



IHM News

Summer 2012

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

ECCE QUAM BONUM



Rome Pilgrimage

Graduation

Informational Weekend

Bishops and Rector Dinner

Et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum

IHM News

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Upcoming Events

Men's/Women's Retreat

July 27-29

Seniors Return

Aug. 20

Senior Retreat day

Aug. 21-22

New Students Arrive

Aug. 23

Registration/Classes resume

Aug. 27

Labor Day-no classes

Sept 3

Free Weekend

Sept 15-16

Lords Day of Recollection

Sept. 22-23

Family Weekend

Oct. 5-7

Proudly Serving the
Dioceses of :

Crookston, Duluth,
Fort Wayne-South Bend,
Gary, Green Bay, La
Crosse, Madison, New
Ulm, Peoria, Rapid City,
Saint Cloud, Sioux Falls,
and Winona.

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

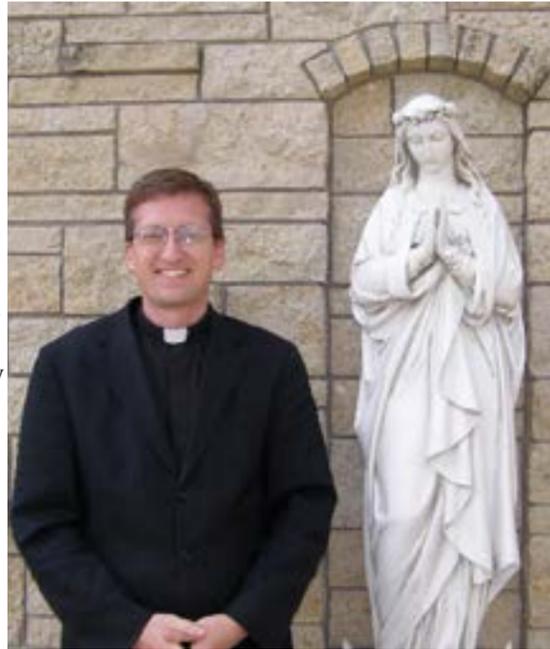
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Greetings from IHM Seminary.

Our second semester has ended well with graduation of eight seniors on May 12. It was a beautiful warm day and the first time in several years that the reception was able to be held outside without fear of rain. It is always a joy and gift of God's grace to see how much work He has done in the lives of these men in their formation and preparation for the priesthood. Though they still have four years before ordination, one can already give witness to the ways they have grown in prayer, friendship with Christ, compassion toward others, and knowledge of the truth. Please continue to pray for our seminarians that the Lord will make them holy and loving priests.



At the end of eight years at IHM Seminary, Bishop Quinn has asked me to move on to a new stage in my priesthood and that is to become pastor of the parish cluster in Adrian, MN. Fr. Thomas Melvin has been named by Bishop Quinn as the next rector of IHM Seminary, and I am confident that the Lord will accomplish great things through him.

As I prepare to move on, I take this time to reflect on my years here. When I was appointed to go to IHM seminary and serve on the faculty, one of my parishioners joked that I must have not gotten it right the first time, and so I had to go back to the seminary. I must admit that I have learned a lot more in my time here, especially about the priesthood and how to be closely related to Christ. When I first came to IHM, I felt overwhelmed and very unprepared for the task of priestly formation, and this was true again when I was named rector. However this has been a call to trust in God and not in my own abilities or knowledge, realizing that it is His seminary and He is really doing the work of formation. One of the greatest blessing has been the graces I have received through the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha, NE. I had the opportunity to participate in a three week program of training for seminary spiritual directors and formators, a three year program of formation in spiritual direction, prayers and priestly identity and the 30-day Ignatian retreat. All these have helped me to come to know Christ in a much deeper way as well as experience the love of God our Father. "The Father's great glory consists in loving human beings who do not deserve that love." He truly is the Father of mercies.

It is a joy to witness the seminarians at their ordination to the priesthood, having been a part of their formation and seeing all that God has begun in them and will bring to completion. This year IHM alumni ordained are: Frs. Tim Hepner, Dan Gifford, Joel Phelps, Michael O'Connor, OP, Ben Ross, Brandon Moravitz, Drew Braun, and Jason Kern. I express my gratitude to those who have worked with me in the seminary and have been great models of the priesthood by their own lives: Bishop John Quinn, Bishop Harrington, Fr. Steffes, Fr. Heiting, Fr. Melvin, Fr. Dittmer, and Fr. Fabian. Please keep me in your prayers as I will continue to pray for you.

