



IHM News

Fall 2010

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

ECCE QUAM BONUM



Meet the Men of IHM

Articles by Seminaricians

Family Week-end

Vocation Story by Seminarician

Et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum

IHM NEWS

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Upcoming Events

Renewal Weekend	October 22-24
Seminary Information Weekend	November 13-15
Evening of Recollection	December 11
Thanksgiving Recess	November 24-29
Final Exams	December 17-21
Christmas Recess	December 22-Jan. 11
Annual Retreat	January 12-16
Classes Resume	January 17

Serving the
Dioceses of :

Crookston,
Fort Wayne/South Bend,
Gary, La Crosse, Madison, Peoria,
Rapid City, Saint Cloud, Sioux Falls
Winona and
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

For more information about Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary or to learn about opportunities for memorial gifts, contact the Office of Development:

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espeltz@smumn.edu

Greetings from
Immaculate Heart of
Mary Seminary,

It is hard to believe that over a month has already passed in our school year. During the last week of August, we welcomed 24 new men to the seminary to bring our total to 60. The first month can be challenging for the new men as they work out their class schedules, receive their homework assignments, begin meeting with their spiritual director, and establish their apostolic works. They also must become familiar with the guidelines of the house, conform to the dress code, and commit themselves to the daily schedule, which includes community liturgy and prayer time, meals, conferences and personal prayer. I have heard many of them say that they have never been happier in their life. We have experienced many fruits from the dedication of 2009-2010 as the "Year for Priests" by Pope Benedict XVI. One of those fruits is an increase in vocations to the priesthood. It is very inspiring to see the young men who are willing to commit their lives to service and prayer for the purpose of salvation of souls. Please pray for us that God will form the seminarians to be priests after the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd, who was willing to give his life for his flock, so great is his love.

This year Fr. Thomas Melvin, in addition to being the Vocation Director for the Diocese of Winona, has been appointed by Bishop Quinn to a part-time position on the seminary faculty. He has been able to take more seminarians for spiritual direction and his increased presence in the house is very much appreciated. He also is available for hearing confessions, giving conferences on spiritual formation, and general spiritual advice for those in need.

Fr. Paul Heiting, our Vice-Rector has continued in his great service to the seminary in directing the Apostolic Works program, organizing the Formation Classes on Monday evenings, as well as meeting with all the students for Formation Advising. He has been a great help to me in forming the men to be prayerful, studious, and committed in love toward their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fr. Antonio Dittmer, our Director of Spiritual Life, was excited to come back to IHM Seminary after a summer of travels, retreats, and filling in for one month in a parish in his home diocese of Peoria. We are very grateful to Bishop Jenky for assigning us Fr. Dittmer for this period of time.

Fr. A. C. Fabian, OP has recovered well from his cataract surgery this summer, so now he can see more clearly if students are falling asleep in class and is quicker to call on them! We continue to enjoy the presence of Fr. Fabian in our seminary, especially his "informal on-the-spot discussions" with the students every other Thursday evening.

I am grateful for all of the support that you offer to the seminary, and it shows that the formation of priests is very close to your hearts. Please keep us in your prayers, and I give you the assurance of our prayers for you.

In Christ's love,



Fr. Andrew Beerman, Rector





Meet the Men of IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY Seminary

Pre-Theology



Michael Hofer
Diocese of Rapid City

Joseph Barnette
Diocese of Winona

Seniors



Eric Bolek
Diocese of Peoria

Joachim Ferk
Diocese of Winona

Jordan Fetcko
Diocese of Gary

Chris Gernetzke
Diocese of Madison

Mark Horn
Diocese of Rapid City



Neil Kirchoefer
Diocese of Peoria

Bryan Kujawa
Diocese of Crookston

P. Brandon McCaffery
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Roque Meraz
Diocese of Gary

Jonathan Norton
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Maxwell Perri
Franciscan Friars of
the Renewal

