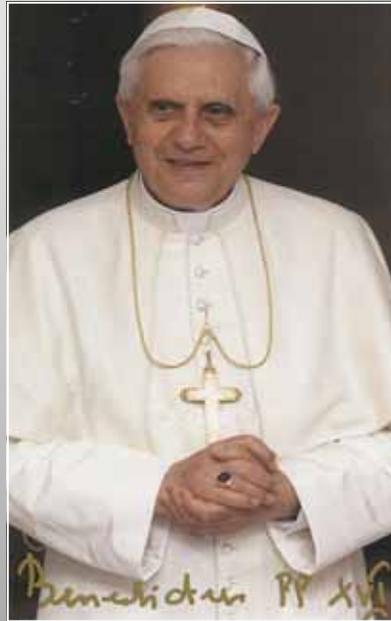




# IHM News

Summer 2005

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY



# VÁTÁÁ ÉY ECCH

ECCE QUAM BONUM

## *From the Rector's Desk*

Dear Friends of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary,



Very Reverend James Steffes  
Rector

School is out and summer is here. The days are becoming warmer and longer. Parades, picnics and pool parties (or maybe ball games and golf) begin to replace meetings and appointments on the calendar. For most of us things slow down a bit or at least the plethora of activities become more relaxed and laid back.

Physically, mentally and emotionally we all need a time to unwind or “go on vacation.” We need to relax, re-energize and renew our heart, mind, body and soul. Yet spiritually, though renewal is essential, we do not and cannot go on leave. We can never separate ourselves from God and still live –at least not faithfully and fruitfully. Thank God, He never separates Himself totally from us otherwise we would cease to exist. Though, our life truly becomes more abundant and fulfilled in correlation to how close we remain with Him.

I reminded the seminarians before they left for the summer that they were not on vacation from God; that they needed to keep up their prayer life and continue to develop their relationship with God; that what is most important for them whether it is winter or summer is that they fall in love with God and remain standing in love with Him. It is a good reminder to me as well. Whether I am in the chapel, on the golf course or the river, at the park or in the stadium I need to stand in love with God and be consciously aware of His presence.

I need, we all need, to share our life with God; thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams and visions –spring, summer, winter or fall, 24/7. We need to acknowledge our true self and relate it to Him. We need to cry out to God with our every need and then open ourselves to His unconditional love. (Never forgetting that love sometimes entails the cross, yet with Christ it is always followed by the Resurrection.) We need to share with Him as well our joys besides our reverence and adoration for Him.

Summer is a great time to take a vacation with God not away from Him. Enjoy the summer days. May you be renewed in mind, body, heart and soul.

Sincerely in the Peace of Christ,

Very Reverend James P. Steffes  
Rector

*“...we all need to share our life with God; thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams and visions...”*

## *2nd Annual Rector's Dinner A Success!*

The 2nd Annual Rector's Dinner was held on May 22, 2005. This year's very special honoree was the Most Reverend Loras J. Watters, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Winona.

The evening featured a social hour in the courtyard of IHM Seminary and a four-course meal and program at St. Mary's University. Great weather graced the event as spectacular floral arrangements and soft music complimented the beautiful natural surroundings.

Fr. Steffes welcomed over seventy guests and introduced Bishop Harrington for his welcome and the meal blessing. Fr. Michael Hoepfner, Vicar General of the Diocese, chronicled the life of Bishop Watters and made an eloquent tribute to the humble and generous servant of God. Bishop Harrington and Fr. Steffes then presented a memento to Bishop Watters. Fr. Steffes concluded the program and invited the guests back to the seminary for fellowship.

Nearly \$13,000 was raised to enhance special priestly formation programs at the seminary. In only its second year, this event is truly a blessing for IHM Seminary. Thank you sincerely to all who attended and/or supported the event.

**Next year's date is set!**

**April 23, 2006**

## Senior Perspective



**David O'Leary**  
Diocese of Duluth

In my four years at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, I have experienced a fraternity of brothers united in purpose and in action to become under the guidance and leadership of the Successor of St. Peter, fit instruments for the diffusion of the doctrine and grace of Christ in the hearts of men, for this we cannot help but give most fervent thanks to Almighty God for this abundance of divine vocations. However, answering God's call to a divine vocation is not easy; seminary life is often a difficult path to walk. Yet, we are encouraged by the words of Saint Paul; *I have strength for everything through Him who empowers*

