

CORNERSTONE

Spring/Summer 2009

A Newsletter for Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and our Friends



Holy Moments: Reflections on Ordinations

Paul Josef Cardinal Cordes Awarded Doctorate
of Humane Letters

Expressing Gratitude: Donor Report



The Rector's Corner:

A message from Monsignor Robert F. Coleman '74, J.C.D., Rector and Dean

On January 30, 2009, an announcement was made at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., that the Vatican would soon begin an Apostolic Visitation of the Institutes of women Religious in the United States.

This news set me to wondering. After pondering on what might be the focus of the Visitation, I went to the library to look at the *Decree of the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, from His Eminence, Frances Cardinal Rodé, C.M., of December 22, 2008.* The phrase that jumped off the page was very powerful: *In order to look into the quality of the life of Religious women in the United States.*

The spokesperson for this Apostolic Visitation described its primary goal as the hope to *discover and share the vibrancy and purpose that continue to accomplish so much, as well as to understand the obstacles and challenges that inhibit the individual and institutions, thus limiting their growth and/or redirecting their resources and outreach.*

You may understand when I tell you that the page began to blur at this point and my brain was beginning to nod. But I forced myself to continue reading and soon learned that the entire process will take about two years to complete. During this time, the Religious Sisters will be able to share with the Vatican visitors their joys and hopes, their challenges and obstacles as women Religious in the Church today.

For some, this Visitation may appear threatening while for others it may seem long overdue. Hopefully, it will be welcomed as a sign of the loving concern the Holy Father has for these Institutes...*in order to look into the quality of the life of Religious women in the United States...*

During this past Holy Week, on the afternoon of Good Friday, my mind was filled with thoughts of this upcoming Visitation and the joys and hopes, challenges and obstacles mentioned by the spokesperson. I had been scheduled to celebrate the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at the Provincial Motherhouse of the Religious Teachers Fillippini at Villa Walsh in Morristown. Our Seminary is blessed to have three Fillipini Sisters on its staff. The dedicated labor of these Sisters, in their simple black religious garb, is a great contribution to the Seminary's mission of forming young men for the service of God's people in the priesthood.

At three o'clock on Good Friday afternoon, the many working and retired Sisters at the Motherhouse wended their way to the gorgeous Italianate Chapel where the shining marble of the sanctuary floor reflected the magnificent murals depicting scenes from the life Saint Lucy Fillipini. Then, during the liturgy, at the beginning of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, the Sisters formed a long line in single file to kiss the crucifix.

There was a great poignancy to their veneration and I wish you could have been there to witness it. The Sisters' choir began a slow hymn of gratitude and praise as they came one by one, young and old, healthy and ill, robust and feeble, bending low to kiss and adore the image of their Lord.

The evident burdens of frailty and old age were forgotten as each of these consecrated women greeted the Lord Jesus with the same youthful enthusiasm and virginal tenderness they

had brought on the day so long ago when they had first vowed themselves to their Divine Spouse.

It was a moment that I will not soon forget.

Looking back on that memorable day, I often wonder how these consecrated brides of Christ continue to withstand the myriad challenges that threaten to destroy that quality of life which will be examined in such depth during the Apostolic Visitation.

And I extend this same concern to our priests and seminarians who are confronted everyday with challenges that could so easily destroy their divine vocations, discouraging them to the degree that they might be tempted to throw away the precious pearl the Lord has given them.

Some of you will remember that an Apostolic Visitation of the seminaries and houses of priestly formation in the United States took place here at Immaculate Conception Seminary during October in 2005. Recently, my attention was drawn to the final report, released a few months ago, from the Congregation for Catholic Education.

During that Visitation, every member of the faculty, every seminarian and a good portion of the priest alumni (for the five years prior to the visit) were questioned by one of the Vatican visitors. Their findings were received by Archbishop Myers in the Fall 2008 semester just a few months before the general report was issued. At the Archbishop's direction, I was able to share the results of that glowing report with the members of our Seminary faculty.

Remember that the intention of that Apostolic Visitation to the seminaries of the United States was to provide assistance to the United States Bishops and Major Superiors in their mission of ensuring a sound priestly formation for their candidates to Holy Orders. From the beginning, the 2005 Visitation focused on the major areas of seminary life, that is: the concept of priesthood, the four pillars of personal, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation, promotion to Holy Orders, and the seminarians themselves.

As with the upcoming Visitation of the Apostolic Institutes of women Religious in the United States, the Apostolic Visitation of American seminaries and houses of formation was considered by some to be long overdue since the last one was almost twenty years ago. Some seminary administrators and faculty found it to be a daunting and nerve wracking process, while for others it was a sign of the loving solicitude of the Holy Father.

Believe me: it was all of the above. But in the end, the Apostolic Visitation was experienced by the seminarians, the faculty and even the administration, as a time of exceptional grace.

