

IHM News IMMACULATE HEART OF MA

Vol.

Parents weekend

Bishops and Rector Dinner 2013 New Student reflections Fr. Fabian receives honor

New Faculty

Et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum

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Peoria	
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Saint Cloud	
Sioux Falls	
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For more information about Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary or to learn about opportunities for memorial gifts, contact Ellen

> Fax: (507)457-8601 Email: espeltz@smumn.edu



Another year is underway at IHM Seminary. In fact we are more than half way through the first semester and the Holy Spirit is very much alive in the house. The call of Jesus to the first disciples resounds in the hearts and minds of the young men who have come to IHM Seminary to follow the Lord. This year IHM Seminary welcomed 46 seminarians into the community to begin the year. They

are focused, well -balanced, intelligent and prayerful young men. They have responded generously and joyfully to God's call to discern a vocation to the Priesthood. In addition to those 46 men the seminary also welcomed a new Director of Spiritual Life, Fr. Jeff Dobbs, a new Vocation Director, Fr. William Thompson, a new rector and the convent is active again with religious sisters, Sr. Mary Hanah Doak and Sr. Mary Juanita Gonsalves both Religious Sisters of Mercy, Alma Michigan.

The changes in faculty have also brought a change in the seminary as each new priest brings his own God given gifts to help the seminarians discern their vocations. Meanwhile, IHM Seminary continues to build on the strong leadership of previous rectors and priest faculty to help the seminarians become holy and virtuous men of love and service. A new yearly schedule has only strengthened a solid program of formation by adding a seven day silent directed annual retreat for the Seniors and Juniors and a week of Formation Workshops at the end of the academic year to help the seminarians continue to grow in prayer, love and virtue.

The Lord himself is at work here in the hearts and minds of these men to reveal to them his will. They have come to let their lives be transformed by his grace. As you read this newsletter you will see in the pictures and hear in the words the joy that God brings to those who follow him. That joy is our gift from Jesus himself and it is our gift to the world and each other; the joy of life given and lived to and for Jesus Christ. It is why I am here as the new rector, it is why 46 young men across the Midwest have followed the Lord here and it is why all of you are joined with us in prayer. Let us together make that joy real and live for and with Jesus Christ.

Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum. Indeed how good it is to live as brothers in the Lord!

In the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Melvin Rector





Pre-Theology



Diocese of Winona

Daniel Ward

Diocese of Winona







Seniors

Robert Sarwacinski Diocese of Fort Wavne Diocese of Gary South Bend

Matthew Schumacher Diocese of Madison

Juniors

Diocese of Sioiux Falls

Timothy Smith



Marcus Wobschall Diocese of Fort Wayne-Diocese of Winona South Bend

Thomas Zehr









Steven Lehn Brian Mulligan Diocese of Winona Diocese of Winona

Andru O"Brien Diocese of Rapid City

Jordan Ranstrom Diocese of Crookston



Aaron Downing

Diocese of Madison

Shawn Resendiz

Diocese of Peoria



Alex Kren Benjamin Johnson Diocese of La Crosse



Kyle Harris Diocese of Rapid City





March Schumacher Diocese of St. Cloud

Thomas Skaia Diocese of St. Cloud

Joseph Van Dover Diocese of Sioux Falls





Austin Steffen

Diocese of Madisor

Meet the Geminarians



Diocese of Garv



Jedidiah Taubel Diocese of Winona





Clinton Coulter Diocese of Peoria



William Van Wagner Diocese of Madison



Stephen DeBoer Diocese of Soux Falls



Randall Vette Diocese of Rapid City



Taylor Flock Diocese of La Crosse



Derek Wiechn Diocese of Saint Cloud



Alexander Davis Diocese of Peoria



Tyler Hiles Diocese of La Crosse

Sophomores



The Hoang Diocese of Winon



C. Valentin Reves Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



Daniel Mykleseth Diocese of Crookstor



Evan Huebl Diocese of New Ulm



Ionathan Wogerma Diocese of La Crosse



Zane Pekron Diocese of Rapid City



Samual Hurst Diocese of Crookston



Trevor Peterson Diocese of Duluth



David Kruse Diocese of Winona



Daniel Baver

Michael Picard Diocese of Green Bay



William Kubwayo Diocese of Winona

Ecce Quam Bonum

Et quam jucundum babitare fratres fratres in unum (*Psalm 133:1*)



Senior Perspective



I hope to describe what a typical senior year is like for a seminarian, with its ups

