

Congratulations

Ordination Class of 2012



Cristino Bouvette
Diocese of Calgary



Owen Burns
Diocese of Saint John



Lukas Drapal
Diocese of Calgary



Christopher Pietraszko
Diocese of London



John Redmond
Diocese of Hamilton



Gregory Roth
Diocese of Saskatoon

Congratulations

Lay Graduates of 2012



Marjorie Braatz
M. Div.



Eva Fodeles-Freund
M. Div.



Melissa Hofstede
M. Div.

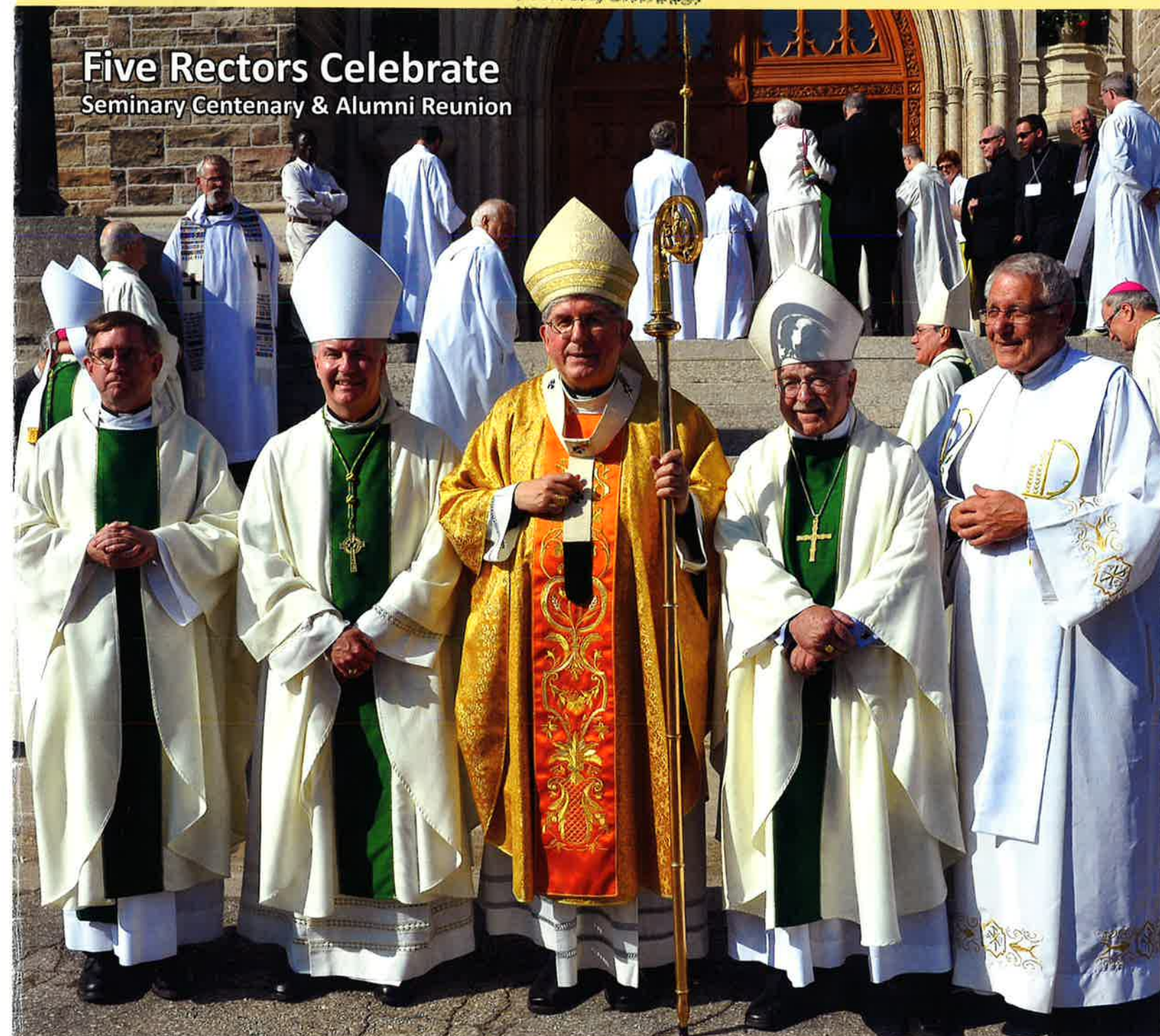
ALUMNI BULLETIN

NUMBER SEVENTY-ONE

with *Illuminations*
VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1 • SUMMER 2012

