaneas (chimney like containers for burning wood; the men love to sit out on the patio on cold nights, smoke a cigar and relax), a brand new grill and patio furniture.

Aside from the niceties, there are also practical improvements to the seminary. The improvements were “things that had been put off for a while and needed to be done”, said Msgr. Rohlf. These improvements include new carpet in the nave and choir of the chapel, a beautiful new tabernacle and a modern sound system. These things have made the greatly loved St. Bernard’s Chapel even more attractive and usable. In addition to the improvements already made, new pews are to be installed over spring break. These pews have been specially designed for the seminary chapel, complete with a shelf to place the open breviary during Evening Prayer!

Other improvements to the seminary that are currently underway include a new library and a deacon practice chapel in Keating Hall. The library will be dedicated to Irma Potter, a seminary benefactor and grandmother of Msgr. Rohlf, and the late Sr. Joan Gormley. “Sr. Joan always thought there should be a library in the seminary, and thanks to a special bequest from her we are able to renovate a room for the new library,” Msgr. Rohlf said. The deacon practice chapel, to be located in the current Keating computer lab, is planned for over the summer. This chapel will be used for the deacons to practice celebrating the sacraments and to practice preaching homilies. It will be equipped with video equipment for later review and critique. The practice chapel will also provide a place for resident and visiting priests to celebrate private Masses.

Although it will be difficult to leave Mount St. Mary’s Seminary after experiencing and enjoying all of these new improvements, current seminarians will have the comfort of knowing that future seminarians will benefit for years to come.

On January 22, 2008, Mount Seminarians joined over 100,000 pro-lifers at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. This date marked thirty-five years since the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, which stated that abortion is a constitutional right; thus states could not restrict its availability. Participants in the March prayed and marched for the rights of the pre-born, in hopes that Roe will be overturned.
Mount 2008 Prayer: God our Father, your love for us is so great that you sent your Son into the world, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to save us from sin and death so that we might become holy. Fill us with Your grace, which we obtain through Your Holy Sacraments, where we find love and mercy. Allow us to encounter Your Son, to Seek the Face of Christ, especially in the Most Holy Eucharist, so that we might become like Him, and truly live as children of God. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FR. MALAGESI’S ORDINATION
By Peter Sharpe, Third theology, Diocese of Fargo

On Saturday November 3, 2007 the Seminary celebrated a rare “at-home” priestly ordination. The Archbishop of Baltimore, the Most Rev. Edwin O’Brien, raised Br. Robert Malagesi, M.SS.CC to the presbyteral order at a ceremony in Immaculate Conception Chapel. Fr. Malagesi, a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, will finish up his fourth year studies, while continuing to reside in nearby Fairfield PA. with the other priests and brothers in his community. Doing double duty as student and priest is both “rewarding and busy,” Fr. Malagesi remarked. The timing of the early ordination worked out perfectly, since he was able to immediately step in and help in place of a sick priest in his community.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts were founded by Blessed Gaetano Errico in Naples Italy in 1836, with the purpose of preaching parish missions and giving spiritual direction. Although a late vocation, Fr. Malagesi said, “I was attracted to that charism, and the idea of God the Father working through Jesus and Mary united together.” The Missionaries have had a religious house in Fairfield since 1993, and for many years Fr. Michael Messaro M.SS. CC. has served as an external spiritual director and confessor for Mount seminarians. The order also has houses around the world, including Argentina. Before entering the Missionaries, Father Malagesi worked in Philadelphia as a paralegal from 1988 to 2002. He has two grown children, ages 22 and 25, who were present at the ordination.

The seminary community was pleased to be present at this occasion, since priestly ordinations normally occur in the home diocese. The Mount celebration was highlighted by the fact that Archbishop O’Brien also ordained Baltimore seminarian Michael Barone to the transitional diaconate during the same ceremony.
First Theology Pastoral Field Education Program

OUT IN THE FIELDS EDUCATING!

By Fr. Leo E. Patalinghug STL

Some may wonder if priests have a chance to “practice” the pastoral skills before ordination? As a way to develop these pastoral skills, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary institutes the Pastoral Field Education Program (PFE). This program is an essential part of the “Four Pillars” of priestly formation. The PFE is tailored specifically for the different theological levels for seminarians (i.e., Pre Theologians, or I-IV Theologians), and to some degree, tailored specifically for the man’s pastoral developmental needs.

While Pre-Theology Seminarians have the option of taking on a PFE assignment (usually in the area of social justice or service to the poor) the First Year Theologians officially begin this practical and pastoral process. In subsequent newsletters, I will describe the PFE assignments for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year theologians.

