Thanksgiving break was to begin after the final class on November 22. Seminarians Stash Dailey (Diocese of Columbus) and Dariusz Zurek (Diocese of Savannah) were ready to go, and after Canon Law class planned to depart for Stash’s home near Columbus, Ohio. Before leaving, Dariusz stopped by his Formation Advisor’s office to offer Thanksgiving wishes. While loading their vehicle, both Dariusz and Stash received a blessing from Fr. Ray Harris for safe travel.

Later that evening, while driving in wintry conditions on I-70 west of Pittsburgh, they were in a minor fender-bender. The other driver was a college-age woman who was also going home for Thanksgiving. She remained in her car while Stash and Dariusz inspected the damage. Then, tragedy struck.

An 18-wheeler suddenly jackknifed and came sliding directly towards them. Stash and Dariusz were thrown over the guardrail into the ravine below, with the truck going into the ravine as well.

Dariusz Zurek, our beloved brother in Christ and classmate in Second Theology, died after suffering blunt trauma to the head and chest. Stash was seriously injured. Thankfully, both the truck driver and the young woman in the other car were released from the hospital and are doing fine.

Dariusz came to the United States from Poland in 2002, along with his good friend Mariusz Fuks, to enroll as seminarians for the Diocese of Savannah. Bishop Kevin Boland sent them both to Mount St. Mary’s to begin formation for the priesthood in the fall of 2003. Dariusz had been on his cell phone speaking to Mariusz about the fender-bender when the 18-wheeler struck.

In Poland, Dariusz grew up in the village of Zawoja, which is very close to Pope John Paul II’s hometown of Wadowice. He had a younger brother, Slawek, who works in England and is engaged to be married. His father is a coal miner and his mother is a homemaker. Dariusz was raised in an environment of simple and deep faith, learning to pray from his parents, and supported in his faith and vocation in the very Catholic atmosphere of his village and his country.

Father Brett Brannen, Seminary Vice Rector and a priest of Savannah, traveled to Poland on November 28, along with Mariusz Fuks, to be with Dariusz’s family and help prepare for the arrival of the body and the funeral. Two other priests from Savannah also traveled to comfort the family and assist at the funeral, Father Tim McGowen, vocation director; and Father Adam Kasela, a Polish priest in Savannah who had recruited both Dariusz and Mariusz.

Three Savannah seminarians studying in Rome also flew in. Fr. Brannen described the time in Poland as extraordinary. Normally it takes three to four weeks to return a body to a foreign country after a death such as Dariusz’s, yet thanks to a great deal of prayer rising up from virtually around the world, and daily pleading with the authorities involved in the transferal process, Dariusz’s body was returned to Poland in only two weeks. In the meantime, the presence of Fr. Brannen and others from Savannah was a consolation to the family.

Normally, the family would have continued on page 3.
SEMINARIANS TRAVEL TO 33RD ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Bryan W. Jerabek, Second Theology, Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

On January 23, about 150 seminarians from Mount St. Mary’s Seminary traveled to participate in the 33rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The day began with a Youth Rally and Mass at Washington’s MCI Center. A record crowd of more than 22,000 exuberant youth and their parents, teachers and chaperones were in attendance, along with seminarians from the Mount and other seminaries around the country.

More than 100 concelebrating priests assisted, including Msgr. Steven Rohlfs, Rector, and several others from the Mount. In addition, several bishops were in attendance, including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, former Rector of the Mount, as well as three American Cardinals. Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., celebrated the Mass.

After the Rally and Mass, the seminarians joined more than 100,000 other marchers in the walk from the National Mall to the Supreme Court. It was a cold and gray day with rain showers in the morning, but providentially, all rain ceased for the entire duration of the March. The March for Life trip and other seminary pro-life activities are coordinated by the Seminarians for Life Club, led by Brian Lorei.

The Rector’s Cup was held October 22-23, 2005, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. Seminary teams from St. Joseph’s, Dunwoodie-New York; Immaculate Conception, Seton Hall, N.J; St. Charles Borromeo and Mount St. Mary’s competed in the 9th Annual soccer tournament—which was started to provide an opportunity for fellowship, sportsmanship, and fraternity among seminarians from the seminaries.

