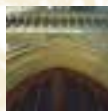
















St. Peter's Seminary
Alumni Bulletin



2006

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*The Alumni Bulletin of
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Number Sixty-five
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Editor

Father John Comiskey

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the benefit of our alumni.
We welcome your feedback,
suggestions and contributions.
Contact: Father John Comiskey,
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Message from the New Editor Fr. John Comiskey ('81)

Aggiornamento

The call of John XXIII at the Second Vatican Council was a challenge to bring the Church up-to-date. It is important we listen to that clarion call in the many facets of Seminary life. This Alumni Bulletin is one such facet we are changing with a view to up-dating.

To start, I must first pay tribute to Fr. Mike Prieur, who has given up the job as Editor. Mike has had three stints as Editor over the years, always willing to take it on when others wished to give it up. Mike has served the Alumni Association tirelessly and with great love since coming on faculty. We appreciate that, and we are glad he will still serve in the capacity as Secretary-Treasurer.

Over the years, the Bulletin has come in different sizes and shapes. That is the first change you will have noticed. We trust you will like the new format, with its different look and lay-out. We are continuing with some regular features, including a letter from our Rector, Fr. Bill McGrattan, who shares some good news about the future of the Seminary. Our student's perspective comes from one of our priest-graduates, Fr. Dan MacDonald. Dan has been in our program for six years and has a unique perspective on things, which he conveys with his usual warmth and sense of humour.

We are also able to feature some new members of the college of bishops who are also graduates; and we remember those graduates "who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith" (EPI).

As time passes, there are also changes to the faculty; we say "adieu" to two of our beloved faculty members and "au revoir" to two others who leave for studies. An historical piece has been added to round out our articles.

As in recent years, there is no "alumni directory" as part of this Bulletin. Circulation of our directory is strictly limited to members of the association and so the Bulletin could not be given to anyone else if it included the directory, either for general interest or promotion of the Seminary. The up-to-date directory is available on the Seminary website. You can access it only by password and can obtain that from our receptionist by calling 519-432-1824. We can send a printed copy as well. Please ask the receptionist.

Finally, at the Alumni Reunion last October we asked those at the dinner: Should we continue to send the Bulletin to everyone? Many of our alumni do not pay any dues, yet all receive the Bulletin along with other mail from the Seminary. The Bulletin costs over \$5000 to print, with postage on top of that. The general consensus, with further consultation, is that this issue of the Bulletin will go to all alumni, but that only those who pay their dues will receive it in the future. We will continue to be in touch with all alumni, through the Foundation, regardless.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of the Alumni Bulletin. Let us know if you like the new format. We are always open to suggestions for the future.



Embracing a Future Full of Hope at St. Peter's Seminary Fr. Bill McGrattan ('87)



As the Diocese of London celebrates its 150th anniversary and begins to implement its Pastoral Plan "Embracing a Future Full of Hope," St. Peter's Seminary will be called upon to renew its vision of pastoral outreach. The diocese and seminary are embarking on a new phase in our collaborative history which will require adaptive change if we are to meet the future needs of pastoral leadership in our Church.

Evangelization, faith development, the call to holiness, ongoing formation and the preferential option for the poor are essential elements of the pastoral plan which touch the lives of everyone in our diocese and in the Church of Canada -- priests, deacons, lay pastoral ministers, and parishioners. Strong pastoral and ministerial leadership is essential for the implementation of this plan, for the revitalization of our parishes and for our witness in the world. Bishop Fabbro has formally committed himself to boldly strengthen the future pastoral viability of the diocese and with these decisions is now committed to strengthening St. Peter's Seminary so that we might together embrace a future full of hope.

The seminary has gone through much transition in the last few years and so change is not new for us. Through this experience it is my conviction that we are better prepared to meet these new challenges. In addition to being committed to a strong program to prepare men for priesthood, permanent diaconate, and women and men for lay ministry through degree and non-degree programs, St. Peter's Seminary will be seriously considering

new ways of providing ongoing formation for the community in order to promote intellectual study, enhanced ministry skills, and renewed spirituality.

As an example, the John Michael Sherlock Chair in Pastoral Theology is one proposed program that we are jointly working on with the Foundation to provide opportunities for clergy renewal through ongoing programs. It is anticipated that this unique-to-Canada seminary initiative will have an important and positive impact on our Church and in the lives of priests. We are committing ourselves to revising the Permanent Diaconate formation program as we learn from the experience of this new ministry. We also recognize the need to collaborate with the diocese in providing formation for new forms of lay leadership in the Church and the world.

