



IHM News

Vol. 9 No. 4

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

ECCE QUAM BONUM

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY FAMILY WEEKEND

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY FAMILY WEEKEND SEPT. 2-4

Et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum

Letter from the

RECTOR

*Ecce quam bonum et jucundum
habitare fraters in unum.*

Psalm 13:1

Behold, how good and splendid where brother dwell as one...The first words of our seminary motto, Behold how good, is a great summation of this semester.

Behold how good it was in mid-August to welcome 49 seminarians through the doors of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. The men came to the seminary with enthusiasm and joy to encounter the Lord and begin the work of discernment and formation. The Lord is calling wonderful young men to discern a call to the priesthood and these young men give us a glimpse at a hopeful future for the Church and her work in the world. I am constantly reminded of the Lord's care and love as I work with these men in formation. They are men committed to prayer and virtue and show a deep desire to serve others.

Behold how good your friendship is to us at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. Your prayer and generosity aids us in all our needs. We live a blessed life in your prayer and are deeply grateful for your generosity. Your prayers support us in the challenges of priestly formation and they accompany us in our joys.

Behold how good it is to work in the graces of Jesus Christ in forming young men for the diocesan priesthood. Please keep us in your prayers and be assured of our prayers for you.

God bless you and keep you in His peace,

Msgr. Tom Melvin





Serra Club

By **Thomas Skaja, Junior**

Every fall, the seminarians of IHM Seminary look forward to the annual picnic with members of the Serra Club. It usually occurs in late September at the seminary, and it is a chance for us to meet and interact with the Serrans, while at the same time enjoying a wonderful meal. This year we had delicious grilled bratwurst sausages with other entres that included salads, veggies, fruits, hotdishes, and of course—desserts.

If you are not aware of the Serra Club, their mission is simple: to support, foster, and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This organization is very important to us as seminarians. When the academics and formation is challenging, it is comforting to know that there are dedicated people who are praying for us. We cannot thank them enough for their prayers and moral support throughout our time in the seminary.

In conclusion, the annual picnic with the Serra Club is a blessing. Yes, the food is delicious, but more importantly, it is a privilege to meet with some of the people who generously offer up so many of their prayers on our behalf. Thank-you to all who support us during our time at IHM Seminary.





By Zane Pekron, Senior

SMU

Open House

Each semester Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary has an Open House in order to open its doors to the Saint Mary's Community for dinner, games, and tours of the seminary. This year the weather was beautiful for the event which was held on September 18th. The beautiful weather combined with the smell of grilling burgers and hot dogs brought several hundred people over to enjoy the festivities at IHM.

The Open House is a great way for people on Saint Mary's Campus to see what we do here at the seminary and what our life is like. It is also a wonderful way for everyone at the seminary to reach out in pastoral charity toward our brothers and sisters on campus to share our faith with them. This is done through tours of the seminary, stories of how we came to the seminary, and reaching out to make everyone feel welcome.

This year the Open House was managed by the senior and sophomore classes who worked diligently to see that the event ran smoothly and that there was food enough for all. The Open House is one of the many great events that we have here at IHM each year, and it provides us all the amazing opportunity to serve others, which is one of God's greatest blessings. It is also a helpful part in our formation to be priests because God calls His priests to serve His people in a very special way and this event gives us a small taste of the service that God asks for His people.



RECTORS

OPEN HOUSE

By Vianney Nguyen, Freshman

This year, the Rector's Open House was held on September 27th. Faculty and seminarians rushed around cleaning, preparing refreshments, and setting up tables in order to make Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary presentable to its benefactors. Everyone was excited to finally meet the generous people who share their love and support for the seminary. As benefactors arrived that afternoon, they were given a warm welcome and tours. Seminarians happily introduced themselves and shared their enthusiasm on how they were enjoying formation so far. The benefactors in response shared about themselves and how joyful they were to see God's many blessings manifested through those who were called by him. The benefactors joined us for Evening Prayer, which ended the Open House.