Randall Vette Diocese of Rapid City

and downs, joys and struggles. In many ways, not much of the daily tasks have changed since coming to the seminary

three years ago. We still have the same schedule, with only minor adjustments. We are still studying the weighty subject of philosophy, to the delight of some and the bane of others. We have a lot of reading and homework, we have papers to write, and tests to take. For most of us the particular house job has changed, whether its yard crew, setting up the dining room, or cleaning bathrooms, but the duty to get the job done has not. Above all, we are still striving for prayer, which is good. We are still seeking to know the Love of the Holy Trinity, to know Jesus Christ in our midst, and to know ourselves in relationship with Him. There are still times of great joy, consolation, and clarity, and there are still times of confusion and struggle. To be honest, there are times when it feels like the routine and the work weigh us down; the fire in our hearts starts to dim.

Then Christ gives us the strength to persevere; we see the growth and virtue He allows. The man Christ desires each of us to be stands revealed in greater depth and the fire rages back to life. As seniors who have been in formation for years, we now begin to see the maturity of our life of discipline and our life of faith. We have changed. We have become leaders. Our minds are sharpened by philosophy so that we can understand what the Lord puts before us. Our house jobs have taught us faithful stewardship of our possessions. There is no doubt we are being formed as priests. As seniors the priesthood becomes more of a reality each day. Above all we have fallen in Love with Jesus Christ. Our structured life of prayer has become like breathing, and the air is sweet. It is a big benefit that prayer is becoming very natural for us because we have additional concerns. Graduation is zooming closer and with it comes Theology school. Some are already sure of where they are going for Theology studies, but many do not yet know where their bishop will send them. In my case, I know the possible schools I might attend but I don't know which one it will be, or even what I'll be doing this summer. Now I know why we've heard so many homilies and conferences on trusting in the Lord. We have surrendered; we are in His hands. Another clear sign for us seniors that we have grown is the new men that have entered the seminary this year. We see what we ourselves once were, and we are given the opportunity to be leaders, helping them through struggles and trials that we have been through. There is a great joy that comes from becoming more like Christ and seeing the same in others.

Senior year moves quickly as the anticipation of Theology school. Strength and weakness, joys and sorrows stay with us but our hope in Christ rises above all else. We owe great thanks to God and to all those who support us, allowing us to be formed as the future leaders of the Church. This last year before Theology school calls for perseverance, and so the witness of charity in the Church inspires me and calls to my mind the words of Paul to the Corinthians: "Love never fails."

Returning seminarian Perspective



I was very nervous when I began my junior year at IHM because this was the most critical point of a seminarian's discernment process. I also knew that I was now called to be a leader with my fellow classmates for the new seminarians who just joined us at IHM. I couldn't help but feel a little overwhelmed at first. However, these feelings of uneasiness began to dissipate when I remembered that at IHM all the men are living together with one goal. This goal was to discover the God's will for each of us and to follow it with our whole hearts.

Diocese of Winona

As the days went by, the transition from a sophomore to a junior became easier

when I was reminded that I am to serve God in all the ways that I can. I am so thankful for the wonderful faculty here who has given us so much to help us grow closer to Christ. The lessons that they have taught me in my freshmen and sophomore years didn't go to waste as I found myself employing them everyday. I have come to realize that each year brings a new lesson that I have learned as I journeyed farther into my discernment process. Freshmen year was about transitioning from my normal life to life of a seminarian. Sophomore year was about discovering more of myself in the eyes of God, so I can be more receptive towards His Will. Junior year is about the intimate union with the Lord and to really see if I am called to life of celibacy as a future priest. So far the year has gone well, and I feel a great sense of joy to grow more in love with Our Lord along with all of my brothers here. Ecce Quam Bonum!

Seminarian Varsity Sports at Saint Mary's University

Being tall has its perks. At 6'8", I never need to use a stool to get stuff off the top shelf, don't need to worry about not being able to go on rides at theme parks, but there are some cons as well, like having to duck under all the doors at IHM, just to be safe, and if I had a nickel for every time someone asked me, "Do you play basketball?"

I'm Mark Schumacher, the College Student, Seminarian, and, COLLEGIATE ATHLETE! I have been so blessed by Rector Monsignor Thomas Melvin to have been given the opportunity to play on the Saint Mary Men's Basketball team. Saint Mary's is an NCAA Division III school (That's the smallest division) which competes in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference offering 21 Varsity athletic programs. Now trying to balance the schedule of the Seminary and Academics is already a tall order, but I have an extra 3 hours each day committed to basketball. I, therefore, have had to be extremely good at time management, something I learned FAST.