St. Peter's Seminary has a long history of service to the Canadian and American Church in forming and educating dedicated priests for ministerial leadership. We will continue to serve as a seed bed for the discernment of vocations and a catalyst for the Church in developing new models of pastoral leadership. It is exciting to envision a future full of hope and to work with confidence to embrace the gifts of the Spirit which continually bring about renewal in the Church and the seminary.



Faculty Studies

At the last Rector's Conference, Fr. Bill McGrattan announced that three faculty members will begin doctoral studies in theology in the autumn:

Fr. Peter Amszej is completing his license at the Alphonsianum in Rome, and will stay on in Rome working toward a doctorate in Moral Theology.

Fr. Steve Wlusek, who completed a Master of Theology at Creighton University in Omaha, will begin his doctorate at St. Michael's University, Toronto, specializing in Spiritual Theology.

Fr. Murray Watson will continue his work toward the doctorate in Biblical Studies. He obtained a license from the Biblicum in Rome and spent one year at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. All are scheduled to return to the seminary in the summer of 2009. We wish them well in their studies and offer our prayerful support.

Congratulations to the Alumni Award Recipients

The 2005 James J. Carrigan Distinguished Alumni Award for clergy was awarded to: Fr. Adrian Jansen, Class of '52

The 2005 Margaret Ferris, CSJ, Distinguished Alumni Award for laity was awarded to:

Ms. Lois Côté, MDiv, Class of '79



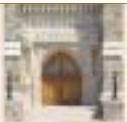
Fr. Peter Amszej at the Vatican in Rome during Easter Mass.



Panes of Glory is currently available for purchase at St. Peter's Seminary. This beautiful coffee table book includes a brief history of St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel in the seminary, full-colour photographs, a scholarly study of the saints and symbols used by the artists, reflections on the content of the biblical windows, the doctors of the church, and the missionary preachers, and much more.

Cost: \$75.00 CND plus taxes, shipping and handling.
Please call the seminary to place your order 519-432-1824.





"Adieu" to Two of our Beloved Faculty Members Sr. Loretta Manzano

A Blessed Journey into a New Stage of Life

In 1985 Sr. Margaret Ferris accepted the position of Professor of Pastoral Counselling at St. Peter's Seminary. She brought with her the experience of high school teacher, retreat house director, guidance and counselling, all gifts to enhance her added position as professional Counsellor. Over her 20-year ministry Marg's gifts were engaged fully as she participated in numerous committees and held coordinating positions.

From 1985 to 1998 she served as the Director for Lay Formation; from 1985 to 1997 coordinator of Ministerial Pre-practicum, and from 2000 to 2006 Director of Human Formation. As practical application of these positions Marg prepared students and their supervisors for the Pastoral Year, directed yearly retreats at Oxley, provided spiritual direction for lay students, and facilitated meetings for the Formation Advisors. Her committee work shows a broad scope of concern and interest: Admissions, Lay Formation, Social, Field Education, Student Evaluations, Spiritual Directors, Revision of the Fifth Year Program, and accreditation with ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

As one of the periti for the Roman Synod on Priestly Formation in 1985 Sr. Margaret brought that global perspective to her work at the seminary. A mind, wise with the potential of every human encounter, the ability to invite directees and students to face life's challenges, and a gentle questioning approach characterize Sister's ministry.

With words offered on behalf of the students at her retirement dinner, we bid Sr. Margaret a blessed journey into a new stage of life. May it be ripe with God's abundant love.

"Many of us have sought out your counsel when we felt overwhelmed by the institution and its demands. And in seeking you out, we found someone who listened, who calmed our fears, who gave us perspective on our issues and who helped us find the courage and strength to carry on. . . May God continue to bless you and your work."

New Directions for Sister Kathy O'Keefe, CSJ ('88)

As Sr. Kathy leaves St. Peter's Seminary for further studies we look back on her ministry among us. Kathy, a graduate of our seminary, served as Director of Field Education for the academic year 1999 to 2000 before entering the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 2002 Kathy resumed her role in Field Education. Much of Sr. Kathy's responsibilities engage her in establishing solid working relationships: setting up outreach and pastoral placements, visiting students on site at placement settings, facilitating reflection groups, communicating with crisis counsellors, hospital chaplains, pastoral teams, school principals, and supervisors. Such a rich array of networking!