The specific report for Immaculate Conception Seminary indicated that the doctrine on the priesthood taught here is solidly based on the Church's Magisterium and both the faculty and the students accept this teaching wholeheartedly. The theologically sound understanding of the priesthood that is taught in our academic courses resonates clearly through the various programs of spiritual and pastoral formation, so that our seminarians become deeply imbued with it.

The report also indicated that the seminary community remains vibrant and unified despite the various backgrounds and cultures it represents. Our seminarians entrust themselves to the program of priestly formation with openness and sincerity and the upright tone of their moral lives is evident. Further observations included the fact that our program of human formation (as a solid foundation of spiritual formation) is a high priority, contributing to the quality of the spiritual formation program.

The report explained that everyone in this seminary has a positive understanding of the theological motivation for the Church's law on celibacy. The integration of the human and spiritual dimensions of priestly formation, above all in the area of celibate chastity, is facilitated by regular meetings of the seminarians with their spiritual directors and with their priest mentors. It was noted that this seminary pays special attention to this crucial aspect of priestly formation.

The specific report also praised the profound influence of the priestly example of our seminary faculty, which was described as highly professional, well-prepared and doctrinally sound.

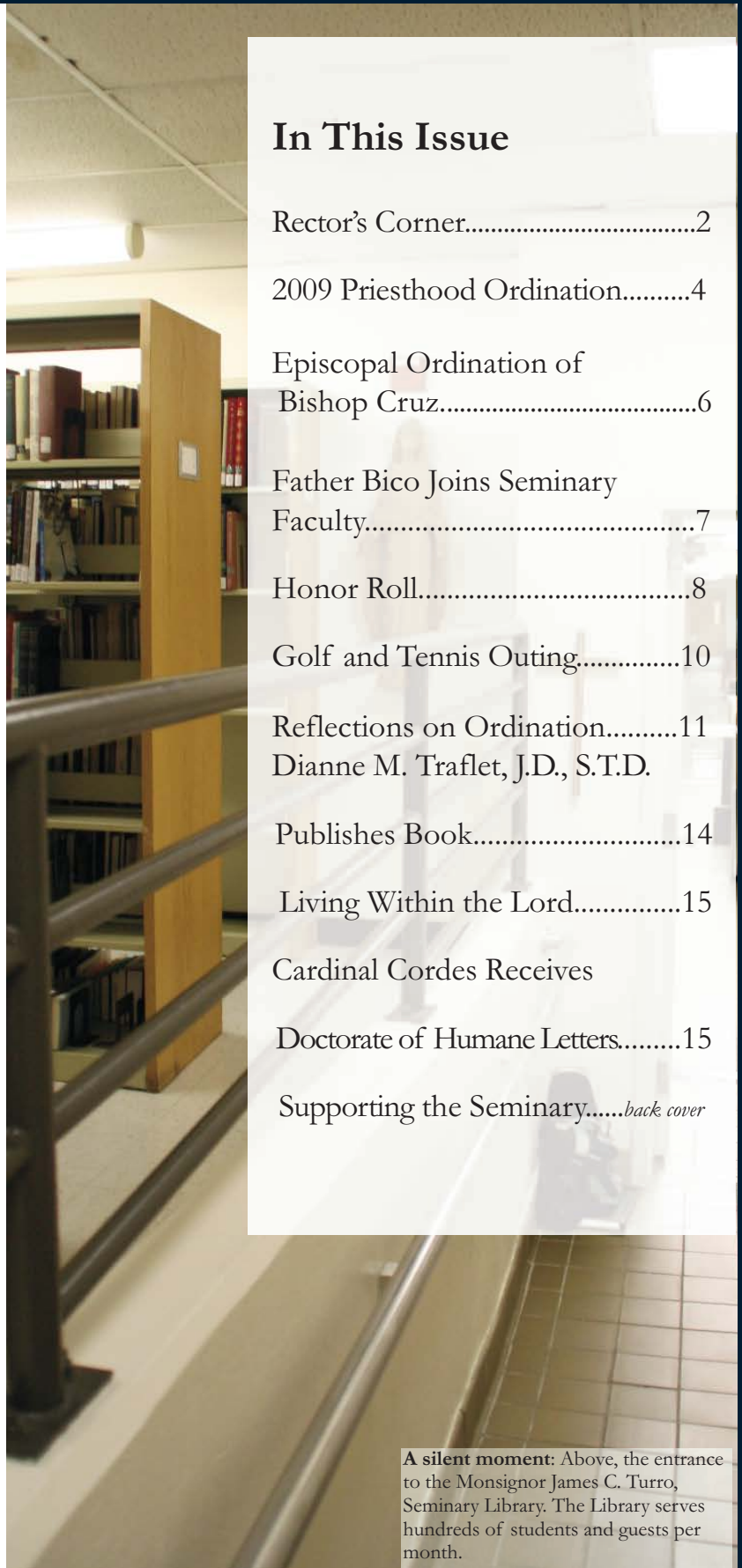
The report declared that the seminarians receive a complete and coherent grounding in Catholic doctrine and moral theology with great attention being paid to the unity and coherence of our theological studies. Rather than focusing solely on academic accomplishment, our seminarians are taught to love our Catholic Tradition as faithfully expressed in the Magisterium of the Church.

