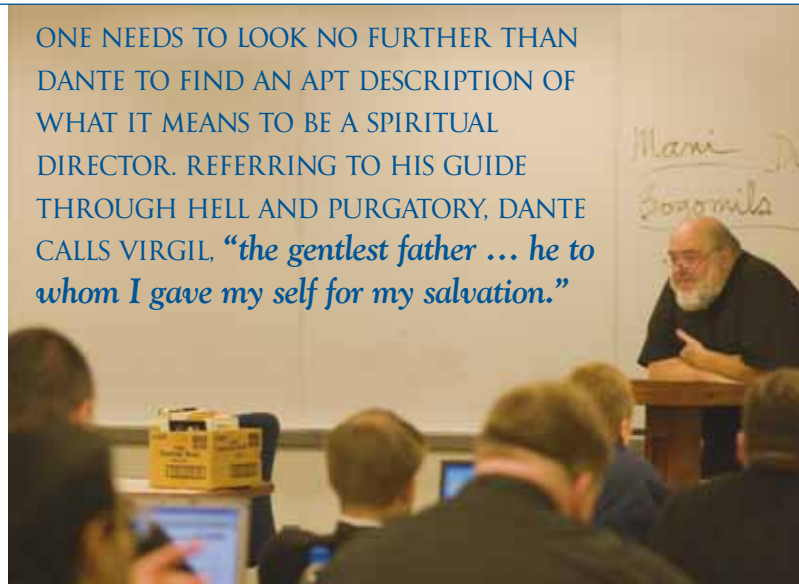


## PRIVILEGED WITNESSES

By Thomas J. Doyle, Jr., *Second Theology, Diocese of Rockford*

ONE NEEDS TO LOOK NO FURTHER THAN DANTE TO FIND AN APT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR. REFERRING TO HIS GUIDE THROUGH HELL AND PURGATORY, DANTE CALLS VIRGIL, “*the gentlest father ... he to whom I gave my self for my salvation.*”



Ask most men in formation and they will agree: conforming oneself to the image and likeness of Christ often feels like a fiery, purgative journey. However, just like Dante, men studying for the priesthood do not endure the trial alone. Walking right next to them is a guide, a spiritual father.

And just like Virgil, too, those dedicated, selfless priests who give of themselves for the sake of another's spiritual good and the Church rarely receive the recognition justly due them. As such, the seminary community, in appreciation for the gentle yet firm guidance given to countless seminarians and lay faithful over the years, would like to dedicate this article to its spiritual directors by offering a glimpse into their particular ministry serving the People of God.

Describing a spiritual director can be an elusive enterprise; not all spiritual directors fit nicely into one standard mold. Some spiritual directors are quiet, others gregarious. Some may only counsel two or three men, while others perhaps upwards of 20 or 30. Still, most priests engaged in offering spiritual direction have certain qualities that attract people to them. They listen. They are devotedly faithful to the Church. They exemplify lives of deep prayer, evidenced by their abundant patience. They are spoken to in confidence; nothing said between a director and directee can be shared outside of the meeting. In many ways, then, meeting with a spiritual director can seem like a personal, one-on-one appointment with Jesus himself.

A seminarian comes to his spiritual director on a regular basis to talk about his spiritual life, to reflect on events happening in his every day life, and to seek advice about questions that he has. The spiritual director, in turn, helps the seminarian to hear better the voice of Christ speaking through those experiences and moments, and offers constant encouragement to trust God deeper and enter more wholeheartedly into a prayerful relationship with Jesus. It is no wonder that many spiritual directors are greatly admired and appreciated by their directees. Spiritual directors, in addition to being commendable examples of holiness themselves, help bring order and meaning to what otherwise may be confusion and banality.