Mount St. Mary’s opened the tournament by defeating St. Charles Borromeo 2-1 in a rain soaked game. St. Charles scored in the first 10 minutes of the opening half, but the Mount responded with two second half goals. Jim Schuster, S’09, tied the game with a penalty kick and Jason Weber, S’10 scored the go-ahead goal on an assist by Jon-Daniel Schnobrich, S’07. It marked as the first time the Mount defeated had St. Charles in the past five years.

Immaculate Conception defeated St. Joseph’s in their afternoon game—setting up a rematch of last year’s semifinal with the Mount. Ildelphonso Fernandez, S’06 scored the first goal for the Mount midway through the first half. As Immaculate Conception fought to tie the score, Deacon Gregory Stowe, F’06 put the Mount up 4-0 with a goal assisted by Jason Weber. With the clock ticking down, Jason put in an insurance goal in the last few minutes of the game.

The team played with only 15 players and had several “ironmen” play every minute, including Timothy Naples, Jon-Daniel Schnobrich, Jim Schuster, Ildelphonso Fernandez, Deacon Lee Jirovsky, Deacon Joe Crowley, and Dariusz Zurek. The Seminary Soccer team is extremely grateful to St. Charles Borromeo for their hospitality and congratulates all the teams on a well-played tournament.

In presenting the trophy to Msgr. Stevens Rohlis, Deacon Greg Stowe highlighted the great play of goalkeeper Tim Naples, Ildelphonso Fernandez (nicknamed “Spanish” from the movie Gladiator, as he was a big star and hails from Granada, Spain), Jim Shuster, and Jon-Daniel Schnobrich. Several players were deserving of the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, awarded to Dariusz Zurek. Dariusz was an anchor for the defense, played every minute of the game, never missed a practice, and always held a positive attitude.

As a teammate and friend, he is sorely missed.

SEMINARIANS BRING HOME THE RECTOR’S CUP!

By Deacon Gregory Stowe, Fourth Theology, Diocese of Providence

The Rector’s Cup was held October 22-23, 2005, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. Seminary teams from St. Joseph’s, Dunwoodie-New York; Immaculate Conception, Seton Hall, N.J; St. Charles Borromeo and Mount St. Mary’s competed in the 9th Annual soccer tournament—which was started to provide an opportunity for fellowship, sportsmanship, and fraternity among seminarians from the seminaries.

Mount St. Mary’s opened the tournament by defeating St. Charles Borromeo 2-1 in a rain soaked game. St. Charles scored in the first 10 minutes of the opening half, but the Mount responded with two second half goals. Jim Schuster, S’09, tied the game with a penalty kick and Jason Weber, S’10 scored the go-ahead goal on an assist by Jon-Daniel Schnobrich, S’07. It marked as the first time the Mount defeated had St. Charles in the past five years.

Immaculate Conception defeated St. Joseph’s in their afternoon game—setting up a rematch of last year’s semifinal with the Mount. Ildelphonso Fernandez, S’06 scored the first goal for the Mount midway through the first half. As Immaculate Conception fought to tie the score, Deacon Gregory Stowe, F’06 put the Mount up 4-0 with a goal assisted by Jason Weber. With the clock ticking down, Jason put in an insurance goal in the last few minutes of the game.

The team played with only 15 players and had several “ironmen” play every minute, including Timothy Naples, Jon-Daniel Schnobrich, Jim Schuster, Ildelphonso Fernandez, Deacon Lee Jirovsky, Deacon Joe Crowley, and Dariusz Zurek. The Seminary Soccer team is extremely grateful to St. Charles Borromeo for their hospitality and congratulates all the teams on a well-played tournament.

In presenting the trophy to Msgr. Stevens Rohlis, Deacon Greg Stowe highlighted the great play of goalkeeper Tim Naples, Ildelphonso Fernandez (nicknamed “Spanish” from the movie Gladiator, as he was a big star and hails from Granada, Spain), Jim Shuster, and Jon-Daniel Schnobrich. Several players were deserving of the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, awarded to Dariusz Zurek. Dariusz was an anchor for the defense, played every minute of the game, never missed a practice, and always held a positive attitude.

As a teammate and friend, he is sorely missed.
TO THE HOLY LAND
By Rev. Mr. John L. Lavorgna, Fourth Theology, Archdiocese of Hartford

Through the grace of God, the generosity of others, and the enthusiastic support of a Mount alumnus and the Rector, four members of the class of 2006 were offered an incredible opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November 17-28, 2005. Deacons Lee Jirovsky, John Lavorgna, Dennis Schuelkens, and Jamie Workman were selected by Rector Msgr. Steven Rohills to join a group largely composed of parishioners from Saint Veronica’s Church in the Diocese of Arlington, Va.