I always try to honor the wisdom of my dear parents who are now with God and I remember my mother repeatedly reminding me and my siblings: "Don't break your arm patting yourselves on the back." But, despite Mom's warning, I feel it is important that the very positive outcome of the Apostolic Visitation to this seminary be made known, most especially to you, our generous benefactors and loyal friends.

The Vatican's report also indicated that our seminarians are given numerous opportunities for Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist, Marian devotions and other pious practices. Our regular prayer schedule has been richly enhanced by the spiritual traditions of the young men who come here to study for the priesthood from other parts of the world. The men from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia bring the varied and beautiful devotions of their native cultures. They impart to our seminarians a deeper awareness of the one Church in her many members.

Again this year we have cause for rejoicing: the annual study out of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University shows that Immaculate Conception Seminary is the fifth largest theologate in the United States. I believe that this ranking is in direct correlation to the many positive aspects of our seminary singled out for such great praise in the report of the recent Apostolic Visitation.

Let us pray that the new Apostolic Visitation of the Institutes of women Religious will be the occasion of a fervent spiritual renewal and a healthy increase in the numbers and quality of young women called to devote themselves to lives of consecrated service to God and His people. Let us also pray that our Divine Lord will continue to inspire young men to answer His call to the priesthood. I am keenly aware that these things depend so much on your prayerful and financial support, for which we express our profound gratitude in the daily prayers of the seminary community. †



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A silent moment: Above, the entrance to the Monsignor James C. Turro, Seminary Library. The Library serves hundreds of students and guests per month.

Reflections on Priesthood Ordination

*Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. ordains 13 new archdiocesan priests.
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology celebrates two additional Ordination.*



Receiving the many gifts of the priesthood: Above, 13 new archdiocesan priests are ordained on Sunday, May 22, 2009 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark.

On May 22, 2009 Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. ordained 13 new archdiocesan priests. Of these men, seven studied at Immaculate Conception Seminary, including: Reverend Matthew Dooley, Reverend Peter Iwuala, Reverend Nnaemeka Onyemaobi, Reverend Roberto Ortiz, Reverend Andrew Park, Reverend John Prada and Reverend Hector Galvis. Additionally, Reverend Thomas Vala was ordained on May 30, 2009 for the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey and Reverend Edward Hegnauer was ordained on June 20, 2009 for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Each newly ordained man brings to his priestly ministry his own zeal to proclaim the Word of the Lord to all who seek Christ through him. This zeal can be seen as rooted in individual and unique cultures and heritages of the new priests.

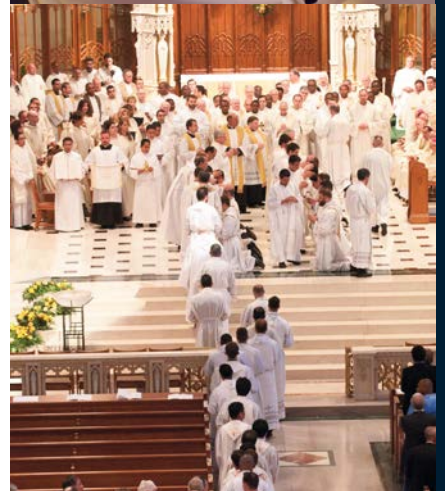
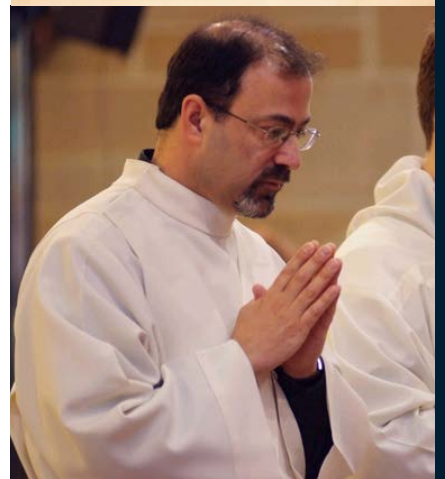
The newly ordained hail from as far away as Imo State, Nigeria and Seoul, South Korea: Reverend Iwuala, Reverend Onyemaobi, and Reverend Park; as near as Jersey City, Mountainside and Point Pleasant, New Jersey: Reverend Ortiz, Reverend Dooley and Reverend Vala; and in-between from Ohio: Reverend Hegnauer and Colombia: Reverend Prada and Reverend Galvis. Each of these men has realized the wonderful gifts of God and will bring these gifts forth to their local parishes and the larger Church. Having first been formed at Immaculate Conception Seminary through the Program of Priestly Formation, these men have attained the necessary human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimensions for the priesthood. Capturing the joy of the moment, Reverend Andrew Park shared in the *Catholic Advocate* from May 20, 2009, “[My main reason for becoming a clinical psychologist] was to help people, I came to realize how many more people I could help as a priest. I thought if I can rely on God and work through His love and grace, what great and wonderful gifts God would give to the people through me. It is a privilege that Jesus has called me to the priesthood.” Each of the newly ordained has begun his priestly service in parishes for his diocese. †



