



Mount St. Mary's Seminary



The new students of Mount St. Mary's Seminary gathered at the home of Mount St. Mary's University President, Dr. Thomas Powell, and his wife, Irene, at the end of orientation week. Dr. and Mrs. Powell hosted the new men and the orientation team for brunch following Mass at the Mount's grotto, the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes, on August 21.

Seminary Welcomes 47 New Men

Mount St. Mary's welcomed 47 new seminarians this fall. At the opening Mass for the new men and their families on the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, August 15, Seminary Rector Father Kevin Rhoades noted the appropriateness of their arrival on a feast of Mary and encouraged the new men to cultivate a deep devotion to the Mother of God—the patroness of the Mount. The new seminarians had a week of orientation before the arrival of 107 returning seminarians August 22.

Seminary enrollment this year is 160 (154 seminarians and 6 lay students). Seminarians come from 29 different

dioceses and 3 religious communities. The largest sending diocese this year is the Archdiocese of Atlanta with 19 seminarians, followed by the Archdiocese of Washington with 14. The Mount welcomed a new sending diocese this year, the Diocese of Worcester, Mass.

Reflecting national trends, the seminary student body reflects a growing ethnic diversity. Thirty seminarians were born outside the United States—representing 15 different countries of origin. Eleven percent of the student body is Hispanic; seven percent Asian/Pacific Islander; two percent African, and two percent Polish.



Seminary Orientation Team

Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher Celebrates Golden Jubilee

By Bryan W. Jerabek,
First Theology, Diocese of Birmingham, Ala.

September 8—the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary—has always been an important day of celebration for Mount St. Mary's University. This year, however, it took on special significance as it marked the 50th anniversary of entrance into religious life of seminary professor Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher, R.S.M. But this was not only Sister Ann Miriam's Golden Jubilee as a religious; it was also a celebration of the 25 years that she has served at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. On this "day of anniversaries," therefore, seminarians, faculty, staff, university officers, Sisters of Mercy, Daughters of Charity and a wide variety of other guests honored her with a solemn Mass and dinner reception.

Sister Ann Miriam, née Mary Thérèse (Theresa) Gallagher, was raised in a strong Catholic family in the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania. Educated almost entirely (prior to graduate studies) by Sisters of Mercy, she entered the Mercy

novitiate in Dallas, Pa., in 1954 after a short time teaching in public schools. During the first 25 years of her religious life, she held numerous positions in Catholic education, including teaching in Catholic schools of the Scranton Diocese and serving on the faculty and as president of College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa., a college sponsored by the Mercy Sisters. At intervals during this time she pursued graduate studies, earning her Ph.D. in church history from the Catholic University of America in 1972. In 1979, her ministry of education took on a new focus: the formation of priests for the Catholic Church.

Sister Ann Miriam's tenure as professor of church history at the seminary began in 1979 when she was hired by then-rector Fr. Harry Flynn. Since that time, she has served under four subsequent rectors, and Fr. Flynn has gone on to become archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"Today we gather to celebrate the life of a woman who has lived for fifty years as a Sister of Mercy. ... miracles have happened because of your fifty years, hearts have been changed ... great works have been accomplished through you. And Jesus Christ, Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher, has been delivered over and over again because of your betrothal to Him, because of your gentle and generous manner."

—Archbishop Flynn

Sister Ann Miriam in 1963 while teaching high school in the Diocese of Scranton.



Archbishop Flynn preaches homily at Jubilee Mass.

Archbishop Flynn made the trip from his archdiocese to Emmitsburg to celebrate the Mass for her Golden Jubilee, at which he recounted with gracious words his acquaintance with Sister Ann Miriam: "Today we gather to celebrate the life of a woman who has lived for fifty years as a Sister of Mercy. ... I consider it one of the better

things I did, to be instrumental in bringing you, Sister Ann Miriam, to this mountain twenty-five years ago. We look at you and we are grateful; miracles have happened because of your fifty years, hearts have been changed ... great works have been accomplished through you. And Jesus Christ, Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher, has been delivered over and over again because of your betrothal to Him, because of your gentle and generous manner."