Spiritual directors can do this only through the gift of God's grace. Still, some directors foster their gift by taking classes or reading books that deepen their understanding of spiritual life. Most spiritual directors at the Mount have years of experiences not only giving spiritual direction but also receiving it as well. As one spiritual director put it, a priest learns to exercise the ministry of spiritual direction by first receiving it himself. But, above all, priest-directors grow in their ministry by themselves drawing closer to Christ. Their relationship to God is the wellspring from which they draw the wisdom and guidance they offer to men studying for the priesthood.

*Continued on page 2.*

Above: Fr. Michael Roach, Archdiocese of Baltimore, teaches Church History

Spiritual direction is not simply an other-worldly, utterly transcendent activity, though. Directors often find themselves in complex situations needing quick wit and tact. For example, direction can be difficult when men do not open themselves to formation. In these cases, communication between the spiritual director and directee must be sensitively handled, especially when the director feels it necessary to say something the seminarian may not want to hear. But, on the whole, a relationship of trust develops between the seminarian and the priest. Moments of laughter and sadness, anxiety and joy are shared. The seminarian that allows himself to be fully honest with his spiritual director discovers that he has not only found a sympathetic ear, but a spiritual friend.

Many spiritual directors honestly say that directing seminarians is not only beneficial to the directee, but also to the director. Obviously, the directee truly engaged in spiritual direction gains greatly in the spiritual life. But, spiritual directors also profit in the experience. Fr. John Dietrich, Director of Spiritual Formation for the seminary, sums it up well: “The privilege of witnessing a man’s spiritual growth through his deepening understanding of prayer, and to see that growth result in a genuine conversion of heart” is one of the most rewarding aspects for a spiritual director.

“I will give you shepherds after my own heart:” the promise of Jesus is fulfilled in these humble priests. Through their loving dedication to Jesus and his flock, shown in words and examples molded in the very image of Christ, they form other men in that same image. As they continue to guide sojourners along the path of formation, may God continue to give them the graces they need to help men discerning their vocation reach the end that God desires for them, an end destined to bring them into the heavenly Paradise forever!

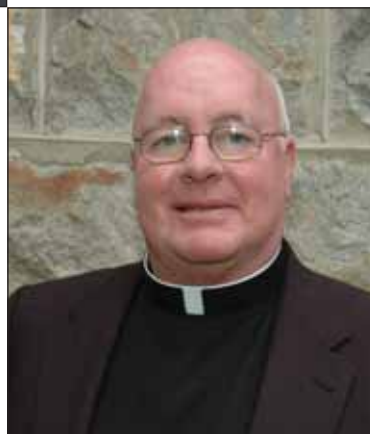
## SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AT MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY

- ✦ **Fr. John Dietrich (S '92)**,  
Director of Spiritual Formation,  
Archdiocese of Hartford
- ✦ **Fr. Gerald Francik**, Archdiocese  
of Baltimore
- ✦ **Fr. Ronald Gillis**, Priest of Opus  
Dei
- ✦ **Fr. Raymond L. Harris, Jr.**,  
Archdiocese of Baltimore
- ✦ **Fr. Rick Hilgartner (C '90)**,  
Archdiocese of Baltimore
- ✦ **Fr. Francis Kelly, FPO**
- ✦ **Fr. Tommy Lane**, Diocese of  
Cloyne, Ireland
- ✦ **Fr. Michael Messaro, MSSCC**
- ✦ **Fr. Frederick Miller**, Archdiocese  
of Newark
- ✦ **Fr. J. Daniel Mindling, OFM  
Cap.**
- ✦ **Fr. Bill Parent**, Archdiocese of  
Washington, D.C.
- ✦ **Fr. Mark Pilon**, Diocese of  
Arlington
- ✦ **Fr. Paul Redmond**, Archdiocese  
of Baltimore
- ✦ **Fr. Michael Roach**, Archdiocese  
of Baltimore
- ✦ **Fr. Peter Ryan, S.J.**
- ✦ **Fr. John Sweeney, FPO**,
- ✦ **Fr. Robert Zylla, OSC**



*“I will give you shepherds after my own heart:”*  
THE PROMISE OF  
JESUS IS FULFILLED  
IN THESE HUMBLE  
PRIESTS.