The Rector's Open House is such a great blessing to have. It was extremely eye-opening to see so many people show up, all of them sacrificing their time to be with us out of the kindness of their hearts. Knowing that our benefactors are always there to help and provide for the seminary is very comforting and we cannot thank them enough for all that they do for us.

FAMILY Weekend

By Noah Simmons, Freshman



During the first week of October, while the bluffs of Winona are changing color and the Freshman are feeling the stress of the first of many mid-terms, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary was having its first family weekend of the year. Each semester the relatives of IHM's seminarians are invited out to Winona to visit their boys, meet other families, and see a good bit of what goes on at IHM. Families started arriving Friday evening, and as I was meeting the dads, moms, brothers, and sisters who helped form the guys I have been getting to know since August, I thought about how great it was that all of us have such great families to be thankful for. My own family wasn't able to make the drive, and despite the fact that I was really starting to miss my little siblings, it was a great weekend.



During the family weekend Saint Mary's University was hosting the 2014 Family Weekend Fall Frolic, a public 5k run/walk. The guys here at IHM had been hyping this run for quite a while. Junior, Thomas Skaja had procured for all those in the run their very own, very camo t-shirt for the run. We all were able to sport our IHM/ hunter pride at the race and in all seriousness I think we did a good job intimidating the other runners, which is a bonus.

Between all the great families I got to meet over the weekend and the fun run with a free t-shirt too boot, the Fall Semester Family Weekend was a great experience. I look forward to the Spring Semester Family Weekend, and even though it's far away now, I'm sure it'll be around the corner in no time.





My Vocation Story

By Elijah Simmons, Sophomore



Elijah Simmons
Sophomore
Diocese of Green Bay

From a young age I was taught to love God and to seek out a personal relationship with him. I was taught that God wants us to seek Him out and to open ourselves to His love for us. My parents are people of great faith and they provided me with an awesome example of relationship with God. My parents were non-denominational protestants. They are from Oregon and that's where we lived until we moved to Wisconsin in 2004.

Shortly after moving we became Catholic. It was definitely an interesting transition for me. I liked being Catholic more because it was more ordered and had history behind it. However my faith wasn't really my own. This came to a head when I turned eighteen. I moved out of my parents house and started working full time. Now out from under my parents I stopped practicing my faith. I turned to other sources of comfort. This went on for around six months. During this time I had minimal contact with my family. When a family tragedy occurred, I came home and reconciled with my parents. The loss and my reconciliation allowed me to see my faith in a way I never had before. It became more personal after I had run away from it. In a way I rediscovered God for myself. In that I first considered God's call to surrender myself. Over the years priests had mentioned seminary to me but I never gave it any real consideration. When I did I felt God calling me to seminary. Since coming to seminary I have been challenged to grow in unimaginable ways. It is not always easy but I can see His work in me day-by-day. God has been calling me out of "myself" and that is true discipleship.



Vir In Cristo WEEKEND

By Peter KostECKA, Sophomore



On Friday, October 4th – Sunday October 6th 2014, the seminary had a Vir in Christo Weekend at Dunrovin, a retreat center, in Stillwater MN. What does “Vir in Christo” mean? This is Latin for “Man in Christ.” Last year, and in previous years this particular weekend used to be called “Renewal Weekend.” The name was changed to “Vir in Christo Weekend” because, as Seminarians, our goal is to become men in Christ. The weekend is meant for relaxation, fraternity, and most importantly, to learn how to become, and to become more virtuous men in Christ.

On this particular weekend, our main guest speaker was Fr. McGlone, a Jesuit priest who is also a psychologist. The topic for the weekend was to learn about boundaries in relationships and to understand who we are as men and what it means to be a priest. We learned about the emotions of the human person and how they can be used to understand God’s message. The weekend consisted of three conferences by Fr. McGlone about two hours each. We also had the opportunity to speak with Fr. McGlone on Saturday. We had mass Saturday and Sunday and had multiple opportunities for confession.