St. Peter's Seminary 100 Years

A. P. MAHONEY LIBRARY,
ST. PETER'S SEMINARY,
1040 WATERLOO STREET N.,
LONDON, ONTARIO.



Five Rectors Celebrate
Seminary Centenary & Alumni Reunion

The Alumni Bulletin is published annually by St. Peter's Seminary Alumni Association.
ILLUMINATIONS is published bi-annually by the Seminary Foundation. We welcome your comments and contributions.

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PRINTING

Minuteman Press, London

Thanks to our contributors and proof-readers!

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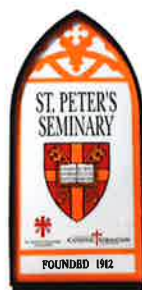
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ILLUMINATIONS

COVER PAGE



On the Front Steps: Five Rectors Alumni Reunion Mass May 22, 2012
 From left: current Rector Rev. Steve Wlusek;
 past Rectors Most Rev. William McGrattan,
 Thomas Cardinal Collins, Most Rev. Frederick Henry, Rev. Patrick Fuerth.

THANK YOU

for some very special Centenary gifts

- To John Zubick Ltd.—a gift of \$15,000 to restore the wrought iron fence and main gates (photo bottom right)
- To Don and Gail Rodzick—principal donors behind the restoration of the main Seminary doors and the front door of Aquinas House, which cost \$18,000, in memory of Julia Rodzick
- To Rev. Michael Prieur ('65)—a gift of \$12,000 towards new Seminary signage
- To an anonymous donor from St. Michael's Parish (London)—a gift of \$20,000 to the Centenary Parish Appeal
- To the Good Foundation—a gift of \$2,000 to assist with publishing expenses for *Shepherds According to My Heart*
- To alumnus Rev. Dominic Yuen ('95) and the people of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish in Brandon, Manitoba—two gifts totalling \$20,000

For many other thoughtful gestures of support for St. Peter's Seminary, we give thanks to God and extend our appreciation to our numerous donors and friends! ☩



Left: George Zubick,
 Rev. Prieur, Bruce Zubick

An Awesome Gift from the Diocese of Hamilton

WHEN AN UNEXPECTED call comes offering a gift of \$100,000, you take notice. That's certainly what happened when Jim Long, Comptroller of the Diocese of Hamilton, informed us that Bishop Douglas Crosby OMI and his diocese wanted to acknowledge St. Peter's Seminary's century of service with a gift of "\$1000 for each year". Bishop Crosby presented the cheque formally to the Rector at the 4th Annual Bishop's Dinner for London and Surrounding Communities.

With the long history of Hamilton diocesan priests having received their formation at St. Peter's, Bishop Crosby believed that, "it was the right thing to do." He stated that with the capacity for innovation as evidenced by the Institute for Catholic Formation, the Seminary is well positioned to meet the evolving needs of a changing Church. The thunderous applause he received showed the sincere appreciation of over 900 Seminary supporters. ☩



Events 2012 Mark your Calendar

Friday, Sept. 14
PLAQUE PRESENTATION - LONDON HISTORIC SITES

Saturday, Sept. 29
DOORS OPEN LONDON
 Seminary, 10am - 4pm
 theme: "Defending a Nation"; FREE

Wednesday, October 10
THIRD ANNUAL A.P. MAHONEY LIBRARY LECTURE
 Seminary Auditorium & Library, 7:30 - 9:30pm
 Guest Lecturer: Fr. Steve Wlusek; FREE

Thursday, November 1
9th ANNUAL BISHOP'S DINNER for WINDSOR-ESSEX & SEMINARY CENTENARY GALA
 Ciociaro Club Windsor; Tickets: \$125

Wednesday, November 7
MICHELLE IURMAN PERFORMANCE
 Honouring Seminary Military Alumni; Tickets: TBA

Monday, November 19
SEMINARY CENTENARY - LOCAL HISTORY SERIES
 London Public Library Central Branch, 7:00pm; FREE

For info tel: 519-432-1824 / toll free: 1-888-548-9649

Annual Report

2011 - 2012: St. Peter's Seminary Foundation

By David Howie, Executive Director

THIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS some of the initiatives of the Foundation and financial results of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Despite regional economic weakness and wide-spread business uncertainty, the Seminary Foundation managed to post a productive year through the generosity and commitment of its donors.