**Clockwise from top:**  
Fr. John Dietrich (S '92),  
Fr. J. Daniel Mindling, OFM Cap.,  
Fr. Frederick Miller,  
Fr. Rick Hilgartner (C '90)



# AN INTERVIEW WITH FR. DAN MINDLING

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

By Peter J. Sharpe, *First Theology, Diocese of Fargo*

*Editor's Note: Fr. Dan Mindling, academic dean at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary in the Priesthood. Here, Fr. Mindling shares his reflections on his silver anniversary and his time at the Seminary.*

**In the last 25 years as a priest, and 18 here at the Seminary, what would you describe as the most heartening aspects of the current Church situation?**

Looking at the situation here in the United States, I would highlight the tremendous increase in the number of Hispanic Catholics. So many parishes have experienced just how international the Church is. As a country, we have faced the challenge of hospitality not just for newly arriving Hispanics, but for many other language and cultural groups. We are, in many ways, just beginning to appreciate the gift we have been given.

**Do you have an incident that stands out in terms of the unexpected humor of seminary life?**

On my first day as a faculty member, one of the returning students said to me, "Are you new here?" I said "Yes." He said, "Then just don't stand there, help me carry my books upstairs." And I did. As we got up to about the third floor he asked me my name and I told him, "Dan Mindling." He stopped cold and said, "That wouldn't be like Father Mindling, would it?" ... The fellow is now a priest of Trenton.

**As academic dean you deal with the seminarian's intellectual formation. What have been some of your practical goals over the last few years and what do you see as being left to be done?**

Two goals stand out in the last 10 years or so: the development of a two-year pre-theology program, and the development of our English as a Second Language program. We have made significant changes in our Masters program to enable men to complete that degree more expeditiously. We should also have the Pontifical S.T.B. degree option in place very soon. One thing seminarians may not be aware of is that we have also completed a recent re-accreditation of the seminary. In the last few years particularly, we have introduced a great deal of instructional technology. New goals? We will have to adjust to the revised Program for Priestly Formation as well as respond to any suggestions from the Vatican Visitation of our seminary. I look forward to improvements in our Hispanic ministry certificate program and to some exciting things we are doing in homiletics.

**You have been a supporter of having non-native speakers study at the Mount. Why?**

The Church is experiencing the simple reality that many of the people who are called to be priests in the United States speak English as a second language. Dioceses need them to be trained, and the Mount must respond to that need. The Seminary, just like the Church itself, is enriched by the diversity of race, language, and culture. As we train them for priestly ministry in the U.S.,

they help us appreciate both the needs recent immigrants have, and just as importantly, the gifts they bring.

**In your anniversary homily you mentioned you expected to be a missionary. In your opinion, are we being trained at the Mount to be missionaries to today's secular culture?**

Let me put this question a different way, are we being prepared for the new evangelization that Pope John Paul II envisioned? To be qualified for that we need to be able to harness the energy of tradition, to master our rich theological heritage. The second step in evangelization is to know the people to whom you are sent, the culture in which and to which the Gospel is addressed. Men come with a lot of zeal, and I think we are equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need.

**Did you ever think that you would be putting 18 of your 25 years of priesthood into this Seminary?**

It isn't a big surprise. Teaching moral theology goes hand in hand with my religious vocation as a Capuchin. I can

think of no more important teaching position in Church than to be a seminary professor. And I think to teach moral theology in this day and age, especially, is to be part of protecting vulnerable people. You stand up for the rights of the sick, the weak, the unborn, the poor and the oppressed.

**As a teacher, aren't you one step back from the battle lines?**

I am one step back from the parochial battle lines. As a moral theologian, you are on the front line because it is precisely when expertise or professional argument is needed that seminary faculty are called upon. I have worked with both the national conference (pro-life committee) and several state conferences of bishops as well as hospital ethics committees. It is in these contexts that my training comes to bear on actual cases, policies, and laws. Also, every priest we teach here carries the training of the Mount into the pulpit and the confessional.