Ready to serve: Above, the newly ordained stand with Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. Front row from left, Reverend Marco Celis-Quintero, Reverend Matthew Dooley, Reverend Hector Galvis, Reverend Peter Iwuala, Reverend Christian Jaramillo, Reverend Pablo Martinez. Back row from left, Reverend Mate Skublics, Reverend Elky Reyes, Reverend Mario Primavera, Archbishop Myers, Reverend Andrew Park, Reverend John Prada, Reverend Nnaemeka Onyemaobi, Reverend Roberto Ortiz.

Images of holy moments: Sidebar from top, Candidates approach the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart moments before ordination; Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. receives the first blessing of a newly ordained; Reverend Thomas Vala is ordained for the Diocese of Trenton on May 30, 2009; and priests and clergy present at the priesthood Ordination for the Archdiocese of Newark approach the alter to give blessings to the candidates.

Photo credit: Leo Sorel Photography and *The Monitor*, Diocese of Trenton





In his new ministry: Above, Bishop Manuel Cruz '76, M.Div. '80 excited about serving the Archdiocese of Newark in his new role as Auxiliary Bishop. Bishop Cruz brings to this service a variety of life experiences, including being a Cuban refugee, scholar on ethical issues and a visiting lecturer.

Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz

Recognizing the appointment of a wonderful and accomplished priest.

On September 8, 2008 Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. ordained Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz '76, M.Div. '80 as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Joining with Bishop Cruz on this joyous occasion were two cardinals, 20 archbishops and bishops, over 400 priests and deacons along with 1,500 other well-wishers from near and far. Also in attendance were the seminarians of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, a number of whom served in various roles in the ceremony. Bishop Cruz is the first Cuban-born priest of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Bishop Cruz, was born in Havana on December 2, 1953 to Juan and Caridad Cruz. He came to the United States in 1966 with his parents, spending a year in Florida before moving to Union City. There he attended Union City public schools and he grew in faith through his family and community.

Having served in a variety of capacities in the Archdiocese of Newark since his ordination in 1980, Bishop Cruz brings a wealth of experiences and insights to his new appointment. Among his many accomplishments Bishop Cruz has served as parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Parish in Elizabeth, NJ; lecturer with the department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology and UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ; president for Mission and Ministry for Catholic Health and Human Services and member of the New Jersey Catholic Conference's Committee on Ethics.

Bishop Cruz received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Seton Hall University in 1976 and a Master of Divinity in 1980 while studying for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary. †



Laying on of hands: Above, Archbishop John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Newark, presides at the episcopal ordination of Bishop Manuel Cruz '76, M.Div. '80.

Celebrating a History of Bishop Alumni

*Exceptional priest alumni now serving as bishops across
New York and New Jersey.*

With his Episcopal Ordination on September 8, 2008, Bishop Manuel Cruz became the 30th graduate of Immaculate Conception Seminary to be named a bishop. Current bishop alumni include:

Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D., Bishop of Metuchen/Ordained 1966

Most Reverend Edgar M. DaCunha, S.D.V., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark/Ordained 1982

Most Reverend Nicholas A. DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn/Ordained 1970

Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark/Ordained 1965

Most Reverend John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark/Ordained 1969

Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark/Ordained 1953

Most Reverend Charles J. McDonnell, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Newark/Ordained 1954

Most Reverend Frank J. Rodimer, J.C.D., Bishop Emeritus of Paterson/Ordained 1951

Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli, Bishop Emeritus of Wilmington/Ordained 1960

Most Reverend John M. Smith, J.C.D., D.D., Bishop of Trenton/Ordained 1961

Joining the Seminary Faculty: Reverend Antonio Bico's Journey

Father Bico returns to the his alma mater - as a professor.

Enhancing his experience in prison ministry and working with people who suffer from addictions through his recently completed degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology, Reverend Antonio Bico '89, S.T.B., S.T.L. is welcomed back to Immaculate Conception Seminary, with great excitement and enthusiasm. Father Bico shares, "It's great to be back at the Seminary, I am enjoying the challenges each day presents with students and the conversations we engage in."