- The Foundation responded to growing commitments in several sectors of the Seminary's operations including the Institute for Catholic Formation and the office of the Vocations Director.
- Our major appeals and events were assigned "stretch" goals to meet Seminary funding targets totalling nearly \$1.2 million. The results of the Annual Parish Appeal and the Advent Appeal did not achieve their targets. However each appeal showed greater than inflationary increases, +3.7% and +7.1% respectively.
- Estates continue to be important sources of revenue, with 13 separate gifts generating over \$226,000. Similarly this was a very strong year for the Bishop's Dinners with total attendance topping 1900, and net revenues 23% greater than in 2010/2011. Another cause for optimism is that the Bishop McGrattan Fund, to support the role of the full-time diocesan Vocations Director, has reached 89% of its five-year goal in funds received and pledged.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (WITH 2010/2011 COMPARATIVES)

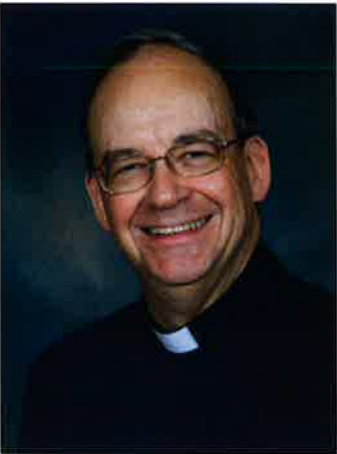
The mixed fundraising and investment results are reflected in the broad financial measures of activity. Total revenues increased 19% y/y. The value of total donations was off by 2.3% y/y, but when controlled for estates, donations actually increased by 6.3%, while average donations rose 1.1%. The number of donations received declined 3.3% year/year, largely on account of the postal strike's impact on the Annual Parish Appeal. Cost growth y/y remained generally flat, except for the one-time commitment to fund the Salt+Light television production "Panes of Glory".

	2011/2012	2010/2011
Revenues	\$1,596,853	\$1,342,834
Total number of Donors	1,934	1,942
Total number of Donations	2,790	2,885
Average Donation	\$439.74	\$434.62
Fundraising Costs per \$1.00	\$0.28	\$0.29

- The Foundation's endowments benefited from the North American market recovery in late 2011 and the first quarter of 2012. The Board approved a reduction in the distribution rate of endowed funds to 4.25%, from the previous 4.75%, in anticipation of continuing market fluctuations and declining rates of return that are reflective of the low growth/low returns global macroeconomic scenario that continues to unfold.
- During the past year the Foundation was invited to consult with Bishop Fabbro on several financial and institutional issues, and to participate in the development of the Seminary's ATS accreditation self-evaluation study. In addition, the Foundation was an active participant on the planning for the main events to mark the Centenary. The Foundation is honoured to have the support of dozens of dedicated volunteers, led by our volunteer Board of Directors under Chairman Don Rodzik. Thank you!

Message

from the Alumni Association President



IPC CANADA PHOTO SERVICES INC.

I AM MOST grateful for the opportunity to write to all of you as your new Alumni Association President! I have been a priest for the Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario, for 32 years, the vast majority of that time in parish work. But I have also had the opportunity for Graduate Studies, as well as areas of service that provided me with variety, and sharpened my Gospel focus. I am very blessed to be a priest, granted that this is quite a challenging era for the Church and for the cause of evangelization.

And, I am very blessed to call St. Peter's Seminary my Alma Mater. I attended the Seminary in the late-'70's, during the era of Father Jim Carrigan as Rector. It was a fortunate time to be there—we had a full house. The post-Vatican II reshaping of the formation process had taken root firmly by then; and it was generally, for me at least, a stable and happy experience. It was a time of significant theological flowering, which was reflected in our studies. We were just beginning to be very pro-active in getting seminarians out into parishes to develop pastoral orientation. And we were starting to study quite regularly with lay persons, men and women, who were seeking to serve the Church in a burgeoning array of ministries.