They accompanied and assisted Father Christopher Buckner, S.B.O., who is in residence at the parish and is a veteran of leading such excursions, as well as an expert of the religious history and modern political realities of the Holy Land. The graces of being present at the sites where the mysteries of our faith actually occurred proved to be a tremendous source of grace and prayer that will remain with them through the years ahead.

“Pilgrimage is the right word to use to describe those days, since prayer was the essential element of the experience,” noted Deacon Workman. “We took a two-mile procession of the casket through the town to the parish church with more than 20 priests concelebrating, including our own pastor, Deacon Dennis Schuelkens, Deacon Jamie Workman, Deacon John Lavorgna, the local pastor, Deacon Lee Jirovsky, and Father Chris Buckner.

All the deacons agreed that some of the most profound moments came as they served at these privileged altars, often at or near the sites of the most sacred events of salvation history such as the Transfiguration, the Last Supper, and the Resurrection. Such a gift will certainly bear fruit in ministry.

The Church of the Nativity was processed to the cemetery. The city of Taybeh outside Jerusalem with the local Catholic parish. At the Church of the Nativity, we all reexperienced the place of the birth of our Savior and prayed the third joyful mystery together. Then, one of our number spontaneously began to sing “O Holy Night.” I felt I was right there with Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.”

The group spent seven nights in Jerusalem and was able to visit many famous holy sites, including the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Jordan River, and the stations of the Via Crucis. The trip also included three nights in the northern city of Nazareth, the site of the Annunciation of Our Lord. “The mystery of the Incarnation came about in history at that very spot; at the Basilica there is a sign in Latin that reads: ‘And the Word Was Made Flesh … Here,’” explained Deacon Schuelkens. “The love of God was poured out and made manifest in the Blessed Virgin right there, in the ordinary town of Nazareth.”

All of us also experienced the most profound moments as we served at these privileged altars, often at or near the sites of the most sacred events of salvation history such as the Transfiguration, the Last Supper, and the Resurrection. Such a gift will certainly bear fruit in ministry.

The procession arrived at the church with more than 20 priests concelebrating, including Lavorgna’s childhood pastor, who returned from missionary work in the Czech Republic to assist at the funeral. There were at least 30 altar boys, and more than 500 people gathered for the funeral in the village parish. At the funeral, Fr. Kostka read letters of condolences from Bishop Boland and Seminary Rector Msgr. Steven Rohills. Following the funeral, the casket was processed to the cemetery.

Stash Daudy, the surviving seminarian, sustained very serious injuries and spent the remainder of last semester recovering. Doctors consider it a miracle he survived, in light of the fact that he had injuries similar to Dariusz’s. Indeed, throughout his initial hospitalization, the nurses and doctors noted many seemingly miraculous healings of broken bones and other maladies. Although Stash has a long road of recovery ahead, he was able to return to the seminary this semester.

When news of Dariusz’s death reached the seminary November 23, word spread quickly as phone calls were made and emails sent to seminarians off visiting friends and family during the break. Immediately, those who had remained at the seminary offered prayers and all of the daily Masses were said for Dariusz’s beloved brother and classmate. When news of Dariusz’s death reached the seminary November 23, word spread quickly as phone calls were made and emails sent to seminarians off visiting friends and family during the break. Immediately, those who had remained at the seminary offered prayers and all of the daily Masses were said for Dariusz’s beloved brother and classmate. The funeral was held on December 3. It was a very emotional moment, family and friends waited outside in the snow holding candles as the casket was carried into the house. The next day, a Sunday, the funeral was held at the village parish. The two-mile procession of the casket through the town to the parish church was accompanied by many family members, friends, and townpeople gathered. Dariusz had been a very gifted and popular youth minister, and about 200 young people came to pay their last respects, including the抓取的区域。
I am very happy to report that we are making wonderful progress in the effort to reach our goal of $300,000 for the 2005-2006 Seminary Annual Fund. At the beginning of this month, we hit the $200,000 mark. This is exciting news for our community of faith.