During the weekend we also were able to grow in friendship and fraternity. This happened ultimately during the whole weekend but more practically around the dinner table and various activities. We had a big soccer game on Saturday, we had opportunities to run on the trails at the retreat center, to canoe, to play ping pong and do other activities. Overall the weekend was very relaxing, refreshing, fruitful, and fun.



By Matt Norquist, Junior



Information weekend is a time at the seminary where visiting men get to experience a taste of what life is like here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. We have men from juniors in high school to older college students visit. There is an information team that organizes the weekend by guiding our visitors, playing football, and simply being witnesses to what it means to be a seminarian.

A couple important aspects that make information weekend special are the prayer and the fraternity. Through an integration of prayer the visiting men are able to see what it is like to pray in community with about 50 other faith-filled guys that you would not be able to find anywhere else. Mass, adoration, and the Liturgy of the Hours are central to the life of a seminarian.



Fraternity is another aspect that is displayed over information weekend. Sports, Ping-Pong, Board Games, Movies, Deep-conversations, non-deep-conversations, Food, Hiking, and a whole lot of brotherly love. All in all info weekend is quite the experience. For any young man reading this, I promise you a worthwhile experience.

FRESHMAN Perspective

“Most freshman seminarians enter into discernment with a very healthy mindset of “I am here to figure out what God has planned for me,” Taking the role of a disciple of Christ and following Him were ever He leads. As I entered the seminary, however, I had a slightly different mindset. I was very fortunate to have a very supportive family and many supportive and uplifting friends who made me feel so amazing about my decision of entering the seminary that I felt that I was going to make it all the way to priesthood without a doubt.

Within the first couple of weeks of living the seminarian life, trying to balance prayer, homework, fraternity, and various seminary functions, I started to tank very fast and very hard. My prayer life was dying, my school work was a struggle and let’s just say I was not the most socially graceful on many different occasions. I learned very fast the most important rule of discernment. I am here to discern Gods will not mine. Since, I have learned the balance of seminary life and am feeling much better about my call to discern priesthood. Each day is a new experience in which God opens many doors for us to walk through. I am so happy that I chose to walk through the doors of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary.



Anthony Alwan
Diocese of Peoria

SENIOR Perspective

“How time flies when you are having fun” is a nice phrase that sums up my time here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary but I think that a more accurate phrase would be “How time flies when you are being formed.” It seems like yesterday that I moved into my room on second floor Kelly Hall to begin my first year in seminary three years ago. The smell of the grill cooking burgers, the sound of the senior seminarians laughing and having a good time playing Frisbee and all the new seminarians awkwardly standing around and making small talk with each other is fresh in my mind from my first day at IHM. Since that first day many more memories and friendships have been made and now as a senior looking back on the good times and the tough times I have seen tremendous growth in just a few years.

If I could describe the goal of seminary formation I think the word “growth” would be the most fitting. Seminary is a time to come together into a community of young men striving towards becoming priests and in four short and quick years growth is expected to happen but with most growth it comes with growing pains, I have heard seminary formation compared to a sculptor chipping and breaking off pieces in order to form his masterpiece. With all the chipping and breaking that takes place in the few years we are here, we become aware of our dependence on the loving, healing embrace of the Holy Trinity through prayer, service and community. It is truly amazing how the Lord’s grace can carry each and every one of us no matter where we are at in our development.

I have been at IHM going on my third year now and so I have seen a number of young men come and go and it seems that each year more and more of the men are more dedicated to becoming the men God has destined them to be and to live in the beloved sonship that God has bestowed on us through His grace. This year is no exception to that trend of men coming to become not only priests but saints. These three years have been some of the best in my short 23 years on earth but I know that being at IHM is preparing me to a great life as a priest of Jesus Christ in a life of service and prayer.