# SEMINARY CELEBRATES END OF YEAR CEREMONIES

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



Top: Twenty-three deacons received Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degrees, with several also receiving Master's of Arts degrees (right) on May 5 at the celebration of Solemn Vespers and the conferral of degrees



Seminarians, faculty and staff gathered May 5 for the celebration of Solemn Vespers and the conferral of degrees on those completing their seminary formation. Twenty-three deacons received Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degrees, with several also receiving Master's of Arts degrees.

Following the liturgy, the traditional "Deacon Night" celebration followed in the seminary dining room. Jon-Daniel Schnobrich (Third-Theology, Diocese of Burlington) was the master of ceremonies during the light-hearted celebration, reminding those gathered of some of the more memorable events in the history of the Class of 2006. Faculty members and class presidents also offered toasts for the graduating deacons.

Additionally, the Seminary recently welcomed 30 men into the ministry of Lector, and 29 men into the ministry of Acolyte.

Bishop Salvatore Matano, Ordinary of the Diocese of Burlington, instituted 30 men into the ministry of Lector, April 28. In his homily, Bishop Matano instructed the men on the importance of assimilating Holy Scripture and proclaiming it well. Following the Solemn Mass, a light reception was held

in Patriot Hall, at which family members and friends of the new lectors joined the faculty, staff, and other seminarians in marking the important occasion.

Twenty-nine men received the ministry of Acolyte, May 12, with Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, celebrating the Solemn Mass and Institution. During his homily, Archbishop Gregory gave an enlightening explanation of the word “acolyte,” which comes from the Greek word Jesus used to tell the disciples to “follow” Him. Archbishop Gregory explained that an Acolyte must follow Jesus more closely, and draw others to Him as well.

A reception was held after the sacred liturgy, with a sizable crowd of friends, relatives, seminarians, faculty, and staff attending.

#### *Looking ahead to 2007*

- Institution of Lector will be held Friday, April 27, 2007 with Archbishop Myers of the Archdiocese of Newark
- Deacon Night/Graduation will be held Friday, May 4, 2007
- Institution of Acolyte will be held Friday, May 11, 2007 with Bishop Boland of the Diocese of Savannah



Top: Twenty-nine men received the ministry of Acolyte, May 12, with Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Atlanta

Left: Bishop Salvatore Matano, Ordinary of the Diocese of Burlington, instituted 30 men into the ministry of Lector, April 28.

# FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

## CONGRATULATIONS MOUNTAINEER PRIESTS!

The following seminary alumni are celebrating milestones in their ordination to the holy priesthood. These alumni account for a combined 835 years of selfless service to the mission of Holy Mother, the Church.