To those who have contributed, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to you for your generosity and your commitment to our venerable Seminary.

To those who have not contributed, I ask for your participation. Your gift, no matter what amount, is very important, for the Seminary to continue its tradition of excellence in priestly formation, the hallmark of Mount St. Mary’s education since 1808. You can make a difference!

May the blessings of Our Lord and His Mother Mary, our patroness, be with you and your loved ones throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rev. C. Douglas Kenney, C’95, S’99
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Chairman, Seminary Annual Fund
This is the grandest cathedral on earth because He is here," thundered Burlington’s Bishop Salvatore Matano, pointing at the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament was reposed on February 10 during Mount 2000 and Beyond. Two thousand students and their chaperones filled Knott Arena to worship Our Lord in the Eucharist in spite of threats of snowstorms.

Bishop Matano’s energetic homily fit well with the upbeat tone of the weekend of Eucharistic adoration and praise. He exhorted the gathered youth to, “Put out into the Deep!” He continued, “you are asked to be the disciples who, in 2006, bring the message of Jesus to your family, your friends, to your schools, neighborhoods and workplaces! The adult community sees in you the hope of the future!”

“Your grace is enough,” sang music leader Martin Doman and the gathered throng at the end of Mass. Doman and his band provided rousing praise music throughout the weekend, assisted on electric guitar by Deacon Greg Thompson of Arlington. This was Thompson’s final Mount 2000 as a seminarian, a significant event since his first Mount 2000 retreat—as a chaperone in 2000—was where he first felt a strong pull toward a priestly vocation. “It was a true gift from the Lord to be able to play at the retreat. I hope to be able to come back in the future to help with Confessions.”

Camille DiBlasi, founder and president of Healing the Culture, talked about the love of God manifested in the Eucharist and encouraged the youth to respect themselves. “The success of this conference for young people is that you just light them on fire for Christ. You make (the faith) make sense in their heads so they understand why they’re Catholic.”

Matt Smith, who was voted off MTV’s “Real World” program because of his controversial advocacy of chastity, talked about his experiences in the proverbial belly of the beast. He has put his experiences in the world of pop culture into practice in his websites that promote smart life decisions, www.lifeteen.com, and his new “chastity website for the rest of us,” www.NoMoHo.com.

On Saturday afternoon, small games of football, soccer and basketball broke out on Echo Field, defying the snow that began to fall, portending the coming blizzard. By the end of the storm, “Put out into the deep” had a whole new meaning. All told, 10 inches of snow fell, hampering movement and giving all involved added opportunities for grace and self-denial. God always gives opportunities to grow in holiness.

Chairman Joe Yokum (S’07, Columbus) said this was “One of the largest Mount 2000 retreats that we’ve had; the glitches were few and far between, the overwhelming support of the seminary students, the college volunteers, the administration, the faculty, and the ARCC staff was wonderful, the spirit of the weekend was phenomenal.”
The first opportunity came last November in preparation for the seminary’s celebration of candidacy. Bishop William E. Lori, S’77, Bishop of Bridgeport, CT, shared stories of his time at Mount St. Mary’s, recollections of his friendship with house rector, Msgr. Rohlfs, and reflections on relevant themes that the Church is currently engaged in addressing. “You are entering priestly ministry at a time when we will have to evangelize like true missionaries … the days of the come-and-get-it parish life have come to an end,” he said. Further reflecting on the difficulties that lie ahead of men entering Holy Orders, Bishop Lori mentioned, “Priesthood today is not for the faint of heart … Opening people’s minds and hearts to the Church’s living faith will be challenging enough.” Bishop Lori covered topics ranging from the dangers of ideology to the need for knowledgeable and pastoral apologistics based on Christ’s law of love. To engage in this ministry, the bishop mentioned the necessity of having a “steady, strong, heroic life of prayer,” and a habit of reading and study. He encouraged the men to dedicate themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary and reminded them, “Following a crucified and risen Savior is anything but boring. It is the most challenging, most interesting thing one can do.” Although Bishop Lori spoke for only one day, he offered the men, especially those preparing for candidacy, a profound look into the many challenges facing men discerning the priesthood.

