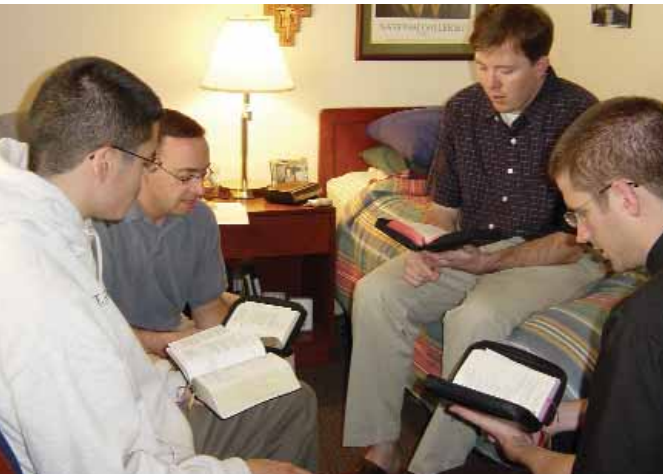




# Mount St. Mary's Seminary

## Jesus Caritas EXPERIENCING FRATERNITY *for the Sake of Jesus and the Gospel*



*By John L. Lavorgna, Second Theology,  
Archdiocese of Hartford*

Mount St. Mary's enjoys a long-held reputation as a house of prayer. It is evident to even the casual visitor that the seminarians are men whose day is centered on personal and communal moments of prayerful communication with the Lord. What may not be as readily noticeable is that dozens of seminarians enhance their formation with enthusiastic participation in the *Jesus Caritas Fraternity*.

*These are groups of approximately four or five seminarians who gather regularly for fellowship, prayer, confidential conversation and mutual support.* These sessions offer a vehicle through which the seminarians can manifest the compassion of Christ to one another, as each man undergoes the normal challenges of seminary life. Those familiar with the program find its benefits, often intangible, to be invaluable.

"Jesus Caritas is an excellent complement to the entirety of the formation process. It offers the seminarian meaningful support and insights that he needs and wants at all levels of his development," explains the Rev. John J. Dietrich, director of spiritual formation, who aids in the initial stages of forming or augmenting groups.

The Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, seminary rector, has participated in a Jesus Caritas fraternity for priests. He describes his experience as one that helps to discover "the ever active presence of Jesus through the sharing of the Gospel and the review of one's apostolic life with brother priests. The common prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and Eucharistic adoration together, as well as the time for fellowship, provide a wonderful opportunity for living the call to priestly fraternity."

The Jesus Caritas fraternity of priests was inspired by the charism of Brother Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916), a French priest who lived in a hermitage among the Tuareg people in the Sahara desert. The Little Brothers and Sisters of Jesus are a religious community that was founded also under the inspiration of Brother Charles. He was shot and killed at the age of 58, but his spirituality lives on in the spiritual family that seeks to imitate the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Jesus Caritas participants at the Mount slightly adapt the model of the Jesus Caritas Priestly Fraternity for use in the seminary. However, its core elements of a call to holiness, mutual spiritual assistance, better service to God and His People, meditation on the Scripture and poverty of spirit remain intact. Former house spiritual director Father Paul Coakley of Wichita, Kan., introduced it at the Mount

*Above, left to right: Anthony Co, third theology, Diocese of Peoria; James Zuccaro, second theology, Diocese of Burlington; Kyle Ingels, third theology, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.; and Deacon Andrew Heiman, third theology, Diocese of Wichita*

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*—the Rev. John J. Dietrich*

# The Military Co-Sponsorship Program

By John R. Johnson, First Theology, Diocese of Savannah



**AN ARMY OF ONE {GOD}** From left to right: Eamonn Walsh, Baltimore; Anthony Catella, Rockford; Tyson Wood, Baltimore; Joshua Laird, Baltimore; Forrest Beigh, Baltimore; Jhun Abila, Baltimore

"Our program has proven to be a creative approach, if but a partial answer, in our efforts to recruit and encourage vocations to the ministerial priesthood for service to our military people. ... We are delighted that currently there are six men in formation at Mount St. Mary's who are part of our cosponsorship program. We pray that they will persevere."

For the past several years, Mount St. Mary's Seminary has been a proud participant in the Military Archdiocesan Co-Sponsorship Program. Founded in 1985, the Co-Sponsorship Program was developed in order to meet the growing pastoral needs of the 1.4 million Catholic men and women to whom the Military Archdiocese ministers. Through the years, the Catholic contingent of our armed forces have benefited greatly from the generosity of priests and religious who have been "borrowed" from civilian dioceses. Nonetheless, a severe shortage of Catholic chaplains has become an increasing issue in recent years. In response to this need, a strong collaborative effort between 27 U.S. civilian dioceses and the Military Archdiocese has been initiated and formalized through the Co-Sponsorship Program.