There is always opportunity to serve on numerous committees at the seminary. Some highlights of Kathy's participation have been: Faculty Council, Cost Containment, Advisory Committee for the Special Care Department at St. Joseph's Care Centre, Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Social Justice Awareness and Fund-raising, Mission Awareness. With the latter Sr. Kathy had opportunity to visit Peru on behalf of the seminary.

The students thanked Kathy at a farewell dinner. Two points stand out from that presentation: "Among the things we will miss is your joyful smile. In your attentive greeting of each student as you passed us in the halls, you always brought a sense of joy. . . Your past pastoral experience in the parish and hospital brought an understanding and perspective to our field education and offered many helpful suggestions. We value your generous sharing of your pastoral and theological insights."

We thank Sr. Kathy for the wonderful model she is in ministry, always drawing the best out of one's potential, encouraging and affirming. God's abundant blessing in your new venture!



St. Peter's Seminary's Commitment to Priestly Ministry

"Shepherds after My Own Heart"

The Seminary's motto, "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" has been one of the guiding principles for the formation of priests in this institution since its founding in 1912. The words of the Lord, given through the prophet Jeremiah, speak of the kind of leaders needed in the Church – those who will care for the people as a shepherd cares for the flock, following the example of the Shepherd. This has been a focus for all of the priest-graduates but, in a special way, for those twenty priest-graduates who have been called to the order of bishop.

Our best wishes and prayers are with these men as they are called to serve the Church in new and challenging ways. St. Peter's Seminary Alumni Association is proud of you!



Bishop Gerard P. Bergie ('84)

- Born in Hamilton, ON
- BA Philosophy from St. Jerome's College

- MDiv from St. Peter's Seminary
- Ordained to the priesthood in 1984
- Ordained to the episcopate on August 24, 2005
- As Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton, Bishop Bergie will join Auxiliary Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki as an assistant to Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton
- First Canadian Bishop appointed by Pope Benedict XVI



Bishop Gary Gordon ('82)

- Grew up in Burnaby, BC
- BA Philosophy from St. Jerome's College
- MDiv from St. Peter's Seminary
- Ordained to the priesthood in 1982
- Ordained to the episcopate on March 22, 2006
- He was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Whitehorse



Bishop Peter J. Hundt ('82)

- Born in Hanover, ON
- B.A. from St. Jerome's College
- MDiv from St. Peter's Seminary
- Ordained to the priesthood in 1982
- He was awarded a Licentiate Degree in Canon Law in 1987 from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome
- Ordained to the episcopate on April 25, 2006
- He has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto

It is impossible to highlight these three appointments without recognizing the significant contribution that St. Peter's Seminary made to their formation, education and commitment to priestly ministry. We rightly can take pride in St. Peter's Seminary for its contribution to priestly ministry, diaconal ministry, lay ministry and episcopal ministry throughout Canada.



Recollections of the 2005 Alumni Reunion from the New President Fr. James Hutton ('66)



The recent reunion in 2005 of the Seminary graduates was an enjoyable gathering for me. I always look forward to returning to the Seminary. It's ironic when I consider the times I looked forward to leaving it! The past reunion as well as for me a surprise. My "election" as President of the Alumni came totally out of the blue. I was told that I was chosen because I have regularly attended the reunions.

My "election" was of course not the highlight of the reunion! There are several highlights I wish to share. The first is the very fact that so many made the effort to attend and participate. This expressed itself most forcefully at the closing Eucharist. It is obviously always a joy for graduates to gather in the sacred space of St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. To return there is a return to the rich heritage of our faith community which connects us to Him who called us to serve in His name.

A further highlight was to sense in a new way the presence of several lay graduates. Their memories of gradeau would be different from those of my era. I did sense that they too have fond memories of faith formation experiences and opportunities.