Now I have always loved basketball, but it wasn't until recently that it became my passion, something I absolutely cannot live without. This experience has helped me in my discernment, as the saying goes, "God called ME to the Seminary with all my faults, gifts, talents, and passions." Around campus I am known as "That seminarian basketball player" and as a result, I have been able to educate many of my fellow students about the life of a seminarian and put away many false ideas of what we do in the Seminary. Overall, with all the demands of my time and physical well-being, it has all been worth it. God Bless you.

New Director of Spiritual LIfe



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Fr. Jeff Dobbs. I am the new Director of Spiritual Life at IHM Seminary. I am originally from Pipestone, MN which is in the southwest corner of Minnesota. I was a student at IHM Seminary from 2001-2004, and then attended theology school at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN. I was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Winona on June 28, 2012. My most recent assignment was being the pastor of three parishes in the western part of the Diocese of Winona.

Fr. Jeffrey Dobbs

It is a joy to come back to IHM and join in on the great tradition IHM has had in forming men for the priesthood of Jesus Christ. I am indebted and grateful especially to the faculty members during my time as a seminarian at IHM Seminary: Msgr. David Kunz

(LaCrosse), Fr. Jim Steffes, Fr. Tom Jennings, Msgr. Paul Heiting, revered professor Fr. Andrew C. Fabian, Winona. Each of the alumnae of IHM remembers the priests on faculty during their time at IHM and holds a special place in their heart for them: I am no different

As Director or Spiritual life at IHM Seminary I desire help the men to develop a deep prayer life that will sustain and invigorate them in their (God-willing) lives as priests. Pope Benedict XVI has declared this year to be a "Year of Faith," this year in which we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening **NU** of the Second Vatican Council. At IHM is our goal and desire to form the men, as articulated in the Second Vatican Council Decree on Priestly Training: Optatam Totius, in such a way that they "might learn to live in an intimate and unceasing union with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit." (Optatam Totius, no. 8) Please join me in calling upon the assistance of our patroness. Immaculate Heart or Mary, pray for us! God bless all of you!



New Director of Vocations

Fr. William Thompson

The role of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is to prepare young men for the priesthood. After ordination, most will eventually become pastors. However, priests are sometimes asked to serve in other assignments. After two years of being a pastor in three small parishes, Bishop Quinn has asked me to have such an assignment by succeeding

Msgr. Melvin as the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Winona.

Again, I can say that the role of the seminary is to prepare men for the priesthood, and someone has to help these young men make the transition into the seminary. This is the duty of the Director of Vocations. In this position, I work closely with pastors, faith formation coordinators and youth ministers to help them promote vocations and, if they have a young man interested in the priesthood, to help them through the application process to become a seminarian.

Promoting vocations is in many ways simple, and yet it can be very complex. It is simple because the best way to promote vocations to the priesthood is to be joyful in my own. It is complex because each young man may need to hear in a different way that the priesthood is a possibility. My job is to help all young men hear the call of the Lord and to follow faithfully by living out their vocation.

While I assist Msgr. Heiting in my role as associate dean of formation, I spend most weekends and time during the week traveling across the Diocese of Winona promoting vocations to the priesthood and praying for those whom God is calling. It is a joy to serve Christ's Church in this way, and I hope to help increase the number of seminarians here at IHM.



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New Student Perspective



Ever since about tenth grade, priesthood was always a floating thought in my head, but that was not enough for me to enter the seminary. Just before the end of my freshman year at the University of Minnesota Duluth, I attended a vocation dinner at Bishop Serba's house with twelve other men and we had a great conversation about the call to priesthood. Bishop Serba explained to us that at some point you have to take a leap of faith. Afterwards when I took what he said to prayer, it was right then and there that the Holy Spirit gave me that extra push I needed to finally say yes to the lord and discern my calling. I was raised in Crookston, MN. Therefore, when I was officially accepted as a seminarian for the

down to IHM. Even though I was a little sad that I would be eight hours away from home, the Lord gave

Daniel Mykleseth Diocese of Crookston, it did not really hit me that I was going to seminary until the last week before heading me the grace to realize that he was indeed calling me to go to IHM. When I finally arrived, I instantly felt at home. I was able to meet with all of the men and all of the priests at the seminary. I am so thankful for each and every one of the guys not only because we are all discerning for the priesthood, but we are all striving to grow in holiness as well.