*me (Philippians IV 13).*

Christ said to the Apostles; *You are the light of the world (Matthew V 14).* This is, in the words of Pope Pius XII our destiny as men discerning a divine vocation to the priesthood; "To be supernatural sun to enlighten the minds of men with the truth of Christ, to inflame their hearts with the love of Christ," and that "if you are to be the light of truth, which comes from Christ, you must yourselves be first illuminated with that truth." We can do this by living our faith to the fullest, giving ourselves completely to the service of Christ and His Church. We must die to ourselves in humble submission to Christ the King. Yet, so often as we walk the path of discernment we lose sight of Christ the King, letting personal and worldly concerns become the center, the ruler, the king

of our lives. Echoing the call of the Israelites in the time before King Saul; *But a king must rule us (I Samuel XII 12).* At these times the Lord chastises us as He chastised the Israelites, reminding us that *The Lord your God is your King (I Samuel XII 12).*

Therefore, it is necessary to keep our focus on Christ, persevering in prayer as we continue to discern God's will in our lives. Only when we humbly prostrate ourselves before Our Lord and King can we hear His voice and be enlightened with the light of His truth, the truth which enables us to humbly submit our will to His, echoing the words of Our Most Holy Mother; *Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum; May it be done to me according to your word (Luke I 28).*

## Seminarian Reflects on Pope John Paul II's Impact



Article from  
*Today's Catholic*  
**By Jacob Runyon**  
Diocese of  
Fort Worth-South Bend

Twelve years ago I was a young and impressionable 14-year-old man. I was sitting on the dusty ground in a canyon a few miles outside the city of Denver. I recall the events of that weekend as if they had just taken place. I was wearing a vinyl rain poncho and had to pull it over my head to shield myself from the rain beginning to fall.

I was reading "Jurassic Park," by Michael Crichton, trying to pass the few hours before nightfall. It was at that moment that I was struck by the enormity of my surroundings. While I was sequestered under my

poncho, I could feel the presence of hundreds of thousands of people. At that time, I felt compelled to pull the poncho down, turn around and view the river of humanity that had formed behind me in the canyon.

The youth of the world were congregating for the celebration of Evening Prayer with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. As we were waiting, the helicopters transporting the Holy Father began to make their descent, and shortly after John Paul walked out on stage, greeting the thousands of pilgrims. However, the dynamic quality of the Holy Father made it seem like he was not greeting a group of people collectively; rather, he was greeting thousands, one person at a time. It was this personal connection I felt that day that I still remember these 12 years later.

Through the Holy Father, I felt a real connection both to the Lord

Jesus and to his church. It was in this experience, World Youth Day in Denver, that I first felt called to discern the priesthood. Having been a seminarian for the past four years, I have been graced, on many occasions, to tell of the grace of my vocation.

Every time I begin my witness, I begin with the influence of John Paul II in my life. How can I explain the impact he had upon me? I found that his message stood in stark contrast with the message of the world. His gospel was one of freedom; not of MTV freedom, but the true freedom of Christ found through the living of a virtuous life.

He told me, and millions of others, that it was okay to be Christian: what a profound message this is. I feel that the Holy Father's message of freedom removed many obstacles in my life, allowing me a

(Continued on Page 8)



# Spring

*Ecce Quam Bonum et  
fratres, fra*



## Open House

SMU students welcomed to visit the seminary, tour the facility, and enjoy a free cookout!



## Rector's Dinner

A Wonderful Evening at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary



Back row: Fr. Heiting, Jacob Runyon, Fernando Jimenez, Bis  
Front row: Paul Carlson, Matthew Sanders, Matthew Connolly

## Congratulation

- Paul Carlson (Peoria)
- Matthew Connolly (Duluth)
- Gabriel Hernandez (Ft. Worth/S. Bend)
- Fernando Jimenez (Ft. Worth/S. Bend)

# 2005

*quam jucundum habitare  
tres in unum*



Shop Harrington, Gabriel Hernandez, David O'Leary, Fr. Steffes  
y, Greg Parrott

## ns Class of 2005

David O'Leary (Duluth)

Greg Parrott (Winona)

Jacob Runyon (Ft. Worth/S.Bend)

Matthew Sanders (Peoria)



**Matthew Sanders**  
**2005 SMU Salutatorian**

**Congratulations, Matthew!**



## Seniors





## 'A Beautiful Personality'

### *The Pontificate of Benedict XVI Begins*

**IHM  
Seminary  
Alumni  
Ryan Moravitz**

The announcement and introduction of our new Holy Father, Benedict XVI, was truly a historic day. The photo series above was captured on that day in Saint Peter's Square and displayed on the home page of "The National Catholic Register" ([www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)). Ryan Moravitz, an IHM Seminary alumni was there proudly wearing his ECCE Wear jacket!