Father Bico, a native of Portugal who has lived in Newark, New Jersey most of his life, graduated from Seton Hall University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Philosophy. It was after graduation from Seton Hall that Father Bico went on to receive a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Gregorian University in Rome in 1992 and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Teresianum University in Rome in 1994. Father Bico was ordained a Deacon at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in December 1992, and ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of Newark in May 1993 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Father Bico's first pastoral assignment was Holy Cross in Harrison, New Jersey and Our Lady of Fatima in both Elizabeth and Newark, New Jersey.

"Being part of the Seminary's faculty over the past year has allowed me to work with seminarians and lay students sharing about relationships between the sacraments and life of all people, especially those who are in most need of help because of their suffering," Father Bico explains. Father Bico's dissertation, entitled *The Sacrament of Penance: Journey Towards Conversion and Recovery from Addictions*, showed how the Sacrament of Penance could be used in conjunction with the popular "twelve steps to recovery" method.

Father Bico now teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as being the speaker at several Institute for Christian Spirituality events. †



Learning about the Liturgy: Above, Father Antonio Bico speaks to a group at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Ridgewood, NJ during the Advent Liturgy Conference in December 2008.

Photo credit: Joan E. Yatsko

"North American Contributions to Catholic Theology"

Reverend Gerald S. Sloyan, S.T.L., Ph.D. delivers the 2008 Gerety Lecture.

On February 27, 2008 Reverend Gerard S. Sloyan, S.T.L., Ph.D./ Ordained 1944, Distinguished Professorial Lecturer in the Theology Department of Georgetown University delivered the 2008 Gerety Lecture. Father Sloyan's topic was *North American Contributions to Catholic Theology*. Father Sloyan attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, New Jersey until 1943 when, as a deacon, he was transferred to The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where he would quickly earn an S.T.L. and begin work on his Ph.D. As a scholar of Catholic Jewish dialogue, Father Sloyan served as a member of the first board of the University's Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies. Father Sloyan has published two books, and has been a regular contributor to many Catholic publications including *Horizons*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, and *Biblical Theology Bulletin*.

This lecture series is part of the Archbishop Gerety Fund for Ecclesiastical History, established by the Most Reverend Peter Leo Gerety, Archbishop Emeritus of Newark, to advance studies in ecclesiastical history, especially the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. †

Delving into the dialogue: Right, above, Father Sloyan, delivers the 2008 Gerety Lecture in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Lewis Hall. Right, below, Father Sloyan takes a moment to capture a photo with distinguished guests and seminarians from the diocese of Trenton, Father Sloyan's diocese.



Photo credit: Steve Lane

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology

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Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology gratefully acknowledges alumni and friends who subsidize the annual costs of priestly formation and theological education. Each benefactor becomes a partner in the living mission of the Seminary. The following gifts were received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008 to support current operations. Each donor is very important to our development efforts. We have attempted to acknowledge accurately all donors. If you have made a gift and your name is not listed, or is listed differently than it should be, please inform us of the error. Please call the Seminary Development Office at (973) 378-2661, or use the enclosed envelope if a correction is necessary. Thank you for your outstanding support.

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Remembering Margaret Sullivan

The late Margaret Sullivan, sister of the late Reverend John Sullivan/ Ordained 1928, will be remembered for her care and support of seminarians.



Margaret Sullivan was thankful for many gifts in her life, one of the most important being that her brother, the late Reverend John Sullivan/ Ordained 1928, financed her college education - allowing her to graduate from Seton Hall University in 1946. To honor his memory, Sullivan made a generous gift to complete the St. John Eucharistic Chapel in Lewis Hall. The Chapel is continually used by seminarians as well as priest faculty for adoration and the celebration of Mass. Sullivan's generosity did not end there. Until her death at the age of 100 in May 2008, Sullivan continued to support many Seminary projects including the annual fund and faculty development. Her total giving to the Seminary exceeded \$120,000. The image to the left is of the tabernacle located in the Chapel.

Photo credit: Leo Sorel



Enjoying a great day: Above center, Elaine and Bob Robertazzi are honored at the 2008 Cornerstone Golf and Tennis Classic. 120 golfers, tennis players and guests raised over \$80,000 to support seminarians.

Annual Golf and Tennis Classic Honors Robert and Elaine Robertazzi

For their tireless commitment, the Seminary honors the Robertazzis.

Immaculate Conception Seminary proudly honored Robert and Elaine Robertazzi for their more than twenty five years of steadfast commitment to the Seminary and seminarians at the Golf Classic on Monday, June 23, 2008 at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

The Robertazzis, long time parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle, Bloomfield, New Jersey, and since 2005 parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena in Cedar Grove, strive to live in Christ's love through their commitment to community service and volunteer activities. The Robertazzis established Liberty Lincoln-Mercury in 1967. Today, the Robertazzis still work together each day along with the youngest of their three daughters, Renee, and her husband John Chirico.