Sincerely in the peace of Christ,

Very Rev. Andrew Beerman, Rector



Graduation 2012

On May 12th, IHM seminary congratulations seminarians as they graduated with Philosophy degrees from Saint Mary's University. The eight graduates are listed below:

Luke Brown: *Diocese of Rapid City*, completes one final semester of Program of Priestly formation.

Blaine Chaulklin: *Diocese of La Crosse, WI*

Daniel Davis: *Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN* entering Potifical North American College, Rome.

Peter Kieffer: *Diocese of La Crosse, WI*, entering Potifical North American College, Rome.

Michael Pica: *Diocese of Peoria, IL*, entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD

Matthew Regan: *Diocese of Crookston, MN* entering St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Christopher Sindelar: *Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN*, entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD.

Daniel Steiner: *Diocese of Peoria, IL*, entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD.



Pictured left to right, back row: Very Rev. Tom Melvin, Blaine Chaulklin; Peter Kieffer; Christopher Sindelar; Daniel Steiner; Matthew Regan; Very Rev. Andy Beerman.

Front row: Very Rev. Paul Heiting; Daniel Davis; Bishop John Quinn; Michael Pica; Rev. AC Fabian; Rev. Tony Dittmer.

Bishops and Rector Dinner



The ninth annual **Bishops and Rector Dinner** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary was celebrated by more than 300 guests. The honoree for the event was Archbishop John Vlazny, current Archbishop of Portland, OR and past bishop of Winona from 1987-1997. The guests enjoyed visiting with Archbishop Vlazny and reminiscing of his days as Bishop of Winona.

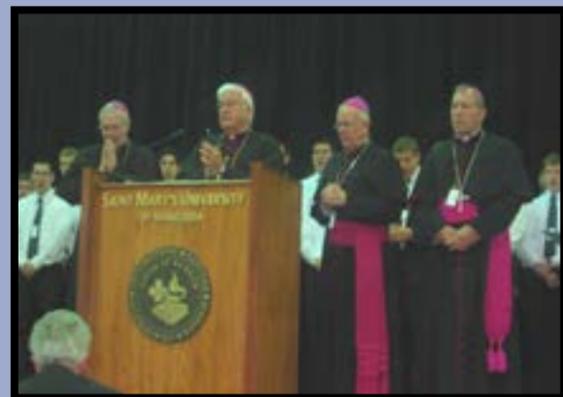
Back Row: Msgr. Gerald Mahon, Archbishop Vlazny, Bishop Quinn. Seated: Msgr. Donald P. Schmitz, Bishop Gruss, Bishop Callahan., Bishop Hoepfner and Very Rev. Richard Colletti

The dinner, served by seminarians from the freshman, sophomore and junior classes, was followed by a short program. The MC for the evening, Msgr. Gerald Mahon,



introduced each speaker while presenting jokes and memories of his experiences with each person. The program included an update from Rector Fr. Andrew

Beerman, a talk by Archbishop John Vlazny, a short DVD depicting the life of a seminarian and comments by junior seminarian Tim Smith, and a thank you from Bishop John Quinn .



Bishop Quinn ended the evening inviting all IHM seminarians on stage, and then he, along with Bishop Callahan of La Crosse, WI, Bishop Gruss, of Rapid City, SD, Bishop Hoepfner, of Crookston, MN and Archbishop Vlazny, of Portland, gave a final blessing to all guests.

Bishop Quinn gave a final blessing to all guests, accompanied by Bishop Hoepfner, Archbishop Vlazny, Bishop Gruss, Bishop Callahan (not pictured) and IHM seminarians.



Mark your calendar
 Bishops and Rector Dinner
 Wed., May 13, 2013
 Honoree Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
 Prefect of the supreme tribunal of the
 Apostolic Signatura in Rome.



Roman Pilgrimage



Seth Lardy
 Diocese of St. Cloud

Well, it was my first plane ride ever and I was going to Rome of all places. Yes, I do have to admit that I was a little nervous to go, but traveling with two priests like Fr. Beerman and Fr. Dittmer, I knew I was going to be just fine.



My experience in Rome was amazing. My two favorite things were being in St. Peter's Basilica and climbing up the holy stairs. To

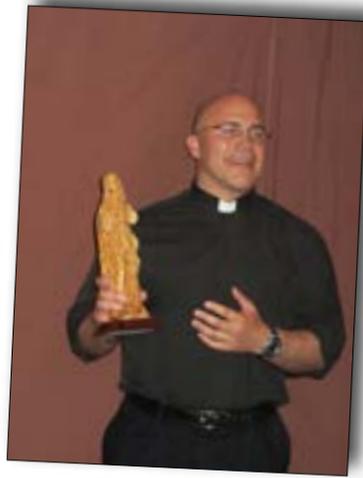
be in St. Peter's is so inspiring and it was amazing seeing every altar being used by many different priests celebrating Mass. When you experience many Masses being celebrated at one time you can truly see how universal the Roman Catholic Church truly is, it is Heaven on earth. It was awesome to be in the Basilica and attending Mass while Fr. Beerman and Fr. Dittmer were celebrating Mass for us.