Seminary Mass in Immaculate Conception Chapel celebrating Sr. Ann Miriam's Jubilee.

During Holy Communion, the seminary choir sang what has always shone through Sister Ann Miriam's life and ministry: "My God, I am yours for time and eternity; Lord, I am yours forever" (from the Suscipe of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy).

At the dinner reception that followed, Fr. Kevin Rhoades, rector of the seminary, served as master of ceremonies. Sister Ann Miriam's brother, Edward, offered the toast, and this was followed by several people who stepped to the podium to offer words of tribute to Sister Ann Miriam.

Dr. Thomas Powell, president of the university, spoke of her as a "professor's professor" and "an example for all of us." He called attention to her achievement of the rank of full professor in 1987, and the many other works she has accomplished for the university over the past 25 years, such as serving in leadership positions for seminary and college accreditations. Dr. Powell pointed out that Sister Ann Miriam "exemplifies the vision of Mount St. Mary's: faith, discovery, leadership and community."

Deacon Michael Angarola, president of the Seminary Student Government Association, offered congratulations and presented a gift to Sister Ann Miriam, as did Fr. Kevin Rhoades. Her brother, Joseph, delivered touching and often humorous remarks about Sister Ann as a member of the Gallagher Family.

Sister Eileen Marie Toole, member of the leadership team of, and representing Sister Catherine McGroarty, the president of the Dallas Sisters of Mercy, honored Sister Ann Miriam at the banquet.

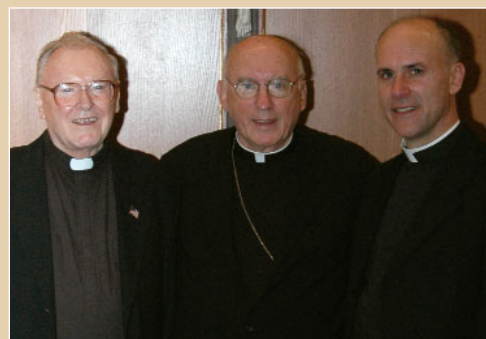
Toward the end of the reception, Sister Ann Miriam offered her own reflections to all those who came to celebrate her Golden Jubilee and 25 years of service to Mount St. Mary's: "The greatest blessing for my past 25 years of continuous service at Mount St. Mary's has been the privilege and awesome responsibility of serving the church, especially in the area of priestly formation to more than seven hundred seminarians from a total of about forty dioceses."



Sr. Ann Miriam thanks guests at Jubilee banquet.

Monsignor Richard McGuinness, a rector under whom Sister Ann Miriam had served for several years, offered the benediction.

Thank you, Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher, for your life of service: service to the Religious Sisters of Mercy, service to Mount St. Mary's and service to the church.



Top to Bottom:

Mount rectors (left to right) Msgr. Richard McGuinness, Archbishop Harry Flynn and Rev. Kevin Rhoades.

Sr. Ann Miriam (center) with her brothers Edward and Joseph and sisters-in-law Joanne and Julie.

Sr. Ann Miriam (center) with Sisters of Mercy Eileen Toole (left) and Susan Marie Novalis (right).

Msgr. McGuinness congratulates Sr. Ann Miriam.

Archbishop John Foley Leads Weekend of Recollection

By John L. Lavorgna, Third Theology, Archdiocese of Hartford



“The mind needs silence for study and the soul requires silence for prayer. One must never interrupt conversation with our Lord. Thus the paradox of Christian spirituality is made known. Jesus, the Eternal Word, comes in silence.”

—Archbishop Foley

Even the man assigned the daunting task of coordinating the communications activity of the Universal Church understands the sacred power of silence.

This notion, as applied to the spiritual life of the seminarian, laid the foundation for the series of conferences and homilies offered by the Most Rev. John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, who led the seminary’s Weekend of Recollection on August 27-29.