This program arranges for an eligible man to enter seminary training with the financial support of a participating civilian diocese as well as the Military Archdiocese. Upon ordination, the cosponsored individual is incardinated in the designated civilian diocese, wherein he serves for a period of

three years. This arrangement allows for the newly ordained to gain important pastoral experience. After this period, he is guaranteed the option to serve on active duty for a full military career. Nationwide, 21 cosponsored seminarians have entered the active chaplaincy.

Having served on the battlefield during our nation's present efforts in Iraq, cosponsored seminarian Forest Beigh relates his experience. "We had only one chaplain for the whole task force. His time and energy were spread very thin. For a soldier, periods of open combat are times of great fear and loneliness. Sometimes, the presence of a priest and, especially, the sacraments are the soldier's only comfort. Seeing this need and having felt the call to priesthood, I am thankful that through the Co-Sponsorship Program I was able to leave active duty to enter formation for the priesthood."

Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, vicar general for the Military Archdiocese and adjunct spiritual director at the Mount, is well acquainted both with the spiritual needs of the military's Catholic men and women, and with the way in which the Co-

Sponsorship Program is helping to alleviate the need for more chaplains. "Our program has proven to be a creative approach, if but a partial answer, in our efforts to recruit and encourage vocations to the ministerial priesthood for service to our military people. This program, together with our Discernment Days Program over the past four years, offers much hope for 'new energies and new blood.' We are delighted that currently there are six men in formation at Mount St. Mary's who are part of our cosponsorship program. We pray that they will persevere."

In addressing the bishops of the United States in September of 1987, our Holy Father affirmed the importance of the chaplain's apostolate. He stressed, "The functioning of the extended archdiocese requires the fraternal and sensitive collaboration of all the bishops in permitting and encouraging priests to commit themselves to this worthy ministry." The Co-Sponsorship Program corroborates and gives substance to this spirit of mutual support and concern. The Mount is pleased to be of service in this worthy effort.

# Pastoral Formation *integral* to Seminary Program

By Gregory Stowe, *Second Theology, Diocese of Providence*

The Mount St. Mary's Seminary Pastoral Formation Program has undergone some exciting changes—following the reaccreditation process in 2003. Expanding the supervised ministry and theological reflection group sessions to include a portfolio of written reflections, the Pastoral Formation Program is now accredited for the Masters in Divinity degree.

The Seminary's Director of Field Education, Fr. Sam Lamendola, states: "I am truly proud that the program is now accredited. It is a testament to the work and effort put into the program on behalf of the administration, seminarians, and supervisors."

In collaboration with formation advisors and placement supervisors, seminarians continue to complete a Learning Contract—calling for each seminarian to list pastoral qualities and skills he hopes to strengthen in the course of his yearly placement. Throughout the semester, seminarians have several opportunities to reflect upon their goals in light of their practical experience through monthly entries in the "Growth for Ministry Portfolio." This collection of written reflections serves as "a source of insight for a personal self-assessment, a record of insights derived from supervision, a springboard for discussion with the Director of Field Education, and a tool for ongoing theological reflection," according to Fr. Lamendola

These insights culminate in small group sessions, during which seminarians read articles pertaining to pastoral ministry in an effort to facilitate discussion. Addressing a variety of contemporary ministerial issues, theological reflection offers seminarians the opportunity to share pastoral views and concerns. Over the course of seminary formation, seminarians are involved in teaching, health care ministry, and parish work. These group sessions help build the common foundation for all seminarians in understanding pastoral needs, which is especially helpful as the placements differ in activity and locations.

One supervised ministry involves working with the Missionaries of Charity at the Gift of Peace House, a hospice care facility for AIDS patients in Washington, D.C. Seminarians are fully involved in all aspects of hospice care—including feeding, clothing, and bathing the residents. Truly a challenging placement, many seminarians speak of the profound effect that Gift of Peace has had upon their lives and their formation for priesthood.

Dennis Schuelkens, S'06, found his time at Gift of Peace as a living opportunity to respond to the call of Christ. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25: 35, 40) He remembers some times being very difficult, especially when the residents were very ill and in pain. Understanding and integrating these challenges, Dennis learned the "experience of loving with actions and not just with words."