Charles Richmond
Diocese of La Crosse

Kory Stremmlau
Diocese of Peoria

Jacob Toliver
Diocese of Peoria

John Paul Trask
Diocese of Rapid City

Juniors



Jacob Valle
Diocese of Peoria



Luke Brown
Diocese of Rapid City

Jacob Carlson
Diocese of Sioux Falls

Blaine Chaunklin
Diocese of La Crosse

Daniel Davis
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Peter Kieffer
Diocese of La Crosse

Michael Pica
Diocese of Peoria

Matthew Regan
Diocese of Crookston

Christopher Sindelar
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Sophomores



Dan Steiner
Diocese of Peoria

Thomas Thielen
Diocese of Crookston



Gregory Bim-Merle
Diocese of Gary

Thomas Ferk
Diocese of Winona

Taylor Flock
Diocese of La Crosse

Seth Lardy
Diocese of St. Cloud

Nathan Maskal
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Joseph Miner
Diocese of St. Cloud

Luke Plenge
Diocese of Winona



Gregory Rosno
Diocese of Winona

Robert Sarwacinski
Diocese of Gary

Daniel Schwarz
Diocese of La Crosse

Matthew Schumacher
Diocese of Madison

Timothy Smith
Diocese of Sioux Falls

Jeddiah Taubel
Diocese of Winona

William Van Wagner
Diocese of Madison

Derek Wiechmann
Diocese of St. Cloud

Steven Wielenberg
Diocese of St. Cloud

Marcus Wobschall
Diocese of Winona

Freshmen



Thomas Zehr
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend



David Bilot
Diocese of Peoria

Clinton Coulter
Diocese of Peoria

Stephen Engelhardt
Diocese of Rapid City

The Hoang
Diocese of Winona

Thomas Lauinger
Diocese of St. Cloud

Steven Lehn
Diocese of Winona

Brian Mulligan
Diocese of Winona

Nam Nguyen
Diocese of Winona



Andru O'Brien
Diocese of Peoria

Jordan Ranstrom
Diocese of Crookston

Travis Rauwerdink
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

C. Valentin Reyes
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Daniel Sanchez
Diocese of Peoria

Jonathan Wogerman
Diocese of La Crosse

Ordinations

Recent priest ordinations of Immaculate Heart of Mary's alumni

Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin



Fr. Greg Ihm with
Bishop Robert C. Morlino
Reprinted with permission from
The Catholic Herald, Diocese of Madison, WI



Diocese of Winona Minnesota

Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota



Ordination Mass of
Fr. Michael Wolfbauer
Reprinted with permission from
The Visitor, Diocese of St. Cloud

Diocese of Peoria, Illinois

Fr. Paul
Carlson
with
Bishop
Daniel
R. Jenky



Ordination Mass of Fr. Paul Carlson
Reprinted with permission from The Catholic Post,
Diocese of Peoria, IL



Fr. Andrew Vogel with
Bishop John Quinn



Fr. Thomas Melvin with
Fr. Andrew Vogel
Reprinted with permission from
The Courier, Diocese of Winona

Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina



Ordination Mass of Fr. Lucas Rossi
Reprinted with permission from The Catholic News Herald,
Diocese of Charlotte, NC



Senior Perspective

Mark Your Calenders for the
2010 Rector's Dinner...
Friday, April 29, 2010



Jonathan Norton
Diocese of Fort Wayne/
South Bend

Time sure does fly! This past Saturday was my 10 year high school reunion. I reflect that it was my senior year of high school that I first met with my vocation director about entering the seminary. I chose not to follow God's call to enter the seminary and joined the workforce instead. It would be 8 years later before I went back to God and gave him my yes. This week I met with my Vocation Director again. He asked if I ever thought that I would be just months away from my bachelor's degree and major seminary. Of course not! But time goes so quickly and God is full of surprises. I give all praise to God for His patience with me. I came here as a sophomore and cannot believe how much I have experienced and the incredible people I have met.