Michael Picard
Diocese of Green Bay



Immaculate

Faculty



Msgr. Thomas Melven
IHM Rector



Rev. Martin Schaefer
Vice Rector/Dean of Formation



Rev. Jeffrey Dobbs
Director of Spiritual Life



Rev. William Thomson
Assistant Dean of Formation

Pre-Theology



Jereme Hettwer
Diocese of Winona

Seniors



Matt Faucett
Diocese of Green Bay



Benjamin Johnson
Diocese of Green Bay



Zane Pekron
Diocese of Rapid City



Brady Keller
Diocese of St. Cloud



David Kruse
Diocese of Winona



Wilson Kubwayo
Diocese of Sioux Falls



Zachary Leskanich
Diocese of Peoria



Matthew Nordquist
Diocese of Winona



Thomas Skaja
Diocese of St. Cloud



Peter Kostecka
Diocese of Duluth



Ezra Lipert
Diocese of Winona



Eric Mashak
Diocese of La Crosse



Alexander Miller
Diocese of Peoria



Timothy Reither
Diocese of La Crosse



Elijah Simmons
Diocese of Green Bay



Jose Flores-Ugalde
Diocese of Madison



Callum Hubka
Diocese of Winona



Robert Kinyon
Diocese of Rapid City



Isaac Landsteiner
Diocese of Winona



Conner Morgan
Diocese of St. Cloud



Vianney Nguyeh
Diocese of Winona



Benjamin Peters
Diocese of Winona

Heart of Mary

Seminary



Michael Picard
Diocese of Green Bay



Austin Johnson
Diocese of Madison



Matthew Wagner
Diocese of Winona

Juniors



Patrick Hoeft
Diocese of St. Cloud



Evan Hueble
Diocese of New Ulm



Branden Steinberger
Diocese of Sioux Falls



Nathin Voller
Diocese of Sioux Falls

Sophomores



Chad Cagle
Diocese of Peoria



Joel Egbert
Diocese of La Crosse



Thomas Killick
Diocese of Madison



Thomas Ripplinger
Diocese of Winona



Andrew Sullivan
Diocese of Rapid City



Branden Timm
Diocese of Green Bay



Nicolas Wilson
Diocese of Peoria

Freshman



Anthony Alwan
Diocese of Peoria



Ryder Carlson
Diocese of Rapid City



Logan Pochop
Diocese of Rapid City



Kaleb Quast
Diocese of Duluth



Christian Ruff
Diocese of La Crosse



Noah Simmons
Diocese of Green Bay



Lance Thomas
Diocese of La Crosse



Zachary Wiechman
Diocese of St. Cloud



Alumni Spotlight

By Branden Timm, Sophomore



Fr. Jason Kern, priest of the Diocese of Winona, MN, entered Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in the fall of 2005. After a year of college at Bemidji State University Fr. Kern transferred to I.H.M. as a sophomore. “There was a want for something deeper”, Fr. Kern recalled, “I had to give seminary a try”. After three years at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary Fr. Kern went onto Theology School at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, MI. He then received the sacrament of Holy Orders in June of 2012.

There were two particular things that helped him make the decision to take that leap of faith: first an illness within his family really made him consider what the bigger picture was in life, as he knew it, and secondly a trip to World Youth Day in 2002 in Toronto, Canada lit the fuse for a deeper love of Christ and the church, as well as a deeper desire for more intimate relationship.

During Fr. Kern’s time here he was very impacted by the examples of the

seminary’s former rector Fr. James Steffes and all the other priests on faculty. Also, Fr. Kern was spoke very highly of his professor’s that he had for different philosophy and theology courses. He specifically mentioned Fr. Fabian, Dr. Susan Windley-Daoust, Dr. Kevin Rickert were some of the professors who left a positive impact on him.

Fr. Kern looks back very fondly on my time at I.H.M. The lessons Father says he learned from the seminary are, “how to be a man for Christ and of Christ and how to pray and open myself to the movements of grace”. Fr. Kern is now the pastor of the Tri-Parish of St. Joseph, Good Thunder; St. Matthew, Vernon Center and St. Teresa, Mapleton.