“The mind needs silence for study and the soul requires silence for prayer. One must never interrupt conversation with our Lord. Thus the paradox of Christian spirituality is made known. Jesus, the Eternal Word, comes in silence,” explained Archbishop Foley during his opening remarks to the seminarians assembled in Saint Bernard’s Chapel. “Christ came into the world in silence at Bethlehem; he redeemed the world in relative silence upon the Cross at Calvary; and he will come to your soul in silence—the silence of a prayerful heart.”

The visit of Archbishop Foley to Mount St. Mary’s was a great privilege for the entire seminary community, but it also marked the fulfillment of a long held personal wish of Seminary Rector Kevin C. Rhoades. He had been hoping to welcome Archbishop Foley, his former professor in college seminary, to the Mount since his first days as rector. Father Rhoades, who termed the visit “a true blessing for the seminary,” was very grateful that his desire became a reality.

“The homilies and conferences from the archbishop on study, prayer and sacrifice provided us with much spiritual insight and invaluable counsel as we began the new academic year,” remarked Father Rhoades. He also asked the archbishop to remember Mount St. Mary’s in prayer at the tomb of St. Peter when he returned to Rome.

The weekend of recollection featured a communal penance service, during which

the archbishop strongly exhorted the seminarians to make a forthright examination of conscience each night. The second day included a compelling analysis of each of the major disciplines of theology studied while in formation, and their essential connection to the ordained ministry of the priest.

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—Father Rhoades

Gregory Kelly, second theology for the Diocese of Scranton, appreciated the archbishop’s discussion of the examination of conscience, and noted that he “called upon his many years of priesthood, and was able to give us great advice on how to incorporate the challenges, joys and experience of priestly life into a genuine Christian spirituality.”

The candor and practicality of Archbishop Foley’s messages proved to be quite popular among the seminarians. “He gave a lot of useful tips regarding specific ways to pray, and shared much wisdom regarding the different areas of study for the seminarian. I especially appreciated this as someone at the beginning stages of formation,” said Luke Austin, pre-theology for the Diocese of Burlington.

Archbishop Foley (who was recently reappointed to a fifth five-year term in his post at the Holy See) concluded by reflecting joyfully upon his more than four decades of priesthood. He often reminded the seminarians during the weekend that “a good pastor must never allow himself or his people to forget why they are here, what we are to do and where we are going.”

Faculty News



A NEW FULL PROFESSOR

By John R. Johnson,

Second Theology, Diocese of Savannah

Sister Joan Gormley was recently promoted to the rank of full professor.

After 15 years of service on the faculty of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Sister Joan Gormley of the Department of Sacred Scripture was promoted to the rank of full professor. Achieving this rank is the ultimate recognition of a faculty member's accomplishments in teaching, scholarship and service.

Sister Joan's academic contributions are numerous, including extensive research and writings on St. Edith Stein and St. Therese of Lisieux. In addition, she has presented papers to many recognized biblical organizations including the Catholic Biblical Association, the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and the Institute for the Encounter of Science and Theology. One of her many published works is a commentary on *Dei Verbum* written for the Catholic Distance University.

During her sabbatical semester last year, Sister Joan began intensive research on the life and works of St. John of Avila, who is known in Spain as the patron of diocesan priests. Her work in this area is especially appropriate given his many writings on the theology of the priesthood. She has produced a full translation of his greatest work, the *Audi filia*. This, along with her own introduction, will be published as a volume in the Paulist Press *Classics of Western Spirituality*.

RETURNING TO THE MOUNT

By Thomas J. Doyle Jr.,

First Theology, Diocese of Rockford

English as a Second Language Coordinator Ms. Deborah Wentling

Ms. Wentling is no stranger to the Mount. She originally worked as librarian, starting in 1980. About eight years later, she left for the University of Pittsburgh to earn a master's degree in linguistics, whereupon she returned to teach ESL and writing until 2002. She taught English in Japan, but hoped to get back to the Mount. When the position of ESL coordinator was posted on the Internet, she eagerly applied and returned.