The First Theology PFE year introduces seminarians to religious education and sacramental preparation for various Parochial Schools or Parish Religious Education Programs. After one or two years of pre-theology and intense philosophical studies, these men are eager to get out in the field and to educate the flock.

Seminarians are assigned to supervisors within 4 local dioceses, all of whom are principals or directors of religious education programs. Seminarians are given the background to create age appropriate lesson plans, collaborate with the other teachers, and present their lessons to children. For many, this is their first experience teaching or working so closely with children. To help the man develop this skill, each seminarian goes through an ongoing and final evaluation process. Close supervision helps each seminarian develop the skills of teaching the faith, especially to the younger parishioner.

In his Pastoral Field Education program, the First Theologians literally go out into the field in order to educate – an important quality to future priests.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT AT THE SEMINARY

The Seminary Rec Room was decorated with the purple, green and gold Mardi Gras colors and 175 seminarians, faculty and staff were ready for dinner. On the menu, straight from Cajun country: alligator hors d’oeuvres, chicken and sausage gumbo, red beans and rice, corn bread dressing and king cake. The crowd was not disappointed. For the past several years, this festive dinner has become one of the most popular events for the Seminary community as a preparation for the holy season of Lent. The chefs for the Fat Tuesday dinner held on February 5th were Brad Guillory (Third Theology), Clinton Sensat (Third Theology), and Brandon Granger (First Theology) from the Diocese of Lafayette, LA. They were assisted by the Seminarian Social Committee.

Fr. Brett Brannen, Vice Rector, (whose mother, Sylvia, is originally from New Orleans, offers the Invocation, at the dinner.
SEMINARY FAMILY WEEKEND

The Annual Seminary Family Weekend was held on campus, October 19-21, 2007. Once again it proved to be a great success. One-hundred twenty family members, from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Florida, traveled to the Mount to attend the events. Also, 19 of the seminary’s 32 sending dioceses were represented. The purpose of the weekend is to provide family members with the opportunity to learn more about a seminarian’s journey in preparation for the priesthood. Faculty presentations focused on the academic program, spiritual life, human formation, pastoral field education and seminary life.

Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, S.T.D., Rector, has announced that the dates for the next weekend will be October 24-26, 2008. The Seminary has reserved 25 rooms at the Sleep Inn-Emmitsburg (301-447-0044). When making reservations, family members should mention they are with the Seminary. For more information, please contact Phil McGlade (301-447-5017 or mcglade@msmary.edu).

Rev. Mr. John Rapisarda, of Bel Air, Md., has received the annual scholarship from the B. Larry and Catherine Jenkins Family Trust. The trust was established for the benefit of seminarian education with the Catholic Family Association in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Deacon Rapisarda, a member of the Fourth Theology Class of 2008, is a graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and John Carroll High School in Bel Air. His archdiocesan assignments have included service at St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, St. Joseph’s Parish, Fullerton, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Essex and St. Margaret’s Parish, Bel Air. Deacon John is the son of Deacon Greg Rapisarda of Bel Air and the late Carol Rapisarda.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ANNUAL FUND CHAIRMAN

Each year, tuition covers only a part of a seminarian’s education. In order to continue a tradition of excellence in priestly formation, our venerable Seminary will continue to need the important financial support of our alumni parents and friends. The goal for the 2007-2008 Seminary Annual Fund is $300,000. I am happy to report that as of February 1, 2008, the total dollars generated reached the $200,000 mark. While ambitious, the goal is in sight.

The Mount’s fiscal year ends on June 30, 2008. I ask that you please participate in the effort. During the Bicentennial celebration, you can make a difference! All gifts, no matter what the amount, are important. Msgr. Steven Rohlfs, Rector, the seminarians and faculty truly appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of all benefactors.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Robert T. Finlan, S’94
Diocese of Allentown
Chairman, Seminary Annual Fund

JENKINS FAMILY TRUST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Rev. Mr. John Rapisarda, of Bel Air, Md., has received the annual scholarship from the B. Larry and Catherine Jenkins Family Trust. The trust was established for the benefit of seminarian education with the Catholic Family Association in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Deacon Rapisarda, a member of the Fourth Theology Class of 2008, is a graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and John Carroll High School in Bel Air. His archdiocesan assignments have included service at St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, St. Joseph’s Parish, Fullerton, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Essex and St. Margaret’s Parish, Bel Air. Deacon John is the son of Deacon Greg Rapisarda of Bel Air and the late Carol Rapisarda.
FACULTY NEWS

SEMINARY FACULTY HONORED

Dr. Carol L. Houghton and Father Lawrence J. McNeil, both from the Diocese of Harrisburg, were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and conferred the papal honor as a Monsignor on Benedict XVI and conferred the Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Diocese of Lincoln, was named as Msgr. Joseph Nemec, S’84 in Kodiak, Alaska. His previous duty station was Chaplain in the U.S. Coast Archdiocese of Hartford, is a Fr. Lee W. Hellwig, S’86 travel to Vietnam. VA. During this period he will remaining as pastor of St. Philip Parish in Falls Church, three month sabbatical, while Diocese of Arlington, is on a Fr. Kevin B. Walsh, S’92 serving as Vice-Chancellor for Msgr. emeh, Jcl, S’02 Class Notes

Fr. Martins Emeh, JCL, S’02, is serving as Vice-Chancellor for the Diocese of Rockford.