With the dedicated help of the Robertazzis and the Cornerstone Committee, the Classic raised over \$80,000. The income from the Golf and Tennis Classic benefits the Breslin Fund for Seminarian Aid. The fund, established in 1980 bears the name of its founder, the late Honorable Roger W. Breslin Sr., in recognition of his many years of service to the Cornerstone Golf and Tennis Classic. Over the past 29 years, the outing has raised over \$1,000,000, enabling the Breslin Fund to provide for the needs of hundreds of seminarians who experience unforeseen financial needs as they prepare for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

For more information about the 2010 Golf and Tennis Classic please contact Catherine Cuning, Director of Development at (973) 378-2661 or e-mail catherine.cuning@sbu.edu. †

Thank you supporters of the Annual Judge Roger W. Breslin Cornerstone Golf and Tennis Classic*

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* Listings represent 2008 benefactors.

2009 Diaconate Ordination

Celebrating the diaconate ordination of 11 seminarians

On May 17, 2009 Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. ordained 13 men to the transitional diaconate for service to the Archdiocese of Newark at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey. Of these, eight men are studying for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary, including: Rev. Mr. Duverney Bermudez, Rev. Mr. Camilo Cruz, Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Simon DosSantos, Rev. Mr. Frank Fano, Rev. Mr. Julius Lucero, Rev. Mr. Anthony Marcantuono, Rev. Mr. Edinson Ramirez and Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Vargas. These men have begun pastoral assignments where they will serve as deacons in Archdiocesan parishes until their ordination during spring 2010.

Additionally, Most Reverend J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D. ordained three seminarians from Immaculate Conception Seminary to the transitional diaconate on April 30, 2009 at St. Cecilia Church, Rockaway, New Jersey. They are: Rev. Mr. Manuel Guevara, Rev. Mr. Brian Quinn and Rev. Mr. Benjamin Williams. These men have also begun pastoral assignments where they will serve until their ordination to the priesthood in 2010.

During the transitional diaconate ordination the candidates confirm to the Bishop that they will be chaste and serve Christ Jesus and the Church with confidence in the faith. Deacons have several roles, including: proclaiming the Gospel and preaching the Homily during Mass; and Deacons may administer the sacrament of Baptism as well as witness the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. †

Ready to go forth: Sidebar from top, three seminarians from Immaculate Conception Seminary are ordained for the transitional diaconate in service to the Diocese of Paterson on April 30, 2009 at St. Cecilia's Church, Rockaway, New Jersey; eight Immaculate Conception seminarians join four candidates from Redeptoris Mater Seminary for ordination to the transitional diaconate on May 17, 2009 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey. Below, newly ordained stand with Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. First row from left, Rev. Mr. Julius Lucero, Rev. Mr. Frank Fano, Rev. Mr. Arokiadoss Raji, Rev. Mr. Duverney Bermudez, Rev. Mr. Edinson Ramirez, Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Vargas. Second row from left, Rev. Mr. Anthony Marcantuono, Rev. Mr. Joseph Simon DosSantos, Rev. Mr. Camilo Cruz, Rev. Mr. Francisco Rodriguez, Archbishop Myers, Rev. Mr. Wellington Munoz, Rev. Mr. Victor Markovic, Rev. Mr. Gregory Podolowski.



Photo credit: Bill Blanchard Photography. Photo courtesy: Reverend Philip-Michael Tangorra

Reflections on Priesthood and Diaconate Ordinations

Celebrating the Priesthood and Diaconate ordination of seminarians.

Priesthood Ordinations 2008

Again this year the Archdiocese of Newark was among the national leaders in the number of men ordained to the priesthood as Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. ordained nine men on May 24, 2008, in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey. Reflecting the diverse nature of the archdiocese to which they have been called to serve, these men bring a wide range of nationalities, backgrounds, languages and experiences to their ministries. Their ages range from 27 to 65, and the senior member of the 2008 ordination class is a widower whose wife passed away ten years ago after 22 years of marriage.

Giving of themselves fully: Above, candidates for the priesthood prostrate themselves before Archbishop John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. showing their full commitment to their calling. Below, Archbishop Myers takes a moment to stand with the newly ordained.



While diverse in background and previous life experiences all of the men bring to their priesthood an intense desire to serve the People of God in whatever assignments they receive. This commitment has been proven by both their devotion to study during the formative years in the seminary as well as in the many ministries in which they have already contributed to Christ's Church.

The newly ordained from Immaculate Conception Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Seminary are: Reverend Pedro Bismarck Chau; Reverend Andres Condoner Contell; Reverend Raphael Lee; Reverend Ireneusz Pierzchala; Reverend Manuel R. Romerde; Reverend Ivan Sant; Reverend Bruno Sammarco; and Reverend Paolo Tanzini.

Five other men from Immaculate Conception Seminary were also ordained in 2008. On May 17, 2008, Reverend Patrick McPartland was ordained by Most Reverend John M. Smith, J.C.D., D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption.