As the ESL coordinator, Ms. Wentling works with about 15 students, from cultures as diverse as Latin America and Eastern Europe. Her students are "friendly and anxious to make one feel comfortable," as well as particularly persevering. "What they're doing is a very hard thing—taking graduate-level classes in a non-native language." She professes a great admiration for her students' determination.

Her work in the ESL program includes attending classes such as Scripture and systematics, taking notes to help the seminarians in those classes when they have questions concerning ideas or vocabulary, and helping students improve their writing and reading comprehension. She also helps her students speak English clearly, as some of them are training to become lectors this year.

IN CHRIST, THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

By Thomas J. Doyle Jr.

When asked what impression he has of the United States, the Rev. Tommy Lane chuckles and says, "I have been here only a month!" But in that short time, Father Lane has successfully integrated himself into the seminary community, preaching and teaching as formation advisor, spiritual director and associate professor.

Very quickly, Father Lane has noticed differences between U.S. seminaries and those in Ireland. For example, to the best of his knowledge, there is no formation advising in Ireland. He likes the closer collaboration and interaction between seminary faculty and seminarians here. He says that the system here encourages the faculty to get more involved with the seminarians, such as eating meals with them, which then gives a better understanding of the difficulties and expectations of those being formed. That interaction has shown him that the men here at the Mount are "very sound, very positive."

A Scripture scholar with a doctorate in biblical theology from Gregorian University, Father Lane is familiar with eight languages. He hopes his students in the seminary and university will "have a solid, exegetical knowledge of the Scriptures," a knowledge that will encourage daily Bible reading and prominent placement of the Bible in everyday life. In particular, he hopes that the seminarians grow to have a spirituality solidly founded on the Scriptures.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

The seminary community is grateful for your support of our programs during FY 2003-04. The Seminary Annual Fund exceeded all expectations, topping \$176,000, surpassing our goal of \$160,000.

For three years in a row, funds raised have topped ever-increasing goals. Seminary Annual Fund contributions go directly to the operating budget to meet the everyday expenses of running the seminary. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference in the lives of our seminarians. Thank you!

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Over the years estate gifts have played an important role in funding our program of priestly formation, sending priests to more than 90 dioceses across the United States. If you have not done so already, please consider naming Mount St. Mary's Seminary in your will. *There are three ways to give through your will:*

Specific Amount, designates a sum of money or specific property—Sample: "I give, devise and bequeath to Mount St. Mary's University, Inc., Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727, \$_____ to be used for general purposes by the seminary."

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Please be advised that these samples are suggestions only. Legal documents should always be prepared by your own attorney. For more information, contact Sherry Trocino, director of seminary development, at 301-334-5017. Or visit our website, www.msm.edu/giving.

Summer Symposium a Success



On June 25, Mount St. Mary's Seminary hosted a symposium, "Syriac and Antiochian

Exegesis and Biblical Theology for the 3rd Millennium." Dr. Robert D. Miller II, SFO, assistant professor of sacred Scripture and current chair of the Scripture department, organized the daylong event. Seminary Rector Kevin Rhoades welcomed the assembly.

One Woman's Response to the Spirit

MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY ANNOUNCES FIRST ENDOWED PROGRAM

By Sherry Trocino, Director of Seminary Development

While visiting Mount St. Mary's as her former pastor Monsignor Roeltgen was posthumously honored with the Cardinal McCloskey Award, St. Stephen Martyr parishioner Margaret Fiore felt called to more tangibly support the seminary. In fact, she strongly felt the presence of Monsignor Roeltgen, rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary from 1988-97, urging her to do something for him.

She said "yes."