All of this came back to me with warmth and joy, as I participated in the fabulous Centenary Alumni Reunion this past May. I especially enjoyed the presentation of the Seminary history book, and the overall theme of "past, present, and future". Rector Father Steve Wlusek's presentation on the components of present-day and forward-looking formation was particularly fascinating. It helped me to set in broader context my own experiences, and gave me great hope that the challenges of our times are being met and addressed by St. Peter's with great intelligence, spiritual foresight, and humanity. The Seminary (complemented by the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, and the Institute for Catholic Formation) is moving forward with an excellent and vigorous spirit into a second century of service. I was truly uplifted from my days at the reunion.

On behalf of all Alumni, I congratulate the Distinguished Alumni Award winners, John Van Dommelen (Sr. Margaret Ferris Award), and Archbishop Marcel Gervais (Rev. James J. Carrigan Award). I can certainly add my own personal appreciation to Archbishop Gervais, who helped me immensely through his wonderful teaching, mentoring, and friendship in my first few years at the Seminary.

I look forward to my upcoming involvement with the Alumni Association Executive. Based on the discussions at our Business Meeting during the reunion, I suspect my presidency will be more than merely honorary! It seems that a number of things need to be addressed to ensure that the Association is as inclusive as it can possibly be; and, further, that we are truly doing everything we can to keep our Alumni connected, informed, and supported. Hopefully the inclusion of *Illuminations* in this Bulletin (and the Directory for the Alumni) will be steps in that direction.

"...gave me great hope that the challenges of our times are being met and addressed by St. Peter's with great intelligence, spiritual foresight, and humanity."

I offer my thanks to Father Mickey Prieur for his inexhaustible energy and commitment to St. Peter's and to the Alumni Association. As I said in thanking him after his own remarkable Seminary historical overview given during the reunion, he is just simply one-of-a-kind, and we all continue to depend on him in so many ways.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Alumni Bulletin*. It has been assembled with hard work and a lot of love. God bless you all in your varied works for building up God's kingdom! †

Fr. Martin Vallely ('80) is Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Stoney Creek, Ontario. He was elected President of the Alumni Association on May 23, 2012.

Faith for our Future

Lessons from our Past

By Rev. Steve Wlusek ('86)



THE WRITER OF the Letter to the Hebrews declared, "Faith is the substance of things not seen, the evidence of things hoped for." (Heb. 11:1). The future always contains an element of the unknown, and therefore brings with it some

uncertainty. However, we know that there is nothing to fear in the future, because God is already there!

One hundred years ago, Bishop Michael Francis Fallon set out with audacious faith and confidence in God by opening the first English-speaking diocesan Seminary in Canada, with plans for a new building. He had no idea that a few years later, the world would plunge into a Great Depression. Nor did he know that the world would engage in another war that would make its predecessor, WWI, look small by comparison.

Through all the twists and turns—of economy, of war, of the rise and decline of faith—Fallon's stance of audacious faith and confidence in the providence of God has been rewarded 100 fold. Since its founding, hundreds of students and graduates of St. Peter's Seminary have gone out into the world proclaiming the Good News of God's faithfulness, generosity and love.

The stories shared and the wonderful experience of camaraderie exhibited during our recent Centenary Alumni Reunion gave witness to the fruits of Bishop Fallon's faithful vision, and the same reliance upon God in those who minister in Christ's name today. As we enter into the *Year of Faith* proclaimed by Pope Benedict, we can see that the faith is alive and well in the Alumni of St. Peter's.

John Henry Cardinal Newman often wrote that the refusal to believe in God is founded in excessive self-trust and in the avoidance of one's conscience to rely on God. In a University Sermon, Newman identified a meaningful way to open an individual's horizon to recognize and rely on God. He proclaimed: "Any fruitful path towards faith will always need a certain spiritual receptivity... The religious horizon becomes real, not through clever argumentation, but only when 'the heart is alive'" (US X, 44). Newman indicates, then, that the path of evangelization is not about having the right 'prepared answers' to retort to people's questions about life or about Church teachings. Rather, what is most

important is to look for moments when people are searching for spirituality and are therefore receptive to God. Moments of suffering, of decision, and of transition are often moments when 'hearts are alive' and receptive to receiving the word of Truth that resonates with their hearts' longings.