Seminarian Radio Program

By Evan Heubl, Junior

Late this past September, there was a new sound heard round the city of Winona. Broadcasting straight out of St. Mary's University campus radio station, several of my seminarian brothers and I started our very own program. It has been a great opportunity for practicing the proper use of media.

Every Friday evening we get on air to bring good music and pleasant conversation to our campus through "The Minnesota Nice Hour." Several songs are played, followed by random segments that we add. Sometimes we discuss current events and sports, do movie reviews, share a few uplifting jokes, or even do live interviews with other seminarians. Incorporating other seminarians into the program has been beneficial in sharing the camaraderie and a great way to get helpful information from our brothers.

Over our first few weeks of airing "The Minnesota Nice Hour" on KSMR, we have reached a number of students on campus. There is usually a group that gathers outside the station to relax and have some recreation. They have gotten accustomed to the new program and enjoy the music every week. Overall, it is a great way to get to know seminarians better and to participate in a campus activity, while at the same time growing our speaking skills. We are able to dispel some of the mystery that seminary life can have for our fellow classmates. If you are ever passing through Winona on a Friday evening, tune in to KSMR 92.5, 94.3 FM for "The Minnesota Nice Hour" and find out for yourself.





125th

Anniversary Celebration

By Matthew Wagner, Senior



On a sunny, fall September morning the Seminarians boarded a bus and made a trip out to Mankato, MN for the Diocese of Winona's 125th Anniversary Celebration. The day was filled with a number of activities, speakers, performances, and the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the Eucharist. The event began with Morning Prayer, and was followed by a number of breakout sessions that were led by speakers such as Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini, Father Mike Schmitz, Tony Melendez, and Joan Rosenhauer. In the afternoon, a variety of outdoor games were available for entertainment, and service project provided for a great opportunity to help package meals for those in need. After the afternoon lunch break, the culminating general session of the event provided an in-depth look into the history of the Diocese of Winona, and concluded with Bishop Quinn encouraging our Diocese as a whole to go forth and follow Jesus' call to "make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19) At the end of the day, the Seminarians suited up to serve for Mass with Bishop Quinn and Bishop Ramazzini.

The 125th Anniversary of the Diocese of Winona event provided the Seminarians with a great opportunity to see one of the larger parts of the Diocese, and to gather together to celebrate a substantial point in history for the Diocese of Winona.

From the office of

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



We are a growing family here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and I am pleased to join it along with fifteen freshmen this year. I grew up in southern Minnesota, but left to study business at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. I am glad to be back in MN and honored to serve the church through my full-time position as Director of Institutional Advancement. The semester has been very busy, starting off with the Diocese of Winona 125th Anniversary, Rectors Open House and the many other events happening before winter comes. I have been able to get to know the seminarians, and hear their stories at these events. One of my favorite things to hear is how they have grown in their faith. The seminarians grow in human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral knowledge through the formation program here at IHM. Human formation is the foundation in developing balanced men and future priests. It brings me joy to know that our human formation program is partnering with the Guesthouse Institute to strengthen this foundation. This partnership is just one improvement made this year in the preparation of our future priests.

It is through financial gifts given to the seminary, through our Hearts on Fire annual appeal, March for Life campaign, Bishop and Rectors dinner and general donations, that we are able to improve the formation program. We are very thankful for the gifts you have given. It is through prayer and these gifts you help in the formation of the seminarians here at IHM. Thank you for your generous support and please consider a gift to Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours, and may God bless you.



Rebecca Peters
Director of Development

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THE DIOCESES We Serve:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is pleased to assist the following dioceses in preparing men for the Catholic priesthood:

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



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2015 Events

January 3-10

Senior and Junior Retreat

January 5-10

Sophomore and Freshman Retreat

January 22

March For Life, St. Paul MN

Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Mundelein Seminary Basketball

April 24

Bishop and Rectors Dinner

April 29

IHM Open House

May 8

IHM Baccalaureate Mass

March 12

SMU Commencement

May 11-15

IHM Formation Workshops