The Mount continues to strengthen its Pastoral Formation Program in its scope and depth. Combining constructive supervision from placement and formation advisors with insights and accountability on behalf of the seminarians, the pastoral program is preparing seminarians for the ministerial demands of priesthood. This preparation is more crucial than ever, for "the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

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# The Seminary Annual Fund reaches **91%** of highest-ever goal!

**MORE GIFTS NEEDED BY JUNE 30.**

As part of the bicentennial campaign, the seminary has a goal of building the Seminary Annual Fund to \$290,000 by 2009! Seminary Annual Fund contributions go directly to the Seminary operating budget to help meet the everyday expenses of running the Seminary: Building upkeep, supplies, utilities, and state-of-the-art classroom technology.

Seminary alumni, parents and friends are giving generously this year to help meet our goal of \$160,000. But there's still time and "space" to give!

#### **Seminary Friends and Parents.**

If you have not yet given, please consider a gift. Your help is needed to help provide solid priestly formation for the next generation of priests.

#### **Alumni.**

Alumni participation—at 27%—is 2% higher than this time last year! Join with your fellow alumni to reach our goal of 30% participation.

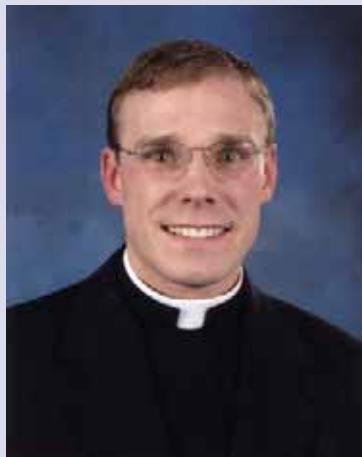
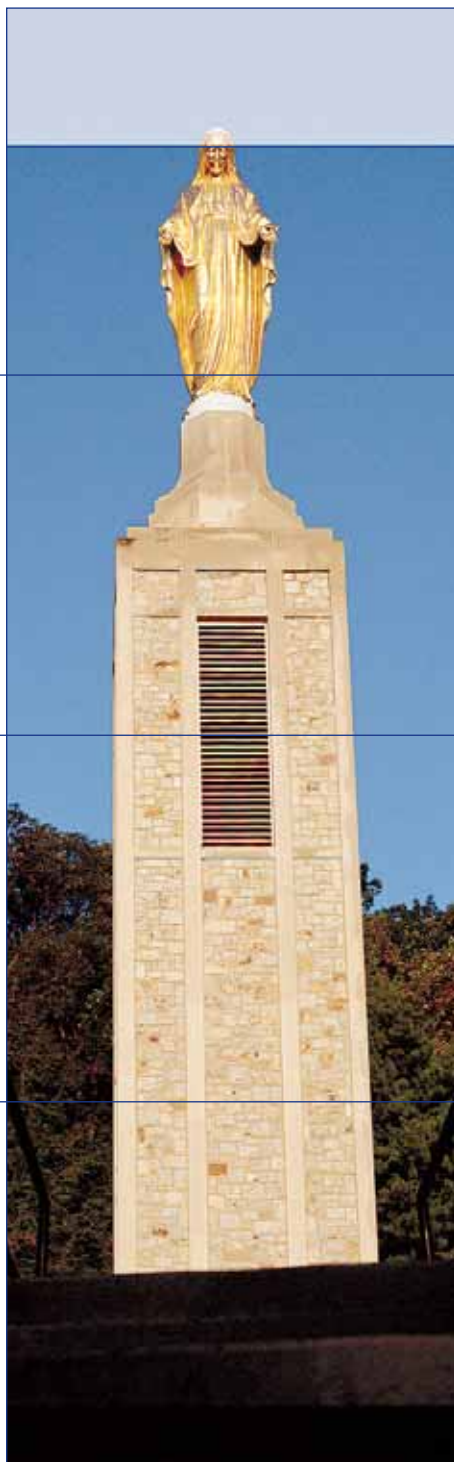
#### **NEW! NOW YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE.**

The Seminary now has online giving. **Visit our website [www.msmary.edu/seminary](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary)**, click on "online giving form" and follow the instructions.

75%

50%

25%



## *Thank you, Deacon White!*

Deacon Daniel E. White, Diocese of Burlington, has served as a writer for the Mount St. Mary's Seminary Newsletter for many years. With gratitude, we extend to him our prayerful best wishes as he leaves the Mount and is ordained to the priesthood.