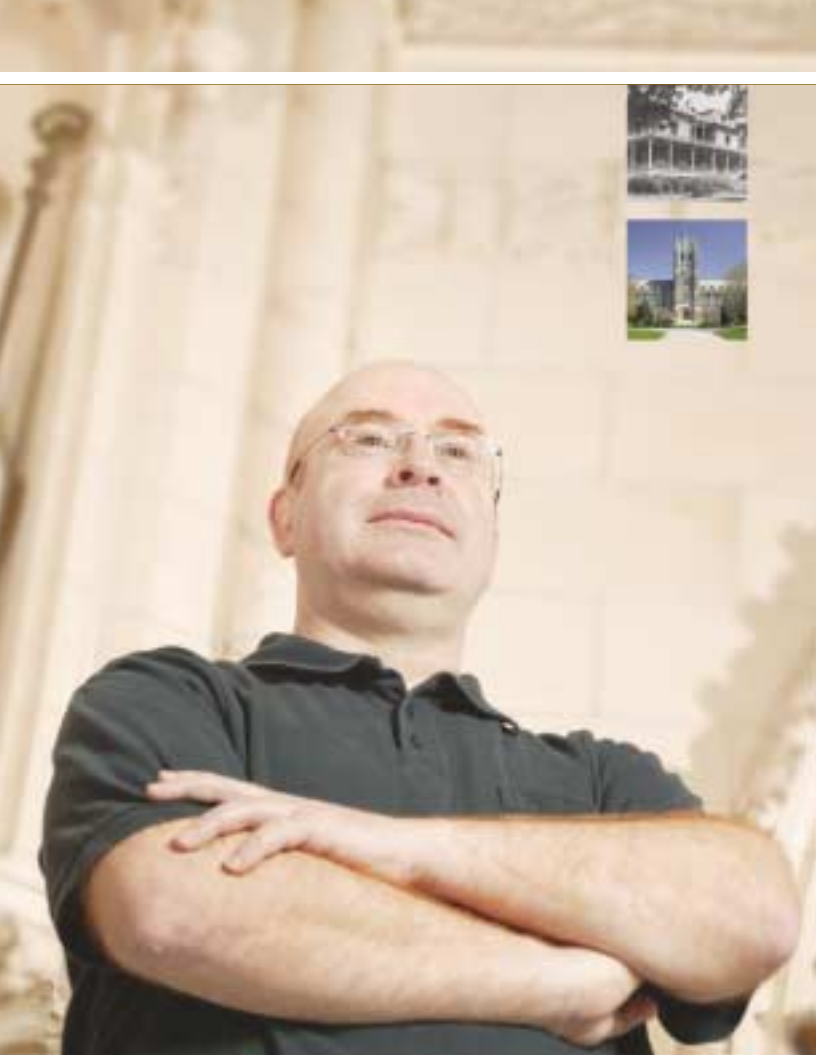
I recall walking down the main hallway behind a young university student who was coming for a class or perhaps going to the library. I recall thinking how wonderful it is that young people – not just those pursuing preparation for ordination – are in this building seeking wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The Seminary doors have been opened wide for several years to allow others to come under the

motto "Dabo vobis pastores iuxta cor meum" and to grow in their call to share in the mission of Jesus according to their circumstances. With the Vatican II vision to call all the baptized to a deeper sense of their mission and ministry to evangelize, the Seminary is truly fulfilling a new mandate.

Another highlight of the reunion was the unveiling of Father Michael Prieur's magnificent tribute to the windows of the Chapel. His enthusiastic dedication to produce this visual record is a tribute to the whole Seminary staff who work so tirelessly and generously to help form young people to be like the windows – letting God's glorious light shine through them. Is that not what saints are – those who let God's light shine through them to make a more beautiful world of joy, hope, peace and love? Thank you Michael for that enjoyable evening of unveiling!

At the closing Eucharist, Bishop Ron Fabbro (now an honorary member of the Alumni) was present to preside and preach. This was a highlight for me as well. I am the Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Sudbury where he was ordained a priest. His mother is a parishioner and he always offers to assist me at a Sunday Mass whenever he comes to visit his family. I am pleased that I have this connection to support him in his role of overseeing the Diocese of London.

I look forward to the next reunion and I hope that by reading this it will encourage you to return. There may be a surprise for you – as my term of President should be over! Who knows!



St. Peter's Seminary –a Student's View Fr. Dan MacDonald '06

As I write this, the seminary community is caught up in the last whirl of essays and students preparing for the final onslaught of exams. Given the stress we have at this time of year, community living can be challenging, but this year (my last) has been the best of the five I have spent here at St. Peters.

A wonderful spirit of camaraderie has truly blessed the house this year. The "new" guys had an opportunity to attend a two-week propedeutic program that not only formed a bond of friendship among them, but also conferred a livened spirit of enthusiasm and prayerfulness. Their enthusiasm caused many of us to reflect again on our initial call.