During this past academic year at St. Peter's, we offered our seminarians readings each week on the theme of evangelization. As well, on Thursdays during the season of Lent, we ate our evening meal while reflecting on readings highlighting the witness of Martyrs and Saints who devoted their lives to the proclamation of the Gospel. These resources heightened the desire among the hearts of our seminarians to evangelize. This upcoming year we will revise the format for the Field Education component in Fourth Year Theology to involve regular teaching modules on evangelization. As well, students will have the experience of working with local parish teams by visiting homes and sharing a message of outreach and welcome from the parish community.

Much literature on evangelization, as well as the testimony of scripture, reveals that it is not so much a convincing argument that enkindles faith within an individual. Rather, it is the development of a genuinely caring relationship, and the witness of a joy-filled and generous life that draws hearts to faith in the God who inspires us. Our hope is that these reflections and experiences of outreach will help to enkindle loving hearts yearning within our future pastoral leaders to bear witness to the message of Christ.

"Any fruitful path towards faith will always need a certain spiritual receptivity ..."

The many Alumni who graced the halls of St. Peter's Seminary this past May gives tangible witness to a joy-filled example that has born fruit in drawing people to Christ and his Church. As we continue to celebrate 100 years of the Seminary history, may each of us be filled with gratitude and praise to God, and set our sights on the next 100 years that will be held in the providential care of our loving God. May we treasure the foundations of our faith that were nurtured through St. Peter's, and enter this *Year of Faith* dedicated to seeking out new ways to be present to those who are yearning for union with God. †

Institute for Catholic Formation

In Conversation with Jenna Gubbels

JENNA GUBBELS IS the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Mary Immaculate Parish in London. Having completed 19 courses online through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) through the University of Dayton in partnership with the Institute for Catholic Formation, we were eager to have her share her experience with others.

How did you find out about these online courses?

I read about these courses in a parish bulletin last year. I was intrigued by the idea of online faith formation since I was about to finish University and I knew that I would miss being a student. What appealed to me was the wide variety of courses offered in five week cycles with breaks in between each. I could build courses into my busy life without needing to worry about a lengthy time commitment.

What have been your favourite courses and why?

I've enjoyed all 19 classes! My absolute favourite was a seminar on a Pastoral Letter entitled *On Bended Knee*. It focused on the power of the Eucharist to transform us to go out into the world to *be* Eucharist for our brothers and sisters in Christ. I've also enjoyed *Praying with Children*, *Faith and Human Development* and *Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World*.

What did you learn that you didn't expect?

What surprised me is the wide variety of religious education models that exist around the world. I loved the discussion board element of courses where students shared how topics were relevant to their parish or ministry.



SOCIAL MEDIA IS taking place everywhere and it's moving fast. How does it impact your ministry? What do you need to know? ICF responded with "Social Media 101."

In early June, diocesan Communications Director Mark Adkinson and his instructional team delivered this three hour workshop. Participants learned about the origins of Social Media and had a step-by-step tutorial for Facebook and Twitter on creating an account and setting privacy options. A second workshop was scheduled due to popular demand. Stay tuned for follow-up workshops. ☺

Has your ministry benefitted from your online studies?

My studies have led me to build relationships with Catholics across the globe. Learning about their experiences in ministry and the models they use to share the faith with others, has challenged me to think about how to use effective models of teaching in my own ministry.

How are the courses helpful for everyday Catholics?

The courses are a valuable learning experience for everyday Catholics because the material is carefully designed to support prayerful reflection. The sense of community that comes together through the discussion boards helps learners process and apply the teachings of the church to their everyday lives. The courses truly provide a wonderful opportunity to be connected with other Catholics and to be supported on your spiritual journey.

Would you recommend taking a course?