And so we are pleased to announce that Margaret Fiore, a member of the Rector's Council, has made a \$250,000 pledge to establish the Monsignor Kenneth W. Roeltgen Endowment for Pastoral Formation for Mount St. Mary's Seminary. The endowed program will be the seminary's first. The Monsignor Kenneth W. Roeltgen Endowment will provide monies each year in perpetuity for the seminary's Pastoral Formation Program.

Monsignor Roeltgen was shepherd, mentor, inspiration and friend to seminarians from 40 dioceses as they prepared to become pastors in parishes all across the United States. The Monsignor Kenneth W. Roeltgen Endowment is designed to carry on his pastoral spirit through the lives of future priests and is dedicated to his memory.

The Pastoral Formation Program provides solid formation through classroom instruction and practical experience so that seminarians become shepherds imbued with the charity of Christ, filled with a missionary spirit and possessing pastoral competence and skills.

Through a comprehensive program of supervised work in hospitals, clinics and parishes—with the poor, the homeless, the ill, youth at risk, school children and parishioners—seminarians are instilled with an awareness of their role as future shepherds. Guided by the director of pastoral formation, they acquire skills of pastoral leadership, the capacity for collaborative ministry and an appreciation for the importance of social justice.

"Pastoral study and action direct one to an inner source ... the ever deeper communion with the pastoral charity of Jesus, which ... thanks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Orders, should constitute the principle and driving force of the priestly ministry" (Program of Priestly Formation #57).

The Mount St. Mary's Seminary community is grateful to Ms. Fiore for this gracious gift to the seminary endowment and for the heartfelt generosity and kindness that prompted it.



MONSIGNOR KENNETH W. ROELTGEN

The Monsignor Kenneth W. Roeltgen Endowment for Pastoral Formation will provide monies each year in perpetuity for the seminary's Pastoral Formation Program.

For more information contact Sherry Trocino, director of seminary development, at 301-447-5017 or strocino@msmary.edu.



Top national and international scholars in Scripture, patristics and theology presented papers discussing the style of biblical interpretation used by the church fathers of ancient Syria and by the modern churches of "Antiochian" rite. These scholars believe that recovering this tradition could aid in making today's biblical research of use to theologians.



Much animated discussion was provoked on the value of the modern "historical critical" study of the Bible, on whether there is even a unified "style" used by these church fathers, and on the meaning of the mandate to interpret the Scripture in light of the tradition. Three response papers were also given, including one by Dr. Miller.



More than 60 people attended, from as far away as Utah. Members of the Mount community were joined by Catholic and Eastern Orthodox scholars, as well as Mormons, Mennonites and several other dominations.

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*Seminary Newsletter photography by David
Hasser, Second Theology, Diocese of Lafayette*

Faculty Begins Year with *Day of Prayer*

For the past eight years, the seminary faculty has begun each academic year with a day of spiritual reflection and prayer. This year, on August 16, the Most Rev. Felipe Estevez, auxiliary bishop of Miami, led the day with reflections on the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. He focused particularly on how Mount St. Mary's Seminary can appropriate the grace of the Eucharist, contemplating in it the face of Christ.

Bishop Estevez reflected on the passage from chapter 13 of St. John's Gospel in which Jesus washes the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper. He spoke about the work of seminary faculty in the context of the humble, self-offering service of the Eucharistic Lord. The bishop described seminary work as "a mission of love, a service of the community with the Eucharistic love of Christ."

Bishop Estevez offered points of meditation from the *Lineamenta* for the 2005 World Synod of Bishops, which will focus on the theme of the Eucharist. He spoke of the importance of adoration and the seminary's mission to form men who are "adorers in spirit and in truth," men of interiority.

Bishop Estevez was born in Havana, Cuba, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Matanzas, Cuba. He later served as rector and spiritual director of Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla. Ordained a bishop in January 2004, Bishop Estevez has conducted extensive studies in spiritual theology and earned a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

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The seminary faculty began this academic year with a day of spiritual reflection and prayer led by the Most Rev. Felipe Estevez, auxiliary bishop of Miami.