The second thing that was memorable for me was climbing the holy stairs that Christ also walked on while on earth. It was breath-taking seeing every one climbing up those stairs. Also to keep in mind is that the only way to climb them is on your knees. It sounds painful, but when you see older people that can't walk very well climb up those stairs you think to yourself ; well if they can do it and if Christ walked on them I can do it. It took about 30 minutes to climb the stairs and we were praying as we went up. The whole trip was a very prayerful and holy experience that I will never forget. If you ever get a chance to go to Rome please do it.



Derek Wiechmann, Peter Kieffer, Stephen DeBoer, Karl Beerman, Nathan Maskal, Fr. Andy Beerman, Fr. Tony Dittmer, Marcus Wobschall, and Seth Lardy.





Fr. Dittmer receiving a gift from the seminarians.

IHM says good-bye to Fr. Dittmer

Fr. Antonio Dittmer completed his assignment as Director of Spiritual Life on May 31, 2012 at the seminary. He served as Director of Spiritual Life at IHM from July 2009 to May 2012. Fr. Dittmer was a leader, spiritual director and friend to the seminarians. His enthusiasm and excitement for the faith was evident everyday. One often would see Fr. Dittmer and a seminarian walking around campus as part of the seminarian's spiritual direction, even in winter. He would promote physical activity while giving spiritual advice.

In addition to his duties as Director of Spiritual Life, Fr. Dittmer taught a class at Saint Mary's University. His joyful attitude helped seminarians and lay students alike learn about Christ and His Church.

He has been assigned as pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, and assigned as Rector of Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine. All three sites are in LaSalle, Illinois, in his home diocese of Peoria.

Fr. Dittmer will be greatly missed by the faculty, staff and seminarians at IHM and Saint Mary's University.

Seminary Information Weekend



Visitors to IHM during Information Weekend relax with seminarians

IHM seminary opens its doors twice a year, November and March for Seminary Information Weekend retreats for men who are seriously discerning priesthood and would like to "spend a weekend" in the life of the seminary. They participate in the daily life of the seminarians, by attending liturgies, communal prayer, meals, recreation and classes with the men of IHM Seminary.

These weekends truly help the young men attending hear and respond to the call of Jesus Christ.



Quo Vadis Days



Fr. William Thompson

"Quo Vadis" is a phrase that comes to us from the Tradition of Peter's question to Jesus as Peter was escaping the persecution: "Where are you going?" Jesus was going into Rome to be crucified, but now directs Peter's question to us: Where are you going in your life?

Quo Vadis Days took place in June as an opportunity for high school men to learn more about the priesthood and to begin to understand where they are going. The 4-day retreat was filled with outdoor activities such as making use of the new ropes course at St. Mary's University, prayer and listening to reflections on the priesthood.

Fifteen young men living in the Diocese of Winona took part in this year's Quo Vadis days, which concluded with Fr. Jason Kern's ordination to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.



Open House



Randall Vette
Diocese of Rapid City

On Wednesday, May 1st, the IHM community hosted our biannual Open House, for Saint Mary University students and staff, and what better way than to do it with a cookout. To complete the picture for you, it was a beautiful spring day and it was the last day of classes. Needless to say, it was a blast. As a member of the junior class, I had the responsibility of organizing and working during the cookout, making sure we had hot dogs, burgers, drinks, and root beer floats ready to go. While the labor was plenty, so was the fruit. We had a great turnout, with around 500 other students

joining us for the cookout, not to mention some of the faculty that came over. The grill had a hard time keeping up! For most of us, it was a perfect afternoon for relaxing at the end of the semester before the big final exam week. There were yard games like bean bag toss, and it seemed like there was always a Frisbee or a soccer ball flying through the air. Many students also took the opportunity to go on a tour of the seminary led by one of the seminarians, and they seemed to enjoy it very much. Hopefully they now realize that we're not as different and secluded as some think! Then as the evening died down, 40+ seminarians helped clean up, making it a breeze. All said and done, it was a wonderful event for us to share our home at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary with the students and faculty of Saint Mary's University.

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Mark your calendar
Bishops and Rector Dinner

honoring

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

with the *Immaculate Heart of Mary Award*

May 8, 2013

Join us for this celebration