I would recommend taking a course to anyone who wants to learn more about a particular aspect of our faith. There are many different options available and all of the courses are well put together. I suggest picking a topic that really jumps out at you, sign up and give it a try! ☺



AGAPE
Latte
LAUNCHING FALL 2012

SIPPING JAVA WILL take on an added dimension this fall for students at King's University College and Assumption University. Following the premise that coffee and conversation go together, ICF in collaboration with Campus Ministry at both schools will launch a new speaker series, "Agape Latte", for the 2012-2013 academic year. It's a way to bring students together with faculty and staff to talk about the intersection of faith, culture and life. While the Agape Latte format has been running for the past few years at Catholic colleges and universities across the U.S., this is a *first* in Canada. ☺

Shepherds According to My Heart

By Michael Tremblay (B.Th. '72), Diocese of London Marriage Tribunal

AN IDEA WAS struck by Fr. Michael Prieur for a history book on St. Peter's Seminary to commemorate 100 years. Chaired initially by Fr. Prieur, the group included Dan Brock and Hillary Neary (both well-known published historians), Fr. Murray Watson, yours truly, and Debra Majer, diocesan Archivist. Deb volunteered to lead this project using past experience from St. Peter's Cathedral anniversary book.

The group picked up steam by spring 2011 when David Howie, Seminary Foundation Executive Director, and Jack and Louise Boyd from Windsor joined the effort. Jack's father was one of the seminary's architects! Fr. Joe Hardy agreed to write about the "Era of the Giants". Once each chapter author submitted their work, Deb masterfully handled the production with the graphic

styling of Citrus Design Studio. With some never seen before photos, the book launched on May 22nd to an approving group of alumni reunion attendees, marvelling at its visual beauty as much as the storytelling itself. The consistent thread is simple: Bishop Fallon's seminary has run on faithful support from bishops, clergy, seminarians, lay students, faculty, staff, parishioners and community members. We hope readers enjoy the book as much as we enjoyed creating it. † **Books are \$20.00 each total. Contact the Seminary: 519-432-1824/1-888-548-9649.**



Disguished Alumni Awards 2012

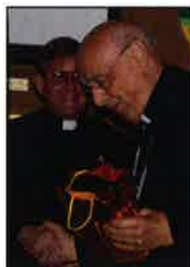
For Clergy

ARCHBISHOP MARCEL GERVAIS ('58)

MY DEAR FRIENDS: I want to thank you for bestowing this honour on me - **The Rev. James J. Carrigan Distinguished Alumni Award for Clergy**. I am very pleased to have been chosen to receive it.

On reviewing the past hundred years, I am filled with admiration for the wisdom of the faculty/staff of this institution, starting with the honour system. In looking at the present time, I see that St. Peter's is struggling with the same issues that affect all of the western Church and the main issue is the loss of faith. The future might raise some questions, but I think the direction that this faculty and staff have taken is secure.

There is a broadening of the services offered from the formation for ordained priestly ministry to formation for all ministries in the Church: permanent diaconate and lay ministries of every kind. What is very hopeful is the way the seminary incorporates lay people, and women especially, into the workings of the seminary community.



It is our prayer: what has been so well begun may reach its desired goal, the glory of God. †

For Laity

JOHN VAN DOMMELEN (B.Th. '72)

IN THE FORTY years since my graduation from St. Peter's Seminary my life's journey has been enriched by the memories, friendships, education and formation that I experienced there. It was a time when St. Peter's was opening its doors to lay students discerning how we could serve the Church in various ministries. Mine was lay ministry in catholic education. I am most grateful to those who had a role in those vocation shaping experiences, including wise mentors such as Fr. Prieur, Archbishop Gervais, Fr. Ryan, Joan Lenardon and others.

Receiving the lay graduate of distinction award, particularly on the occasion of St. Peter's centennial has been a meaningful and humbling experience, especially when I see the significant contribution by our lay alumni in so many areas of service.

My thanks to Mike Tremblay for his kind and persistent urging of my nomination. I would also like to thank the reunion planning committee members for a marvelous job. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next gathering. My best wishes, prayers and continued support as St. Peter's enters into a new century! †



Reflections upon Ordination

By Rev. Cristino Bouvette ('12)

WHEN I PAUSE to consider the incredible journey on which I have been for the last eight years, I almost need to pinch myself! I departed Alberta for St. Peter's in September 2004 and, as the saying goes, I haven't looked back. As a newly ordained priest for the diocese of Calgary after years of discernment, study and training, I am overcome with a sense of, "So now what?!"