### *Summertime! What to do?*

The end of the school year marks the beginning of a nice break for most college students. For the men of IHMS, it's the beginning of another opportunity for formation and discernment. Most seminarians return to their home diocese and work within its boundaries. For example, Tony Monahan (Diocese of Winona) is

spending the summer as a facilitator for the Totus Tuus (Totally yours in Christ) program. He is traveling throughout the diocese for six weeks presenting the program. While on the road he stays with host families in each parish. This year's program will focus on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Eucharist. In addition, Tony assists with Quo Vadis Days and a number of other diocesan and

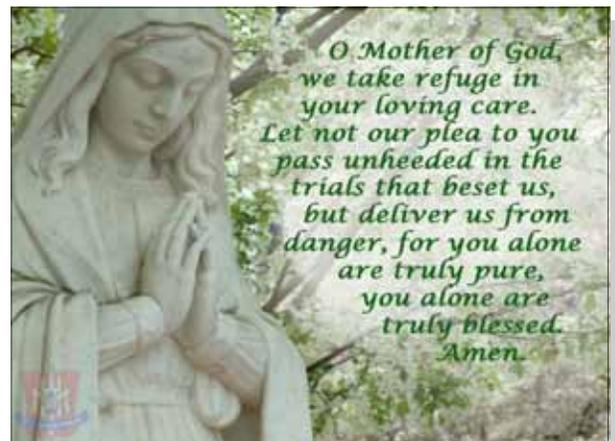
seminary sponsored events.

Many seminarians are assigned directly to specific parishes within their diocese and work directly with the pastor and/or lay ministers. Some men work "regular" summer jobs to earn income while a small number simply take a break. Whatever the activity, the men are encouraged to stay close to God and remain "standing in love with Him".

### *A Busy Summer Ahead*

The men may have gone home but summer is a busy time at IHM Seminary! As one might expect, summertime at an institution of higher learning is much quieter. It is a time to perform yearly maintenance, cleaning, remodeling, and updating. It is also a time to reflect, plan, and strategize. But, at IHMS, much more takes place. Our goal is to utilize and share the facility and grounds as much as possible. We do this for several reasons. First, to share this beautiful, peaceful,

and spiritual facility with the public. During the school year, the focus is on the seminarians and an environment appropriate for discernment and formation needs to be maintained. Therefore, public events are not as common. Second, having the facility open to the public creates a positive public awareness of the seminary and vocations in general. Finally, the facility is made available to generate revenue. Fixed expenses still occur and this helps us to be better stewards of the funds graciously donated to the seminary.



**Above:** A new prayer card featuring the beautiful marble statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which graces the entrance of IHM Seminary. If you would like to request a prayer card for yourself or your loved ones, please contact Joel Hennessy, Director of Business & Development, at [jhenness@smumn.edu](mailto:jhenness@smumn.edu) or (507)457-7376.

## Joel Hennessy, Director of Business & Development



Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary announces the addition of Joel Hennessy to its staff. Joel joined the staff in late April as Director of Business & Development. His primary duty is to oversee the business and financial well-being of the seminary and to promote this hidden treasure.

Joel brings to IHMS a strong background in accounting and finance. Previous to joining IHMS, he was a controller for Herff Jones, Inc. in Lewiston, MN for eight years. Joel has a BS Degree in Accounting from Winona State University and is a CPA. Joel, his wife, Jodi, and their four children

Kaitlyn(10), Elizabeth(9), Thomas(6), and Anna(1) reside in Lewiston, MN. Joel enjoys music, golf, nature, landscaping, and architecture.

“I am pleased to enter into God’s service at IHMS. This is truly a wonderful institution!” states Joel. “I have already been blessed to witness some of the miracles which occur within these magnificent limestone walls! I look forward to humbly serving the needs of the seminary as a faithful Christian Steward.”

The addition of Joel to the staff at IHMS strengthens its vision and commitment of providing the highest level of spiritual and priestly formation for young men following Christ’s calling. Joel is available at any time to discretely and confidentially discuss how you can further support IHMS as a steward-donor.