Fr. Kevin B. Walsh, S’92, Diocese of Arlington, is on a three month sabbatical, while remaining as pastor of St. Philip Parish in Falls Church, VA. During this period he will travel to Vietnam.

Fr. Lee W. Hellwig, S’86, Archdiocese of Hartford, is a Chaplain in the U.S. Coast Guard serving in San Diego. His previous duty station was in Kodiak, Alaska.

Msgr. Joseph Nemec, S’84, Diocese of Lincoln, was named as Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and conferred the papal honor as a Monsignor on December 16, 2007.

Msgr. David Hintz, S’86, Diocese of Lincoln, was named as Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and conferred the papal honor as a Monsignor on December 16, 2007.

Msgr. Stuart Swetland, Director of the Seminary’s Pre-Theology and Homiletics Programs, has been appointed as the University’s Vice President for Catholic Identity and Mission by President Thomas H. Powell. In this new position, he will also serve as Director of the Mount’s Callings Program and Interim Chaplain. Msgr. Swetland was ordained from the Seminary in 1991 for the Diocese of Peoria and has been on the faculty since 2005. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and received master’s degrees from New College, Oxford University, and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. Msgr. Swetland earned his S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees from Catholic University.

Msgr. Charles Aucoin, S’47, Archdiocese of Mobile, celebrated the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination on June 7, 2007. He currently resides in Metairie, LA

Fr. Howard T. Clark, S’57, while serving as Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Wilmington, was asked in 1962 to build a new Catholic high school. In January, 2008, St. Mark’s High School celebrated its 40th anniversary, and Fr. Clark was there for the festivities. Fr. Clark notes that the late Fr. James Delaney, C’57, longtime and beloved Mount faculty member, served as St. Mark’s first principal.

Fr. Ned Blick, S’92, Diocese of Wichita, will be reporting for duty to serve as an U.S. Army Chaplain. The location of his service has not yet been determined, but is believed to most likely be Iraq.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Andrew J. Krusinski College Class of 1942 Seminary Class of 1945 Diocese of Scranton February 22, 2008

Fr. Joseph Bonner College Class of 1949 Seminary Class of 1953 Diocese of Scranton July 23, 2007

Fr. William Eelman College Class of 1949 Seminary Class of 1953 Diocese of Trenton November 29, 2007


Fr. Philip Luther Seminary Class of 1987 Diocese of Lincoln January 9, 2008

May they rest in peace.
Cardinal Keeler to Preside
2008 Alumni Reunion Homecoming Mass

Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, Rector, has announced that His Eminence Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore and former Chancellor of the Seminary, will be the main celebrant of the traditional Homecoming Mass at the Priests’ Alumni Reunion on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. Other highlights will include the presentation of the 33rd Annual John Cardinal McCloskey Award at the Reunion Dinner and Mass at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Alumni will be able to extend their visit and attend the Marian Symposium, October 9-11, as part of the Bicentennial celebration. A block of rooms for the Reunion has been reserved at the Sleep Inn-Emmitsburg, located off US #15, a mile north of the Mount. For reservations, and a special Mount rate, call 301-447-0044 and be sure to mention the Priests’ Reunion.

Calendar

SAVE THE DATE!

2008

June
9-13  Seminary Alumni Retreat—Retreat Master: Fr. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B.,

October
8-9  Priests’ Alumni Reunion—Homecoming Mass
Celebrant: Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore

9-11  Marian Symposium

11  Bicentennial Gala—Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg, Pa.

2009

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

12  Bicentennial Closing Mass—Celebrant: Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

24-26  Bicentennial Family Weekend

For more information on any of these events, contact Phil McGlade, director of seminary development and alumni relations (301-447-5017 or mcglade@msmary.edu).

Seminary Alumni Retreat Set for June
The annual Seminary Alumni Summer Retreat will be held at the Mount June 9-13, 2008. Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., will be the Retreat Master. Father Acklin served as Rector of St. Vincent’s Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. for 12 years. He is also the author of The Unchanging Heart of the Priesthood, a book which focuses on the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood.

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