I think the answer can be found in the first Sunday celebration of the Holy Mass that I was privileged to offer, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. In this great figure, the Church celebrates one who decreased so that the Lord could increase (Cf. John 3:30). Naturally, the Church rejoices in the incredible gift of having a new priest, a gift that God bestows upon us. And yet, like John the Baptist, I am profoundly aware of the need to decrease so that *Christ* may increase.

This, however, is not simply the call of the priest alone. All of Christ's faithful are invited to humbly lower ourselves in the work of proclaiming the good news, allowing the One whom we serve to be announced and glorified. It is to this task that I am so deeply grateful to have been called. Could there be a more exciting time than now to have been? We will soon convene the jubilee *Year of Faith* as called by our Holy Father in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Shortly thereafter, the Synod of Bishops will undertake the mission of a *New Evangelization*.

Truly, there is never a bad time to be an ordained priest of Jesus Christ. But for this new priest, I couldn't be more grateful for NOW to be the time for me! †



Rev. Cristino Bouvette volunteered to scrub and polish the Marian statue to a gleaming shine for the alumni reunion and centenary events held in May. He was ordained for the Diocese of Calgary on June 22, 2012.

Reflections of a Lay Grad

By Marjorie Braatz (M.Div. '12)

I BEGAN MY journey as a part-time student along with being a wife, mother of four and Coordinator of Youth Ministry in a parish. Eventually, I discerned to focus on my studies and enrolled fulltime to be fully immersed in the program.

Each day at the Seminary began in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, praying with the One who guides me, knows me and loves me. All of my professors were knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects. Learning along with fellow lay students and seminarians has truly been a life giving and life changing experience. Studying in such a spiritual place filled me with the Holy Spirit, which inspired and enlightened me in all aspects of my life. The Masters of Divinity program has given me the courage and conviction to speak with confidence about our Catholic beliefs.

God has further blessed me with my dream job as a Chaplaincy Leader in the London District Catholic School Board and I have utilized my education in very tangible ways. I am so grateful to St. Peter's Seminary; it has given me wonderful education and formed me into a better disciple of Christ to love and serve His people. Each time I think of St. Peter's it brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. †



Marjorie translating Hebrew in class, January 2011.

John Allen Jr. In Dialogue

THIS PAST MAY, renowned Catholic journalist John Allen Jr. delivered an open lecture at the London Public Library as part of our centenary events. We caught up with John for further reflections on some seminary realities today. Here is what he had to say.

SPS: *How should North American Seminaries respond to the big trends shaping the Catholic Church?*

JA: Two undeniably important trends are the rise of the world Church, as a result of the dramatic demographic shift from the global North to the South, and “Evangelical Catholicism”—a new missionary spirit rooted in Catholic identity. On the first, North American seminaries should consider equipping future priests with a working knowledge of the Church’s new global realities, maybe through coursework on “World Catholicism”. On the second, seminarians need to have effective 21st century missionary strategies to reach people who may have heard the Gospel but are alienated from their faith. We need to be clear about our own identity while balancing it with genuine openness to others. That holds true for our relationships inside the Church as well as outside.



Rev. Wlusek with John Allen Jr.

SPS: *Seminaries, like all institutions, need to strive to be transparent. How can they build trust with the Catholic public and the wider public?*

JA: Pope Benedict XVI’s fairly historic reforms in dealing with the sexual abuse crisis and in Church finances could point the way. For seminaries, practical steps would be to publish their anti-abuse policies, including procedures for applicant screening, as well as detailing how future priests will be trained to detect and report signs of abuse. Financial transparency could include making available audited statements to assure supporters that resources are being appropriately used.

SPS: *What do you think is behind the rise in seminarian enrolment that we see in parts of Europe and North America?*

JA: Every vocation is the work of the Holy Spirit. But at the human level, I see three forces at work. First, bishops and other leaders are investing more time in vocations work, realizing that culture will no longer generate vocations automatically. Second, an Evangelical ethos is most palpable among the inner core of highly committed young Catholics, one of the fruits of which is the willingness to consider the priesthood or religious life. Finally, like other periods of crisis and renewal in the history of our Church, it could be that the rough patch created by the sexual abuse crisis has been followed by an uptake in vocations which, though still slight and short of meeting the Church’s total needs, might be the first ripples of a spirit of renewal. ☩



Centenary Youth Events

By Dan Moynihan, Director of Youth Ministry, Diocese of London

On May 24, 2012 350+ young people from across the Diocese gathered in honor of the 100th Anniversary of St. Peter’s Seminary. Participants came from several schools across all deaneries giving them the chance to think, work and pray together. The day involved social service projects on the Seminary lawn where newly Confirmed students planted trees and made over one hundred blankets for women’s shelters in Windsor and London.