*“A Christian Steward is one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them, in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.” (NCCB-Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response)*

## Pope John Paul II Memorial Garden

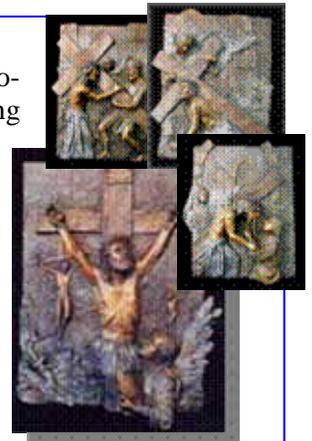
Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS) is proud to announce the concept of a special project on the grounds of IHMS in memory of the dearly beloved Pope John Paul II. This exciting project, as envisioned by the project committee, will encompass the front lawn of the seminary and include a graceful and interactive water feature surrounded by a sprawling presentation of the Holy Father’s most treasured form of prayer, *The Stations of the Cross*. It will also feature a spectacular grotto and outdoor altar.



*A life-sized statue, “The Meditating Christ”, intensifies the spiritual experience of the garden and invites all to sit and pray with the Lord.*

“Priestly formation, promotion of all God-given vocations on the journey to holiness, and honor for and towards those we love are the primary objectives of this project,” states Fr. Jim Steffes, Rector of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary.

This one-of-a-kind project will become a jewel in the upper Midwest. It will be a fitting tribute to Pope John Paul II and to all those honored in the garden. Preliminary plans call for construction to begin in the Summer of 2006. Individuals and organizations will have the opportunity to sponsor one of the stations, or any of the other features of the garden, in memory or in honor of a loved one or significant person in their lives or organizations. To find out how you can contribute or become involved in this project, please contact: Joel Hennessy, Director of Business & Development (507)457-7376 [jhenness@smumn.edu](mailto:jhenness@smumn.edu).



### ECCE Wear™



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Circle color, indicate quantity next to size, multiply price times quantity)*

- |                                   |         |   |   |   |    |       |          |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|---|---|----|-------|----------|
| 1. Long sleeve T-shirt (white)    | \$15.00 | S | M | L | XL | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 2. Polo shirt (black, white)      | \$20.00 | S | M | L | XL | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 3. Crew Sweatshirt (navy, gray)   | \$25.00 | S | M | L | XL | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 4. Hooded Sweatshirt (navy, gray) | \$35.00 | S | M | L | XL | _____ | \$ _____ |

**Ecce Wear—  
A Wonderful Gift!**

Shipping \$ 5.00  
**Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make checks payable to: IHM Seminary, 700 Terrace Heights #43, Winona, MN 55987



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**IHMS is currently serving the following Dioceses**  
Des Moines, Duluth, Fort Wayne/South Bend, La Crosse, Madison,  
Peoria, Rapid City, St. Cloud, Wichita and Winona

If you know any alumni or friends who would like to be on our mailing list please contact us. Thanks!

*(continued from Page 2)*

clear path to the discernment of priesthood.

Without the static of sin and deception offered from the world, I have been led to a relationship with Jesus. This relationship has flourished into a following of Jesus that has led me to the seminary. I, therefore, count John Paul II as my inspiration for entering the seminary and count my experiences of John Paul II among the most formative experiences that I have had or ever will.

What now? I have often pondered what I am to do now that John Paul II no longer walks among us with physical body. I remember the day following his death, I sat in chapel and felt that the community of

Christians were missing a component that cannot now be replaced.

We are, in some way, less than what we were. It was in this moment that God revealed something to me: John Paul II is more accessible to me now than he was in life. He is no longer bound by the physical body, but we are now able to reap the fruits of the contributions of his prayer and intercession without the limitations of time and space: what an amazing insight the Lord gave me.

I cannot express how touched I was by the pilgrims holding the sign that read, "Santo Subito," or "Saint Immediately." I have little doubt that at sometime in the future, the church will recognize this gifted priest as a saint; however, I do not feel

compelled to wait until that time to ask for his aid and his intercession.

Especially now during my time of seminary formation, I require the assistance and prayers of such as exemplary priest, a priest who changed my life. John Paul II taught us, for many years, not only what it means to be a priest, but also what it means to be Christian, and more fundamentally what I means to be human. If I can be a fraction of the man John Paul II was, my life will have been a success. However, to attain this success I ask him, now more than ever, to pray for his brothers and sisters, helping us to come to know God the Father, Jesus his only son, in and through their Holy Spirit, JP II, we love you!

### ***IHMS Community Remembers***



Michael Fasnacht, who lost his life in Iraq defending our freedom and liberty. Michael is the brother of IHMS '03 alumni Matt Fasnacht.

As we celebrate our country's independence and freedom, let us remember all the brave citizens and soldiers who risk their lives each day to protect our freedoms and liberties. Let us humbly thank them and their families for the sacrifices they make. Pray, especially, for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