After the Christmas break, the men returned to the annual weeklong retreat. For some, this would be their first weeklong, completely silent retreat. This year, the seminary had the honor of hosting Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, former archabbot of St. Meinrad Archabbey. A priest known for giving thousands of retreats around the world, Archabbot Lambert spent five days sharing the faith and guiding the sems through his daily conferences and private meetings with individuals. The men were treated to a plethora of topics, including the centrality of Christ, the seeming pervasiveness of sin and the power of reconciliation, the beauty of the Eucharist, and prayer. Archabbot Lambert demonstrated a deep love of the saints and a passionate approach to Truth, which was presented in talks both poignant and funny.

Among the many things that seminarians learn and discern during their time in retreat, the importance of a deeply personal relationship with Jesus, fostered in daily prayer, stands out. Both Bishop Lori and Archabbot Lambert spoke specifically to this idea. But, as many men discover in their time of silence and isolation, that relationship is often accompanied with spiritual, mental, and, sometimes, physical hurdles. Still, as Archabbot Lambert pointed out, the struggle takes a lifetime. With that fact in mind to comfort and challenge them, the seminarians emerged from their time away ready to face a new day or a new semester, filled with the trials of the world and the persistent call of Christ to be men holy and acceptable to Him in whichever vocation He calls them.
Bishop Paul S. Coakley, S’83, Diocese of Salina, Kansas, will be the main celebrant of the traditional Homecoming Mass at the Priests’ Alumni Reunion on October 3, 2006.

Bishop Coakley was appointed on October 21, 2004, by the late Pope John Paul II as Bishop of Salina and ordained for the diocese on December 28, 2004. He became the 47th Mountaineer priest to be elevated to the bishopric. Bishop Coakley was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Wichita and served from 1998-2002 as Director of Spiritual Formation in the Mount Seminary.

Other reunion highlights will include the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the McSweeny Hall cornerstone, which took place October 8, 1906; the presentation of the 31st Annual John Cardinal McCloskey Award, sponsored by the National Alumni Association; and Mass at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on Wednesday, October 4.

A block of 25 rooms 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. For more information about reunion activities, contact Phil McGlade, Office of Seminary Development and Alumni Relations (301-447-5017 or mcglade@msmary.edu).
**First Class U.S. Postage PAID Frederick, MD Permit No. 224**

16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
www.msmary.edu/seminary

**IN THIS ISSUE**
- THE PASSING OF SEMINARIAN DARIUSZ ZUREK
- MARCH FOR LIFE
- SEMINARIANS BRING HOME RECTORS CUP
- A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND
- ALUMNI NOTES
- MOUNT 2000
- THEOLOGY ON ON’S KNEES
- REUNION 2006

**Archbishop Harry J. Flynn to be Retreat Master**

Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, STD, S’76, Rector, has announced that Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, S’60, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, will be the Retreat Master for the annual Priests’ Alumni Retreat to be held at the Seminary, June 19-23. Archbishop Flynn served as faculty member, Dean, Vice Rector and Rector from 1965-1979. Ordained for the Diocese of Albany, he also served as Bishop of Lafayette, LA. For more information about the program, please contact George Gelles, Director of Conferences at the Mount (301-447-5330 or ggelles@msmary.edu).

**April**
- 25 Arlington Area Seminary Alumni Luncheon, St. Thomas à Becket Parish Center, Reston, Va.

**May**
- 5 Deacon Night Harrisburg Area Seminary Alumni Luncheon, Diocesan Center
- 9

**June**
- 19-23 Priests’ Retreat—Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, S’60, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis—Retreat Master
- 21 New England Seminary Alumni Fraternal Gathering, St. Thomas Seminary and Archdiocesan Center, Bloomfield, CT

**August**
- 16 New men arrive
- 20 Seminarians arrive
- 23 Classes begin
- 25-27 Weekend of Recollection
- October
- 3-4 Priests’ Alumni Reunion
- 20-22 Inaugural Seminary Family Weekend—More information to follow

**November**
- 17 Candidacy Mass

For additional information, contact the Office of Seminary Development and Alumni Relations (301-447-5017 or mcglade@msmary.edu)

Did you know …
The cornerstone of the Seminary building was laid October 8, 1906. Later, the building was named McSweeny Hall in honor of Fr. Edward F.X. McSweeny, Seminary professor of Moral Theology, Canon Law and Ecclesiastical History, and also author of The Story of the Mountain. A remembrance of the 100th anniversary and this important date in Mount history will take place at the Priests’ Reunion in October.