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, ordained Reverend Ramon Orama, Jr. on May 10, 2008 in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Also on that date Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D., Bishop of Metuchen Diocese, ordained Reverend John Patrick O'Kane at the Cathedral of St. Francis.

And on June 14, 2008, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, S.T.D., Archbishop of Washington, ordained Reverend Mark Ivany and Reverend Marco Schad. †

Diaconate Ordination - 2008

In May and June 2008, 15 seminarians studying for the priesthood at either Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology or Redemptoris Mater Seminary were ordained as transitional deacons. 13 were ordained by Archbishop John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Newark, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on May 20, 2007. In addition, two other seminarians were ordained, one each in the Diocese of Wilmington and the Diocese of Trenton.

During their diaconal year these men will proclaim the Gospel and preach at Sunday and daily liturgies, minister at the altar, baptize, witness marriages, visit the sick, comfort the troubled and bury the dead. As deacons these experiences, which will prove invaluable in their future priesthood, will allow them to integrate their theological and pastoral preparation as they serve their parishioners as ordained ministers of the Church.

The new deacons for the Archdiocese of Newark are: Reverend Mr. Matthew Dooley; Reverend Mr. Hector Galvis; Reverend Mr. Peter Iwuala; Reverend Mr. Christian Jaramillo; Reverend Mr. Pablo Matinez; Reverend Mr. Nnaemka Andrew Onyemaobi; Reverend Mr. Andrew Park; Reverend Mr. John Prada; Reverend Mr. Mauro Primavera; Reverend Mr. Elky Reyes; Reverend Mr. Stephen Saffron; Reverend Mr. Maté Skublics. Deacons for other diocese include: Reverend Mr. Edward Hegnauer (Washington); and Reverend Mr. Thomas Vala (Trenton). Reverend Mr. Robert Williams, O.F.M. Cap., was ordained for service to his community.

2008-2009 Seminarians' Travels

Near and far, seminarians share faith-filled experiences.

Priestly formation involves many aspects. Seminarians studying at Immaculate Conception Seminary are fortunate to benefit from a priestly formation program enriched with travel opportunities. Below, top, seminarians experience a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City during fall 2008. Below, bottom, seminarians take to the field during the annual Rector's Cup, held during fall 2008 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Below, right, seminarians, students, faculty and administrators fight for the unborn during the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., winter 2009. †



In Memoriam

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology mourns the loss of these members of our family of priest alumni who recently passed away. Let us offer our prayers to honor these faithful servants of God.

Reverend John J. Casey M.Div. '83/Ordained 1984

Reverend Monsignor Richard A. Ewing '42/Ordained 1946

Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Fleming '40/Ordained 1944

Reverend John K. Gurski '60/Ordained 1964

Reverend Robert J. Halliwell '53/Ordained 1957

Reverend Monsignor John P. Hourihan '45/ Ordained 1949

Reverend Eugene J. Kasper '55, M.Div. '81/Ordained 1959

Reverend Joseph J. Laudati '52/Ordained 1956

Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Lennon '46/Ordained 1950

Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Marjanczyk '41/Ordained 1945

Reverend Joseph W. Nealon '36/Ordained 1940

Reverend John P. Nickas '62, M.Div. '76/Ordained 1966

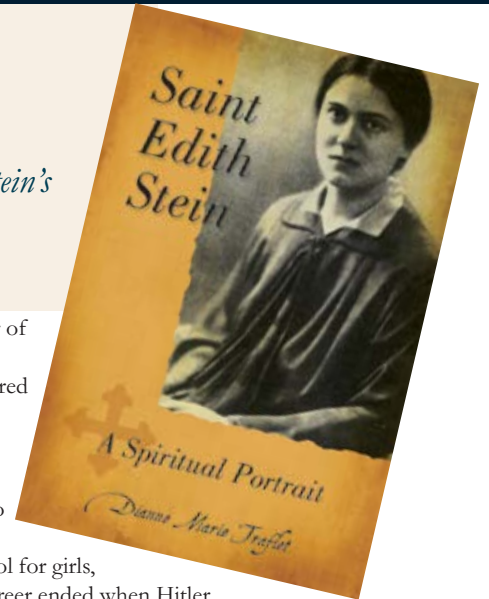
Reverend Monsignor Edwin V. Sullivan '42/Ordained 1946

Reverend John D. Sweeney '52/Ordained 1956

Reverend Monsignor Edward F. Wojtycha '34/Ordained 1938

Saint Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait

Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., Associate Dean, combines St. Edith Stein's biography with the saint's spirituality rooted in the understanding of human suffering in this new book.



Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, recently published her study of Edith Stein (St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross), the Carmelite sister who was martyred at Auschwitz.