Though seminary has been a great blessing in my life, it can be challenging to balance commitments to prayer, academia, ministry, relationships, formation, and so on. The burden can seem unbearable until we remember why we are here, to study for the holy priesthood, then it is all worth it! We find renewed strength in Jesus' words, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The lesson that is constantly being taught in the seminary is to trust in Jesus. Countless times I've carried my cross down the steps of the chapel, meditated on the cross of Christ, and been carried back out of the chapel in God's loving arms. This is a place of constant transformation.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

My fondest memories of IHM are the excellent retreats, Night Prayer liturgies, joking around with guys in the hallways, our house skits, spiritual nourishment from Rector's Conferences, and the beautiful landscape of campus. I have never been more joyful in my life. IHM is a very special place.

I am proud to be part of the 17 men who make up this year's senior class and have developed great friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I am torn between my excitement for the next stage of my formation, theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, and saddened that I will be leaving Immaculate Heart of Mary. Yet, I already look forward to returning in 2015 as a priest to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the wonderful formation I received in this holy place.

By Jonathan Norton

New Student Perspective



Jordan Ranstrom
Diocese of Crookston

It was a hot, sunny August day. It was move-in day for new students at IHM. For the last couple weeks up until this day I had some mixed feelings about being here. Was I going to be able to get used to this kind of atmosphere? Was I going to fit in? Was I going to be all right living such a long way from home? These feelings spun around in my head especially on my way here. My family and I unloaded my car, and as we were going towards the door to bring my things up to my room, a bunch of seniors came out, took all my things, and carried everything up for us. Not only that, each of them introduced himself, and I did likewise. This place was welcoming right from the start, and my uneasy feelings already started to gradually fade away.

Then, it happened. I was driving in my car with my family in Winona, and we got into a car accident. My car was totaled. Everyone in the crash was fine, but being my first day here, this wasn't exactly what I wanted to experience. So you could say I had an interesting first day here in Winona and at IHM.

That weekend, I was able to meet all of the returning students, new students, and IHM priests. Again, everyone was so welcoming, and I felt instantly at home. Only this home was filled with holy men seeking one purpose: to discern and follow God's will. Also, IHM has a beautiful chapel, so anytime we had community prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or Mass, it was just down a few flights of stairs. I knew God wanted me to be here.

My time here so far at IHM can be described in one word - overwhelming - but in such a wonderful way. Never in my life have I been so blessed. The opportunity to have a strong prayer life, participate in Mass, experience a true sense of brotherhood, and gain human and spiritual formation, all on a daily basis, has had such an amazing impact on my life so far, and this is only my first month here!

And to think I had such uneasy feelings when I arrived. As I said earlier, I know God wants me to be here. His will for me, and also for you, is never a mistake. Sure, there might be a few bumps, bruises, and even crashes down the road (Trust me, it happens!). If it is in God's will, no matter what it is, may we persevere through the obstacles and come to experience His real presence, not only in our own lives but also in the lives of others. Keep us all in your prayers, and we will keep you in ours. Holy Spirit, Have Your Way. By Jordan Ranstrom

FAMILY WEEKEND AT IHMS



Family Weekend at IHM seminary was October 1-3, 2010. It was celebrated with 150 family members coming from across the mid-west to visit the seminarians, meet the faculty and staff at Saint Mary's University and join with IHM priests and other seminary families for a weekend of fellowship.



The evening started with Adoration and Evening prayer in the chapel followed by a blessing of the meal under the big tent by Fr. Andrew Beerman.



Sunday morning families stayed for morning prayer, Mass and breakfast under the big tent before returning home.



Family weekend is a wonderful opportunity to honor the seminarians and their families, and gives family members a glimpse of daily life at the seminary.



Vocation Story



Gregory Rosno
Diocese of Winona

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16). I have officially been a seminarian at Immaculate Heart of Mary seminary for over a month. One of the greatest gifts of being a seminarian is being with so many other men from a variety of places and backgrounds who have heard God’s call and have answered it. Through hearing other seminarians’ vocation stories I have discovered how uniquely God has called each one of us to be here at IHM.