With all of the enriching experiences of formation, daily mass, adoration, and prayer, I am gradually learning more and more not only about God, but about myself as well. I have thanked the Lord for bringing me here each and every day because from the moment I have arrived, there has been an absolute peace knowing this is where I am supposed to be. Even though there are challenges in following the Lord, he not only gives you what you need, but he gives it to you fully and then some. He desires to satisfy the deepest longings in your heart and at times that means you need to allow him to take the steering wheel. That is why they call it FAITH. Please keep all of us here at IHM in your prayers and we will keep you in ours! Come Holy Spirit!

Fr. A.C. Fabian receives Award



In celebration of Saint Mary's University's Centennial, on Sept. 22, 2012 Father A.C. Fabian was awarded the **Presidential Award for Outstanding Merit** by Brother President William Mann and Michael Gostomski, chairman of the Saint Mary's University Board of Trustees. He has served Saint Mary's University for 48 years.

In addition, IHM seminary is fortunate to have Fr. Fabian living at the seminary. To the seminarians, he is their teacher, role-model and intellectual giant. He often holds informal philosophy talks for the seminarians and continuously challenges them to higher intellectual and moral growth.

Courtesy of Saint Mary's University

The award reads in part:

Whereas Father Andrew C. Fabian, OP, AFSC, distinguished educator, inspiring teacher, scholar extraordinaire and dedicated servant of the Church has worked tirelessly to promote excellence in Catholic seminary and higher education; and

Whereas Father Andrew Fabian has demonstrated his enduring love for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and his commitment to its mission and its students in an exemplary manner and by exhibiting the characteristics of selfless service and ethical leadership that this university strives to develop in all of its students; and

Whereas Father Andrew Fabian has established a legacy of intellectual rigor and caring attention in attending to the education of the whole person for thousands of Saint Mary's University students;

Therefore, in grateful appreciation, the Presidential Award for Outstanding Merit is bestowed upon Father Andrew Fabian for his devotion and service to Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and Catholic Higher Education.



Sisters of Mercy open convent on IHM Seminary grounds

Immaculate Heart Convent Welcomes the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma,



in the city of Jackson since 1981, operating Sacred Heart Mercy Health Care Center, a family practice clinic, this is the first time we have had a convent in the eastern end of the Diocese.

At the request of Bishop Quinn, Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, assumed the position of Director

of Faith Formation for the Diocese in September, 2011, commuting to the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Winona from Jackson on a weekly basis. Bishop Quinn subsequently asked our Superior General, Mother Mary Sisters of Mercy in their new chapel McGreevy, RSM, that our community open a convent in the city of Winona, and generously

Michigan

offered for our use the one-time convent and then current guest house adjacent to Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. Mother Mary accepted His Excellency's invitation to start a local community in Winona, founded under the auspices of Mary, Cause of our Joy Convent in Jackson, and assigned two Sisters to begin the foundation.

Sister Mary Juanita Gonsalves, RSM, serves as Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Winona. Sister Mary Hanah Doak, RSM, is a student at Saint Mary's University completing her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and also serves as part-time Administrative Assistant at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center at Winona State University. These forms of apostolic service are secondary, however, to the first apostolic work of all religious: prayer. Our daily life of prayer—including the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, a Eucharistic Holy Hour, and times of personal prayer-is the first and most efficacious service we render to the Lord and His faithful in the Diocese of Winona.

Sincere thanks to all the benefactors of IHM Seminary. The Seminary continues to be very generous in providing for a number of needed renovations to the Convent building.

We have received a very cordial welcome to Winona, and are grateful to God that He has invited us to be a part of this local Church! By Sister Mary Hanah Doak, RSM



Information weekend

Thomas Zehr Diocese of Fort Wayn

South Bend

Every semester the seminary hosts a special weekend event to invite young men from the surrounding dioceses to spend a few days experiencing life in the seminary. This is a wonderful opportunity for perspective seminarians and young men discerning the call to priesthood to experience life at the seminary and to get to know the men from Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. We had a team of seminarians, including myself, that were in charge of organizing and coordinating the events of this weekend. We were able to give these men tours of the grounds of IHM as well as the campus of Saint Mary's University. The perspectives were able to see many different aspects of seminary life, from praying the Liturgy of the Hours, daily mass, meal times and other types

of fellowship. We organized a big basketball game with both perspectives and seminarians. That was a blast! On the last day of the weekend, they were able to attend classes at SMU to experience the academic aspect of seminary life. The goal of this weekend was to show our visitors the many wonderful, blessed things about seminary and to let them experience time of fraternity and fellowship.