September began with "Extravaganza" and the "Group Weekend." Group "E," led by our fearless and athletic leader, Fr. Brian Dunn ('80), swept the field, much to the consternation and anguish of Group "D." Group Weekend in Grand Bend, was spent along the shore of Lake Huron in cottages generously donated by their owners for use of seminarians. Aside from being a time of recreation, this was an important time of sharing before the work of formation and academia began.

October is a month when midterms arrive and the seriousness of study settles upon students. We quickly learn that we are here not only to pray but also to form our minds. Nothing like the possibility of poor marks to cause one to prioritize study and assignments to the top of the list!

This year old acquaintances and friendships were renewed at the alumni reunion. It is a wonderful opportunity for the present students to hear first-hand some of the stories, history and traditions that make up a place like our Seminary. For us, they are a sign of hope that we too will endure by prayer and study.

A new tradition is the annual "Bishop's Dinner" held in Windsor. It is a wonderful evening where the Bishop, priests, seminarians and people of the

diocese, freely mingle, chat and share laughs and concerns. People are genuinely interested in and concerned about the formation of their future priests and they want to help in any way they can. Seminarians are given an opportunity to experience the love and support people have for their Church. One gentleman asked me, "Are you happy in your heart?" That is a question I will carry with me for the rest of my life and one that will forever bring back memories of a meal shared with exceptional people.

Given our dedication to human formation here at St. Peter's we hosted several events of an athletic nature. Seminarians from Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit arrived to challenge us in basketball, and left once more with the trophy. For some reason, our American brothers seem taller and one might argue that this gives a distinct advantage in a game like basketball. Nevertheless, all played with much heart and sportsmanship, and everyone was happy to renew acquaintances and to make new friends.

St. Augustine's arrived to compete for the Hockey Cup. Given the lack of skaters in Toronto, both seminaries agreed that floor hockey was an acceptable alternative. After a long hiatus from St. Peter's, the Hockey Trophy once more returned to its place of honour - our refectory.

I cannot end without mentioning the retirement of Sr. Margaret Ferris. Her quiet and gentle humour and her wise counsel will be greatly missed by the seminarians. Also leaving for further studies is Sr. Kathy O'Keefe. Her warm smile and friendly presence will be missed.

This was a remarkable year at St. Peter's Seminary.



I will give you shepherds after my own heart.

The Summer Retreats Come to a Close Fr. Mike Prieur ('65)

For many reasons, our retreat team has decided to discontinue the summer retreats for lay people at the seminary. It has been increasingly more difficult to use the seminary facilities on weekends from September to June as the space is needed for our many different programs. We were experiencing increased difficulties in getting enough retreatants to make the weekends worthwhile from a cost-effective perspective. Also, we were experiencing numerous difficulties in obtaining our speakers for our various themes. We might also add that the heat of the summer was a trial for some participants in our castle-like building. So, our six-year adventure comes to a close.

The retreats were truly wonderful experiences! Who will ever forget the welcoming roses in the rooms for the women, the chocolates on the pillows for the men, the delectable meals served with loving hospitality, the peace and serenity of the seminary and its magnificent grounds, the awesome chapel with its truly inspiring stained-glass windows, the variety of spiritual sessions with speakers of all kinds of backgrounds, the totally liberating penance celebrations, the peaceful moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament, and of course, the moving liturgies with all of us gathered around the altar at the celebration of the Eucharist!

Our themes over the six years reflected a comprehensive survey of the essentials of the faith: "Faith in Stress-Filled Times" (2000), "The Beatitudes for the 21st Century" (2001), "The Our Father for Fearful Times: Deliver us from Evil" (2002), "Our Christian Creed: Fresh Hope for the 21st Century" (2003), "Saints for our Times: Holiness for the 21st Century" (2004), and "The Eucharist in our Everyday Lives" (2005). With an almost unanimous response, our retreatants left the seminary refreshed, uplifted, spiritually inspired, healed and ready to return to the fray of our frenetic lives.