St. Edith Stein was born into a Jewish family, but in her mid-teens, she turned away from her faith--indeed, all faith--and then suffered years of spiritual restlessness. After reading Teresa of Avila's autobiography, Edith converted to Catholicism at the age of 30. During the eleven years following her Baptism, while she hoped someday to be a Carmelite nun, she taught at a Catholic school for girls, and became a well-respected teacher, lecturer, writer, and philosopher. Her career ended when Hitler came to power, at which time she finally received approval from her spiritual director to enter Carmel. She joined the Carmelites in 1933.

Exploring St. Edith Stein: Dr. Dianne M. Traflet, J.D., S.T.D. publishes a book on the saint's life.

St. Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait explores Edith's life and the many grace-filled moments leading to, and stemming from, her conversion of faith. It discusses Edith's love and appreciation of the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the Cross, and how Edith's spirituality deepened as Nazi persecution intensified. The book follows Edith's spiritual journey as she is captured by the Nazis and sent to her death in Auschwitz in 1942. †

Remembering Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.



Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology mourns the loss of Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. who passed away in December 2008. Cardinal Dulles received a Doctorate of Human Letters from Seton Hall University in 1989, and was a distinguished guest of the Seminary in 2001 and 2006. Cardinal Dulles was 90 years old. †

Everyday Life: Living Within the Lord

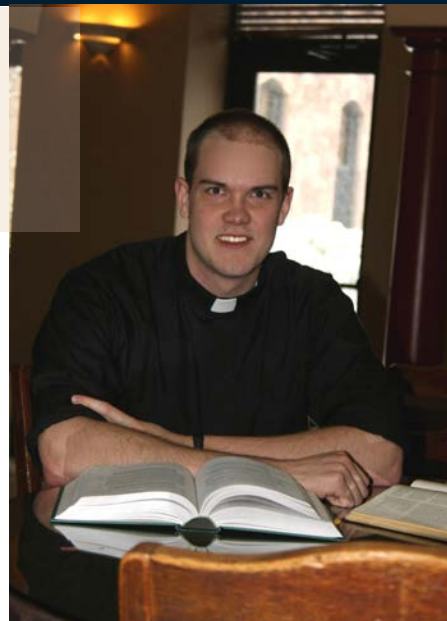
Glenn Evers, second year Pre-Theologian, takes a moment to share about his family, his vocation and his life at the Seminary.

Glenn Evers, a second year Pre-Theology seminarian for the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware, finds great support from his Catholic family. His parents, daily communicants in their hometown of Hockessen, Delaware, live their faith each day. Glenn began to make daily Mass a major part of his life while in his senior year at the University of Delaware. During this time, Glenn began to hear the Lord calling him to the priesthood.

While studying for his undergraduate degree in Computer Science Glenn shares, “I had a profound experience which helped me to become more oriented towards the Lord.” Besides daily Mass and frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Glenn started reading a number of works by Catholic scholar Scott Hahn. It was during his undergraduate orientation that Glenn connected with Reverend Cornelius Breslin, a priest from his parish, who became instrumental in assisting Glenn as he began his discernment.

However, not only through their example would Glenn find strength in his parents, but also in their full commitment and support of his decision to become a priest. Glenn shares, “As one of six, my parents were very happy with my decision, along with my inquisitive brothers and sisters. It is great to know I have the 100 percent support of my family behind me.”

As part of his formation, last summer Glenn was able to study Spanish in Mexico. While there, he had the opportunity to make biweekly pastoral visits to one of the poorest parishes in the capital city. Glenn soon discovered that while the parishioners had very few worldly possessions, their faith was incredibly strong. Glenn shares, “I will carry the faith of those people with me each day - pushing me to be a better seminarian, and one day, a better priest.” It is this real embodiment of Christ’s teachings in everyday life that Glenn seeks to integrate into his priesthood; to orient himself fully to the Lord and to share unreservedly with others what Christ has given him. †



Living within the Lord: Glenn Evers, second year Pre-Theologian, credits daily mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and his family as essential sources for his discernment.

Paul Josef Cardinal Cordes Receives Doctorate of Humane Letters

On November 7, 2008, Seton Hall University awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* to Paul Josef Cardinal Cordes, President of the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum”, the Dicastery of the Holy See responsible for promoting the charitable activities of the Church. Cardinal Cordes then delivered an address titled *To Defeat Evil – Possible?* In his talk His Eminence cited St. Paul to identify the cause of evil in the world as godlessness, an interior denial of God, Who is Love. Using Pope Benedict XVI’s 2005 encyclical, *Deus est Caritas*, the Cardinal stated that the ultimate key to overcome evil and sin today is God. †

Cardinal Cordes honored: Right, Cardinal Cordes speaks about overcoming evil in today’s world. Below, Cardinal Cordes is honored with a Doctorate of Humane Letters by distinguished University officials, including Archbishop John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. Archbishop of Newark (center left). Below, right, the Schola Cantorum shares a song for the ceremony.





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On the cover: Image from the priesthood ordination Spring 2009,
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey.
Photo credit: Leo Sorel Photography.

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