When I was in high school I came on a similar visit to IHM, to see if the seminary was right for me. I had a great experience there and felt excited and comfortable attending IHM the following year. The Information Weekends are a great opportunity for young men searching for God's plan in their lives. The Lord is clearly at work on these weekends, and I would recommend them highly to those men curious about the seminary and the priesthood. Please keep us seminarians and all prospective seminarians in your prayers.

Editors note: if you, or someone you know, is interested in the upcoming March 16-18^{th, 2013} Information Weekend, see our website at www.ihmseminary.org click on "Information Weekend" or simply contact the Vocation Director for your diocese.

Intramural Activities



Intramural is a program open for all Saint Mary students. This program allows students to take advantage and participate in various sports such as, soccer, basketball, handball and volleyball. These are some of the many sports that are offered every semester. Intramural sports encourage us seminarians to evangelize, associate, and reflect God's love to the community of the University.

Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend

I enjoy being a part of the intramural soccer team at Saint Mary's University.

This gift of being able to engage in activities is a tremendous privilege specially since it helps to unify our minds and hearts. Playing sports and doing activities is definitely essential for our physical, social, and spiritual growth. We are all called to be holy and live a healthy life. Intramural sports is a great program that helps us to relief stress and strive for sanctity.

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Saint Ma

REGIST

RSVP deadline is Mon, Apr Send to: Dinner, IHM Sem Heights #43, Winona, MN S Contact for questions: Elle smumn.edu or 507-457-737	inary, 700 Terrace 55987 n Speltz, espeltz@,
Name (s)	0
Address	
City	State/zip
Phone/E-mail	



of Events
ring 5:30 p.m.
s University
- President's
nge
6:30 pm
ining Room

Reservation for\$100.00 per person \$
Sponsor a table (seating of 6)
\$600.00 under the name of
I/we cannot attend, but would like to support
this event with a gift of \$
Please make checks payable to IHM Seminal
Please charge my reservation or gift of \$
VisaMastercard
Card Number
Expiration Date
Cardholder Signature

Family Weekend 2012

The weekend of October 5-7th was Family

Weekend allows the opportunity for

family members to come and experience

life at the seminary. This weekend is a

wonderful chance for the seminarians to

"show off" the seminary and invite their

families into their lives here at IHM.

The weekend involves time together in

IHM hosted over 100 family members

over the mid-west, some driving as

far as 10 hours to attend the events.

The seminarians enjoyed introducing

their parents and sibling to fellow

seminarians. The weekend was a huge

success despite the cooler weather.

Families came from all

Mass, meals, prayer and relaxation.

Family

Weekend at IHM Seminary.













of all ages.













































Ellen Speltz MS Director of Developmen

This Fall 46 men entered Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary to either begin or continue in their preparations for the Catholic priesthood. These men are in daily prayer as they discern

^{it}and grow in their formation.

I was recently once again reminded of the seminarians' dedication to each other, the Lord and their formation process. On one morning I arrived at work an hour early. As I entered the kitchen for coffee, I encountered 46 seminarians, along with the five priests who call IHM seminary their home. They were sharing breakfast and fellowship, after they already participated in Laudes, Mass and Adoration before 7:00 am breakfast. IHM Seminary prepares these men not only academically, but also in brotherhood, discipline and daily prayer as they journey to become priests. We thank you, our benefactors, as you join with these men by your prayers and financial donations. Thank you for supporting them in their formation to the Catholic priesthood.

For our annual appeal, we hope to show our appreciation to our benefactors by listing names in our newsletter. If you wish to not have your name listed and missed the box to check on the form, please let me know at espeltz@smumn.edu or 507-457-7376.

The annual Bishops and Rector dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, 2013. IHM Seminary is very honored to have Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke as the guest to receive the Immaculate Heart of Mary Award. We hope you may attend this wonderful event. Invitations will be sent to all past attendees in March. If you would like your name added to the Bishop and Rector Dinner mailing list, please contact me at espeltz@smumn.edu or 507-457-737² ¹ ¹ tion, registration is available on w.ihmseminary.org, see link for E lector dinner.





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Bishops and Rector Dinner

Honoring Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke



Recipient of the 2013

nmaculate Heart

Mary Award

Wednesday, May 8th, 2013 at Saint Mary's University, Winona, MN

Formal invites are mailed in March to all past attendees. If you would like more information or a registration form please see our website at www.ihmseminary.org , page 9 of this newsletter or contact Ellen Speltz at espeltz@smumn.edu.