



IHM News

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

ECCE QUAM BONUM ET QUAM

JUCUNDUM HABITARE FRATRES IN UNUM

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

"A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS ALL THE DOUGH." **GALATIANS 5:9**

Another formation year comes to a close at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS), and the Lord has brought tremendous fruit from this year. The leaven of Jesus Christ has brought the six senior seminarians, David Kruse (Winona), Matthew Nordquist (Winona), Thomas Skaja (St. Cloud), Patrick Hoeft (St. Cloud), Brady Keller (St. Cloud), and Evan Huebl (New Ulm) to graduation and the next phase of formation. As they leave IHMS, we will miss the leaven they were in our community as leaders and brothers.

Christ's leaven was also seen in the addition of a new priest faculty member, Fr. Bob Horihan. Fr. Horihan fills a vital role as Academic Dean and his humble intelligence, wry sense of humor and quick smile made the seminarians' academic studies joyful if not a bit easier to bear.

Jesus also brought another uplifting member to the staff at IHMS. Ramona Bork joined us in October as Office Manager. She brought a joy and commitment to her work at IHMS that made even the yearly task of budgeting bearable. All I know is that there is more dough because of Ramona's work.

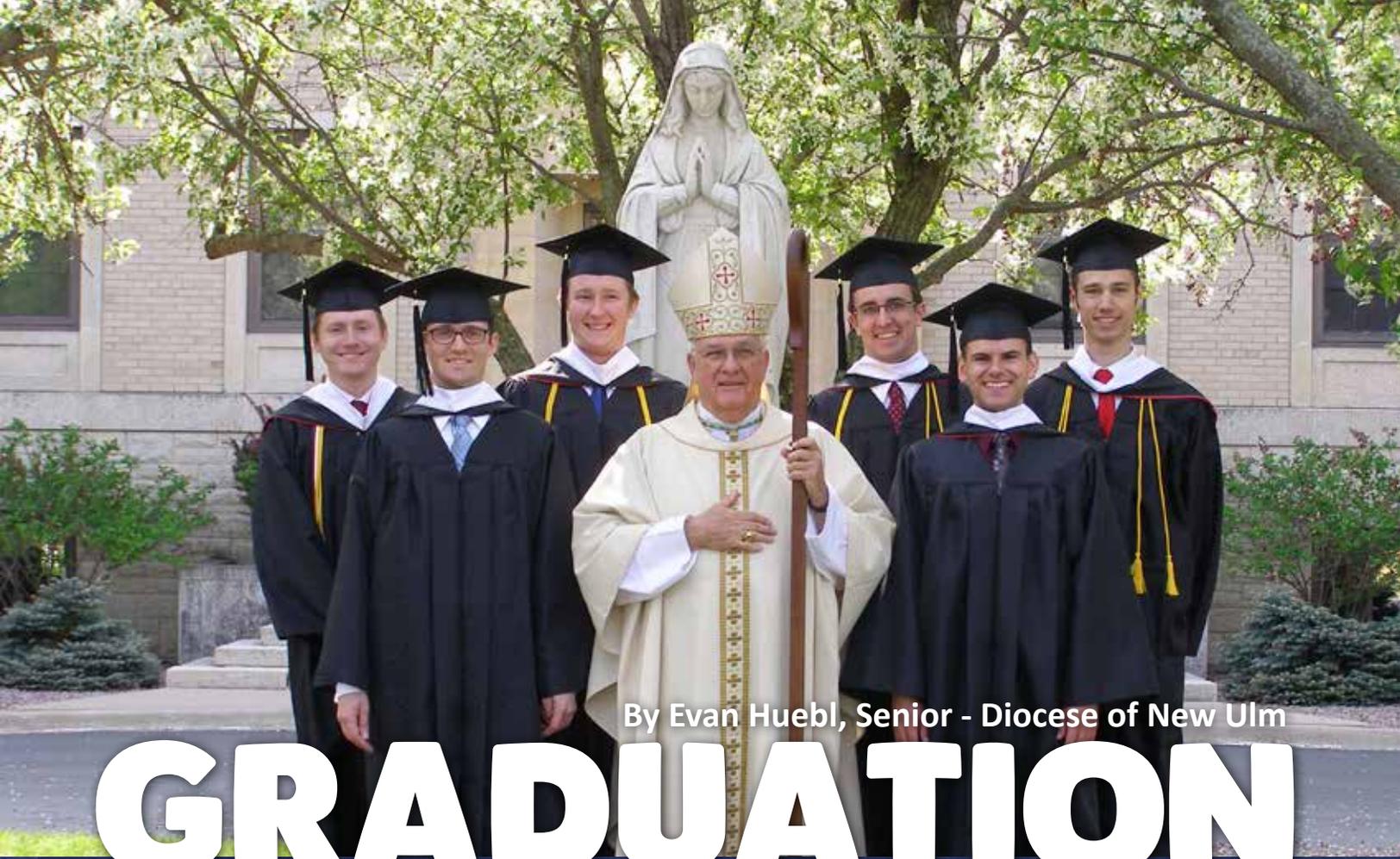
Our renovation project got into high gear this spring after a donor approached us and helped us meet the Diocese of Winona standards for cash in hand to begin in earnest preparations to start the renovation work. The renovation project will begin this fall; it includes new infrastructure for the seminary, electrical, plumbing, and heating and ventilation, along with updates to technology and barrier free accessibility. It is exciting to be at the cusp of this work which will make the seminary ready for the next decades of forming seminarians. Opportunities remain to sponsor pieces of the renovation project or to assist in the general funding of the project. If you would like to know what those opportunities are or make an additional gift to the renovation project please contact **Rebecca Peters, by phone at 507-494-8844 or by e-mail at rpeters@ihmseminary.org.**