God first called me when I was around seven years old. My pastor gave homilies that inspired me to want to give homilies some day also. As time progressed I became involved with my youth group and went on pilgrimages to various Steubenville conferences across the country. On the first pilgrimage, God’s love and mercy poured forth as He healed me of my deadly allergy to peanuts as well as allergies to dairy and eggs. For a while after this miracle I was on fire with my faith.

However, as time progressed, I shut God’s call out of my life. After graduating high school in West St. Paul, MN, I went to Minnesota State University – Mankato in pursuit of a degree in Law Enforcement. Although the call was constantly in the back of my mind, I repeatedly said no to what God wanted and yes to what I wanted. The further I ran from what God wanted of me, the harder it became to run. Finally, I woke from what seemed to be an eternity of saying no to finally saying yes to God. As soon as I said yes, God provided an excellent priest for me at the Newman Center on campus. He was not only a role model, but a great source of help with the entire process of getting to IHM as a seminarian for the Diocese of Winona.

I switched from the diocese in which I grew up, to the diocese in which I went to college, but I feel like I have never left my home. I have been blessed with the extraordinary opportunity to experience God’s love through a medical miracle, Mass, the sacraments and so much more. Now, I also experience His love here at IHM. God has provided for me the unique opportunity to grow in my faith and relationship to God with so many other men desiring the same. God is good!



Ellen Speltz, M.S.
Director of Development

News

The seminary once again is full of life and community as the students returned in late August. The faculty and staff are excited to announce that for the 2010-2011 year, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary greeted sixty men preparing for the vocation to priesthood. Currently, IHM Seminary is assisting in the preparation of men to serve in the vocation of priesthood for ten dioceses and one religious order, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. IHM is pleased to welcome 23 new seminarians and welcome back 37 seminarians returning to continue in their preparations to priesthood. Please continue to pray for the seminarians and priests at IHM Seminary.

In October, family members of many seminarians from across the Midwest visited the seminary during parent’s weekend. All suites and dorm rooms were filled with guests. In addition, we were pleased to be able to host two families staying in our updated Guest House. The two families included 9 children. With the updated bedroom carpet and bathroom tile, paint, lights and the addition of a new full bathroom, these guests received a more peaceful place to stay while visiting the seminary, with the needed facilities to accommodate them. We are thankful to our donors who supported the work on our guest house.

Fr. Beerman’s father passed away on October 6th, 2010. Many seminarians and priests attended Raymond Beerman’s funeral on a bright, 90 degree October day in St. James, MN. At the conclusion of the homily, Fr. Beerman read a beautiful poem. I have enclosed it below. I pray it encourages you and brings you peace.

God bless you, Ellen Speltz, M.S.



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As a forgiven child of the Father, may you forgive those who make life hard for you. The forgiveness of Jesus flows from the grace of the cross, through you to those who hurt you. Let it flow. May you recall how Jesus brought people together to forgive, to reconcile. May that same Spirit be yours. May you risk being open and sharing your heart. May you experience deep connection with your heavenly Father and through Him deep connections with brothers and sisters in Christ. Those deep connections will bring healing and stability to your life. May you stay open and connected to family and rooted in a praying community. May all the hurts of your life be healed in the love of Jesus. Jesus, who is life, is pouring His life into you now to be your life. May you come to know and believe and trust in the love of your Father. Taken from The Healing Power of a Father’s Blessing by Linda Schubert

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Currently IHMS is forming seminarians from the Dioceses of:

Crookston, Fort Wayne/South Bend, Gary, La Crosse, Madison, Peoria, Rapid City, Saint Cloud, Sioux Falls, Winona and Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

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Recent Events for IHM Seminary



Bishop William Patrick Callahan,
10th Bishop of Diocese of La Crosse
Installed August 11, 2010



Seminarians participate in the SMU Fall Frolic 5K
run, October, 2010.



Serra Club Picnic with seminarians,
September, 2010.



Fr. Beerman saying Mass for Serra
Club at the Grotto in IHM's John
Paul II Memorial Garden, Summer.