## TREAT YOURSELF TO A *Summer Retreat*

*Plan now to enjoy a summer retreat at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, nestled in the picturesque foothills trod by saints and patriarchs of the early church in America. Alumni and friends who participate will enjoy comfortable, air-conditioned accommodations, new dining facilities and access to the Mount's recreational amenities. Come and enjoy a breather for body and soul!*

To register, call 301-447-5017 or email [semdev@msmary.edu](mailto:semdev@msmary.edu). For details, visit [www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats)

### *2004 Priest Retreats*

*Registration fee of \$280 per retreat*

#### *June 21-25*

**Monsignor Ralph Beiting**, *Founder of the Christian Appalachian Project*

Together we will grow in holiness as we follow the priesthood of Jesus.

#### *July 12-16*

**The Rev. Denis Donahue, S'90**

"Living a Priestly Life in a Secular World"

### *2004 Lay Retreats*

*Registration fee of \$150 per retreat*

#### *June 11-13*

**The Rev. Peter Giroux**, *Franciscan Friars of the Primitive Observance*

"The Mystery of the Eucharist: Living Out the Mass"

#### *June 18-20*

**Dr. Robert D. Miller II, SFO**, *Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture*

Devotion to the Virgin draws its inspiration from the Bible. How does Mary appear in the Scriptures?

#### *July 9-11*

**The Rev. John J. Lombardi**, *Chaplain of the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes*

"Disciplined Desire: Living God's Virtues in a Stress-Filled World"

*Continued from front page.*

several years ago. Currently 20 percent of the seminarians voluntarily participate, and many alumni have formed groups in their dioceses.

It is a desire shared by third theologian Kyle Ingels of Washington, D.C., who is now in his second year of participation in the fraternity. "Jesus Caritas has been an enriching experience. I have found the support and prayers of the group very helpful in my growth as a seminarian, and I would like to continue my involvement once I leave the seminary and begin my priestly ministry."

One of the most effective aspects of the program at the Mount is that it brings together men of different backgrounds and classes in a genuine support structure, grounded in charity and prayer.

The sentiments of many participants were expressed well by first theologian Ben Holdren of Lincoln, Neb.: "Jesus Caritas has been great for me because I have gotten to know the guys in my group very well. ... It has been nice for me to talk in depth about my experiences and to get their input. More importantly, I know that they pray for me."



"We must read and re-read the holy Gospel in order to have always before our minds the actions, words and thoughts of Jesus so that we may think, speak and act like Jesus."

*-Brother Charles de Foucauld*

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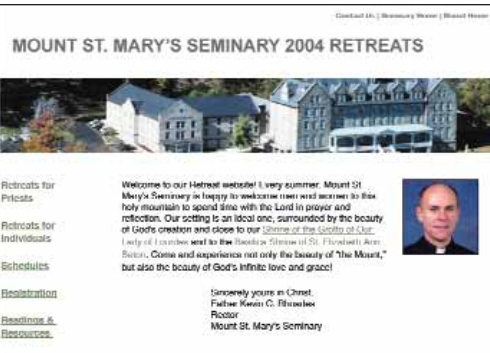
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Integral to Seminary Program

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# Seminary reaches the digital age!

*By Sherry Trocino, Director of Seminary Development*

Over the last few years, several advances in technology have taken place at the seminary.

Since 2000, seminary technology enhancements have included the wiring of all classrooms and residential rooms for computers; building and equipping a computer lab and an "English as a Second Language" computer lab; acquisition of a portable laptop cart with eight laptops available for student use; introduction of a mobile "smartboard;" the first wireless classroom in 2003; and installation and upgrade of a learning management system for interactive use by students and faculty.

Most seminary faculty have switched to laptops for ease in preparation and presentation of lesson plans. This summer, all classrooms will become "wireless," and the first permanent overhead projector and smartboard will be installed.

In February, the Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary e-newsletter *Around the Mount*, was published. Emailed monthly to alumni and friends, *Around the Mount* features campus-wide news, including news of the seminary. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, email [trocino@msmary.edu](mailto:trocino@msmary.edu).

Also in February, both seminary giving and seminary retreats went online! To give online, visit our website [www.msmary.edu/seminary](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary) and click on "online giving." To access Mount St. Mary's Summer Retreats, including retreat topics and dates, a complete reading list with links to selections, biographies of retreat directors, retreat schedules and registration forms, visit [www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats)

*Left, top: The Seminary retreat website, [www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats](http://www.msmary.edu/seminary/retreats)  
Left, bottom: the *Around the Mount* newsletter*