### *Class of 1946*

**Fr. John N. Caldara** – Diocese of Albany

**Fr. Joseph C. Rusin** – Diocese of Scranton

**Rev. Dr. David W. Shaum** –  
Archdiocese of Baltimore

Class of 1951

**Fr. Martin J. Dennehy** – Diocese of Bridgeport

### *Golden Jubilee Class of 1956*

**Fr. Pierre A. Botton** – Diocese of Bridgeport

**Fr. Thomas E. Boyle** – Diocese of Phoenix

**Fr. Oscar H. Frundt** – Diocese of Wilmington

### *Silver Jubilee Class of 1981*

**Fr. Patrick M. Bittel** – Diocese of Owensboro

**Fr. James M. Byer** – Diocese of Charlotte

**Fr. Neil R. Dadey** – Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

**Msgr. Raymond G. East** –  
Archdiocese of Washington

**Fr. Joseph T. Gomolski** –  
Diocese of Wilmington

**Bishop Michael O. Jackels** –  
Diocese of Wichita

**Fr. Patrick V. Kirsch** – Diocese of San Bernardino

**Fr. Thomas D. McGuire** –  
Diocese of Lincoln

**Fr. Raymond H. Moore** –  
Archdiocese of Washington

**Fr. Joseph N. Muench** – Diocese of Covington

**Fr. Edward J. O'Connor** –  
Diocese of Allentown

**Fr. Charles J. Parry** –  
Archdiocese of Washington

**Fr. Dennis E. Reiff** –  
Archdiocese of Newark

**Fr. Mark A. Rundzio** – Diocese of Manchester

**Fr. Gilbert J. Seitz, Jr.** –  
Archdiocese of Baltimore

**Fr. Francis J. Travis** – Diocese of Charleston

**Fr. Richard J. Vidrine** – Diocese of Lafayette, LA

**Fr. David W. Voors** – Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**Fr. J. Bradley Whistle** – Diocese of Owensboro

**Fr. Edward S. Zemanik** –  
Diocese of Allentown

## FORMER RECTOR RECEIVES CARDINAL McCLOSKEY AWARD

**Msgr. Richard M. McGuinness** was named the recipient of the 31st Annual John Cardinal McCloskey Award, sponsored by the National Alumni Association.

The announcement was made in March by **Patrick J. Goles, C'64**, National Alumni President. The award was presented to Msgr. McGuinness on April 13, Holy Thursday, during a service held at St. Theresa Parish, Kenilworth, NJ. Archbishop John J. Myers, Archdiocese of Newark, and Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, Rector, made the presentation to the former Rector.

Msgr. McGuinness succeeded **Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, S'60**, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as Rector of the Seminary in 1979. During Msgr. McGuinness' years of service, seminarians from 52 dioceses from across the nation studied for the priesthood at the Mount. He served as Rector until 1987. A member of the Archdiocese of Newark, Msgr. McGuinness is currently Director of the Archdiocesan Respect for Life Office and serves as a columnist for *The Catholic Advocate*. He is also the former pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in Linden, NJ.

## TRIBUTE TO MSGR. KENNETH W. ROELTGEN

The Fourth Annual Memorial Vespers and Mass, to honor the late **Msgr. Kenneth W. Roeltgen**, was held April 5, at Saint Stephen Martyr Church in Washington, D.C.

**Msgr. Edward J. Filardi, S'94**, pastor, was the main celebrant. University President Thomas H. Powell, Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, Rector, Fr. Brett A. Brannen, Vice Rector, Fr. J. Wilfred Parent, Executive Director of Catholic Identity and Mission, Philip G. McGlade, Director of Seminary Development and Alumni Relations, 16 seminarians from the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington, and Ms. Margaret Fiore, member of the Rector's Council and Secretary/Treasurer of the Msgr. Kenneth W. Roeltgen Foundation, were in attendance.

A priest from the Archdiocese of Washington, Msgr. Roeltgen served as Rector of the Mount Seminary from 1988-97, and later was pastor at Saint Stephen Martyr and Annunciation Parish until his death on April 7, 2002. The Seminary's Endowed Program in Pastoral Formation is named in his honor and memory.

## FACULTY NOTES

**Sister Joan Gormley**, a member of the Seminary faculty since 1988, has authored a new book titled, *John of Avila: Audi, Filia*, in the “Classics of Western Spirituality” series. Sister Joan is Professor of Sacred Scripture and Homiletics.

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Msgr. William M. Richardson, S’72**, Trustee Emeritus, has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lewistown, Pa. His previous assignment was pastor of St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus Parish in New Cumberland, Pa. Msgr. Richardson is a member of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

**Fr. Kevin A. Mueller, S’91**, has been appointed Administrator of St. John Parish in Westminster, Md. His previous assignment was Director of the O’Dwyer Retreat House in Sparks, Glencoe, Md. Fr. Mueller is a member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

**Fr. Salvatore R. Lamendola, S’90**, has been appointed pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Farmington, Pa, while continuing as the Assistant Chancellor, Assistant Director of the Office of Permanent Diaconate and Director of the Office of Clergy Formation. He is a member of the Diocese of Greensburg. Fr. Sam also served as Director of the Seminary’s Field Education Program.