I must give thanks to all who made these retreats possible. The "Core Team" over the years consisted of Jim DeZorzi, Jean Haggerty, and Shirley and Wally Off. Assisting them were Elsie Freitas, Elena Moraz, and seminarians Dan Bombardier, Pio D'Oria, Tom Ferrara, Cong Dinh, and Brendan McGrath. Sr. Loretta Manzara was always so generous with her musical gifts and Jo-Ann Slawik gave tons of help through her office capabilities. I also thank our many wonderful speakers from both the seminary faculty and our grads. They always brought freshness to the sessions which often made our hearts "burn within us," as the Emmaus story says. Finally, I want to thank Jennifer Weir and Donna Gaspari who came on team recently. They had a fresh spark for us all.

Special thanks to Fr. Doug Boyer ('99), Fr. Charlie Campbell ('01) and Fr. Joe Hardy, my classmate, for their suggestions to reinstate summer retreats at the seminary, a tradition which had been present for men in the 50s and 60s. (Brescia College was the venue for the women.) I hope they are somewhat pleased with our small efforts.

With all this in mind, I just want to thank all of you and especially all of our retreatants. You took a "chance" on us, entrusted your spiritual lives to us, and brought us your own deep faith, hope and love. This seminary is a "spiritual oasis" and I do think Bishop Fallon, our founder, would be proud to see so much creativity in the many ways the seminary is being used today. May it lead to many other new ones as we move along in this grace-filled century.





Necrology

- Fr. Paul Schiller (London, 1954)
March 11, 2006
- Fr. William "Bill" McKenna (London, 1949)
February 1, 2006
- Fr. Donald Lehane (Victoria, 1945)
December 21, 2006
- Fr. "Mike" Langan (London, 1959)
December 19, 2005
- Fr. David Doran, CR (1953)
November 20, 2005
- Fr. James Summers (London, 1953)
October 25, 2005
- Fr. Leo Gardzalla (Scranton, 1945)
July 4, 2005

Please remember these deceased alumni members in the celebration of the Eucharist. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Faculty Bibliography

From Dr. John Dool:
Borg, Marcus J. and Wright, N.T.
The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions, San Francisco, HarperCollins, 2000

A prominent liberal scholar and member of the Jesus Seminar (Borg) and a prominent traditional scholar and critic of the Jesus Seminar (Wright) engage in conversation regarding historical and theological issues surrounding the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

From Fr. Steve Wlusek:
Egan, Keith J. (editor). *Carmelite Prayer. A Tradition for the 21st Century*. N.Y.: Paulist, 2003



This compilation of lectures presented at the annual Summer Seminar on Carmelite Spirituality features world-renowned writers on spirituality. Teachings of the Carmelite Saints are woven into reflections on prayer, meditation, solitude, suffering, and transformation towards union with Christ.

From Fr. Brian Dunn:
Huels, John M. *The Pastoral Companion. A Canon Law Handbook for Catholic Ministry*, new series, third edition, revised and updated, Quincy, IL., Franciscan Press, 2002, xvii, 437 p. – ISBN 0-8199-0968-8



This present handbook addresses one of the main difficulties within the practice of canon law, namely, the need for continuous updating to address properly the various pastoral, liturgical and canonical issues that arise within pastoral ministry with practical information about new laws from the Holy See, about new laws from the conferences of bishops or about the interpretation and application of the law in various pastoral situations. The author's clear, concise, readable style makes this work extremely accessible to those who are newly initiated into the area of canon law as well as to those who have a background in the application of the law. The work provides an excellent theological, liturgical, canonical and pastoral perspective on the various issues that face those who are active in parochial ministry today.

From Fr. Michael Béchard:
Seasoltz, Kevin. *Sense of the Sacred: Theological Foundations of Christian Architecture and Art*. New York: Continuum, 2005



In this book, Father Seasoltz traces both the developments of the church's theology and its embodiment in architecture. The book presupposed a basic understanding of both liturgy and sacramental theology and yet it is easily accessible. While the book could be criticized for providing very little graphically, the pastoral approach provided by the author supplies for any shortcomings. Arguably one of the best books currently addressing this topic, it is a "must read" for anyone who is looking for personal or professional development in the area.



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Deacon Dr. John Vallely



Congratulations to the Ordination Class of 2006



Fr. Thomas MacDonald (Archdiocese of Kingston)
Fr. Tomasso Ferrera (Diocese of London)
Fr. Jerzy Tomon (Diocese of Hamilton)
Fr. Daniel MacDonald (Diocese of Antigonish)

Congratulations to our Lay Graduates of 2006



Vida Cunniffe, MTS'06



Melinda White, MTS'06



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