Senior religion students attended a reflective session focusing on the question, “What is freedom?” The day concluded with a banquet and Bishop Fabbro’s presentation of awards honouring senior secondary students who model the Beatitudes. This day was a huge success for students to live out their faith. The staff, students and Diocesan personnel involved expressed a hope that this Youth Day could become an annual event. ☩

Celebrating 100 The Best Ever!

By Rev. Michael Prieur (‘65)

THEY CAME FROM across the continent. They marveled at the centenary banners on the hydro-poles on Huron and Waterloo Streets, the new 12' internally-lit sign at the Colborne Street entrance, the freshly painted black fence around the property, the power-washed statue of Mary on the grounds, the refurbished top platform on the front steps, the carefully manicured grounds, the new hallway signage, the classroom art, and more... It all said, “We are celebrating 100 and moving forward for another 100!” Kudos to the seminary staff for a job well done.

The four-day celebration (May 21-24) was full of joyful graces. One graduate remarked how he was “healed” of past hurts as the days unfolded. Reunions by class, big and small, abounded in restaurants, in group lounges and in small huddles everywhere. On Tuesday morning after a talk on the Charisms of St. Peter’s Seminary by yours truly, the sharing by grads on how the seminary has impacted their ministry took everyone’s breath away. A golden jubilarian, Fr. Martin Johnson (‘62), lay grads, a grad active in ministry in other ways than ordination had originally taken him, members of the alumni executive—all of them moved the audience to tears with their sincerity and gratitude of St. Peter’s.

Cardinal Collins beamed while he eloquently praised all of the “Panes of Glory”, both living and dead, preaching to a packed seminary chapel of over 200 grads. He proudly used Bishop Fallon’s crosier for this grand Eucharist.

Following a spectacular picture taken on the front steps, buses whisked away the alumni to the Great Hall on the Western campus for a scrumptious banquet. Ordered to “keep your glasses full – there will be lots of speeches”, everyone was amazed at the variety of each locution. M.C. Fr. John Comiskey (‘81) missed nothing as he guided us through greetings from the affiliated colleges, the Scranton representative, Msgr. McAndrews (‘54), the jubilee toasts and many other heart-warming messages.

Fr. Wlusek (‘86), our rector, and David Howie, our Seminary Foundation Executive Director, wowed us with their presentations on the latest positive directions the seminary is taking, both spiritually and financially. Assurances of fresh donations rustled through the auditorium. Later that afternoon, Vaticanologist John Allen Jr., at the Wolf Auditorium at the London Public Library Central, alerted us to the trends and realities of the universal church from his journalistic perspective.

The centenary Mass at the Cathedral on May 23rd was breathtaking in many ways. Bishop Fabbro blessed a special chalice from Pope Benedict for the centenary. It arrived from Rome an hour and a half before Mass! He preached mightily about Bishops Fallon’s powerful love of Catholic education. A special contingent from King’s University College Partners in Catholic Education appreciated this message. The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus promised to provide 100 members for a special honour guard both at the Cathedral and at the seminary for the reception. We had 102 knights in attendance! One lady said “I felt like royalty going up the seminary steps!” Exactly! Nothing too grand for the centenary.



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We had many joyous moments during this four-day Centenary Alumni Reunion extravaganza—too many to mention here. I will leave it to the rest of this special edition of the *Alumni Bulletin* to fill you in. All I can say is: “The Lord has done marvelous deeds in our midst these days!” I believe Bishop Fallon’s seminary has a great future ahead. Thank you to all and stay tuned! †



Photos: Most senior alumnus Fred Pitt (centre), with Deacon Manzara and Deacon Masterson; Maria Serodio-Teves serves ice cream to Bishop Dunn (‘80); Knights of Columbus Honour Guard on the main seminary steps, May 23, 2012.