**Msgr. G. Michael Schlepner, Jr., S’72**, Trustee Emeritus, has been appointed pastor of St. Margaret Parish in Bel Air, Md. His previous assignment was pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Abingdon, Md. Msgr. Schlepner is a member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE, AMEN.

**Fr. James H. Brennan, S.S.** Fr. Brennan, who taught Canon Law in the Seminary from 1971-93, died February 23, 2006, at St. Martin’s Residential Home in Catonsville, Md. A member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and a Sulpician father, he was 100 years old at the time of his death. Fr. Brennan was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1931, and earned a J.C.L. from Gregorianum, Rome, in 1936 and a J.C.D. from Catholic University in 1937. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel in Catonsville.

Faculty member Fr. Michael Roach, related that his former teacher, colleague and friend was a, “devoted priest who taught at least three generations of seminarians on the East and West coasts and was beloved by all.” He added, “Father Brennan’s stress was always on pastoral charity, and he was an eminently wise friend and teacher, who nursed no illusions and loved very deeply his vocation, his students, his Church and his God.”

Msgr. Steven Rohlfs, Rector of the Seminary, and a former student, remembers Fr. Brennan as, “the priest who first taught me to respect the importance of the Church’s marriage law and its firm, but compassionate application in a parish setting.” He continues, “He was a great teacher, a great priest and always a fine priestly example. He will be greatly missed.”

**Fr. Thomas R. Heath, O.P.** Fr. Heath, a former member of the faculty, died February 12, 2006, in Kenya as the result of injuries received in a robbery at his religious house in Kisumu, located northwest of Nairobi. He was 84 years old.

Fr. Heath taught Moral Theology in the Seminary from 1971-74. After leaving the Mount, he served for 10 years in South Africa and Lesotho, and 13 years in Kenya. He was ordained on June 10, 1950, and was a graduate of Boston College.

### *In Memoriam*

**Msgr. Joseph M. Fitzgerald** (December 4, 2005)  
College Class of 1954 and  
Seminary Class of 1958  
Diocese of Bridgeport

**Fr. George E. Golden**  
(November 13, 2005)  
Seminary Class of 1975  
Archdiocese of Washington



## OUR THANKS!

The Office of Marketing and Communications would like to thank **Rev. Mr. Gregory Stowe**, Diocese of Providence; and **Rev. Mr. John L. Lavorgna**, Archdiocese of Hartford, on their hard work and dedication through the years to the Mount St. Mary’s Seminary Newsletter.

Their wit, wisdom and dedication to this publication will be sorely missed. Congratulations on your recent ordinations and Godspeed!

## IN THIS ISSUE

- PRIVILEGED WITNESSES
- AN INTERVIEW WITH FR. DAN MINDLING
- SEMINARY CELEBRATES END OF YEAR CEREMONIES
- FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 15 New men arrive  
20 Seminarians arrive  
23 Classes begin  
25-27 Weekend of Recollection

### October

- 3-4 Priests' Alumni Reunion  
21-22 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](mailto:mcglade@msmary.edu))

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FAMILY WEEKEND TO BE HELD OCTOBER 21-22

Msgr. Steven P. Rohlf, STD, Rector, has announced that the **Inaugural Seminary Family Weekend** will be held on campus, Saturday and Sunday, **October 21-22, 2006**. An invitation will be extended to seminarian family members—parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, etc.—to participate in the weekend activities.

The schedule of activities will be finalized in late spring and sent to family members during the summer. A block of 25 rooms for Friday and Saturday has been reserved at the Sleep Inn-Emmitsburg, located on U.S. #15, one mile north of the Mount. When making reservations, family members should indicate they are with the Seminary community. (Sleep Inn: 301-447-0044). For more information, please contact the Office of Seminary Development and Alumni Relations (301-447-5017)