The leaven that is Jesus Christ has truly raised life here at IHMS to new heights. We live each day as the recipients of Christ's generous grace. Thank you to all of you for accompanying us this year with your prayers and your generous support. I know that the graces we have experienced have come in part due to you as the leaven of Christ for us and the world.

In the joy of the risen Lord,



Msgr. Tom Melvin
IHM Seminary Rector



By Evan Huebl, Senior - Diocese of New Ulm

GRADUATION

On May 7th 2016, the seniors at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and St. Mary's University of Minnesota bid farewell as they completed their commencement ceremony. All of the seminarians graduating are grateful for their time spent in seminary and are prepared and excited to take the virtues, talents, and graces they have received these past years into their next place of formation.

The senior class at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary was specially recognized with a blessing during Sunday Mass on May 1st. This kicked off their last week of college seminary, filled with friendship, fun, and memories of the past years. Before commencement, the seminary honored them by celebrating the IHM Baccalaureate Mass in St. John Vianney Chapel. It was a wonderful opportunity for the seminary's faculty, seniors, and their families to come together and express their gratitude for the time spent with each other in the pursuit of virtue and holiness. In recognition of all the formation, prayers, and guidance received over the years, the senior class of 2016 would like to extend their sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made this journey possible. Thank you to all those who have aided in building up Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary into the exemplary house of formation that it is. It has been a blessing for each and every one of us, and we will continue to hold up the community in prayer and graciously ask that you do the same for us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us.

Next year, the graduates will be in several different locations as follows:

- Diocese of New Ulm
- Evan Huebl – Saint Paul School of Divinity in St. Paul, MN.
- Diocese of St. Cloud
- Patrick Hoeft - Saint Paul School of Divinity in St. Paul, MN.
- Brady Keller - Saint Paul School of Divinity in St. Paul, MN.
- Thomas Skaja - Saint Paul School of Divinity in St. Paul, MN.
- Diocese of Winona
- David Kruse – Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, MI.
- Matthew Nordquist – St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA.

BISHOPS & RECTOR DINNER

By Daniel Hammer,
Sophomore - Diocese of Duluth

This year, at the 13th annual Bishops and Rector Dinner, we had the privilege of hearing from many great speakers, including Archbishop Jerome Listecki, Bishop John Quinn and Monsignor Thomas Melvin. Archbishop Listecki shared with us about the day when he received a call and found out he would become the bishop of La Crosse. Of course, this information could not be shared until after the official press release. Since Archbishop Listecki knew this was a papal secret he knew he could only tell one person ... at a time.

During this same talk, Archbishop Listecki shared about the communal responsibility of vocations. Not only is it up to the individual to respond to God's call, it is up to the members of the community to help plant the seed. The Archbishop shared with everyone about a young person he was speaking with, and when asked why he did not follow through with his primary vocation, his (heart-wrenching) response was that no one ever asked him about his priestly vocation.

In addition to hearing from many great speakers, there was also an a capella group that performed, "Immaculate Heart of Mary Barber Shop." To this day, no one knows why the group holds that name. It must not have been a papal secret. We hope to see you all next year at the 18th annual Bishops and Rector Dinner on Friday, April 21, 2017. And just remember, it is not a papal secret, so you can tell as many people as you would like about it! Please continue to keep IHM in your prayers, and know that all of you are in our continued prayers. See you next year!



REC FEST

By Jose Flores-Ugalde,
Sophomore - Diocese of Madison

REC-Fest is an annual evening of fraternity within the walls of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary where seminarians showcase their talents and prepare a delicious dinner for each other. For many seminarians the afternoon consisted in hastily preparing dishes and desserts for the special REC-Fest dinner. Highly praised dishes this year were the twice-baked potatoes and the finely prepared red cabbage, not to mention the well coveted Lebanese pastry, Baklava.

New this year was the involvement of IMH's Karol club in guiding this special evening of fraternity. The Karol club, whose namesake is the great Polish Bishop Karol Wojtyła, better known as St. John Paul II, is a club within the seminary dedicated to cultivating an appreciation for the arts for the whole seminary. The Karol club did an effective job at organizing REC-fest so that it was an engaging experience for the whole seminary. A variety of artistic expression abounded on that evening.

A variety of artistic expression truly transpired through the course of the night with more than a dozen acts. Seminarians from the Diocese of St. Cloud led the night with an entertaining and ardent version of the classic Western tune "Rawhide." The enthusiasm continued with seminarians displaying their musical talent in covering folk songs, rock songs with improvised solos, and presenting original piano compositions. A martial arts demonstration was showcased, as was a hilariously successful parody of the Star Wars saga which was impressively filmed and edited by seminarians of IHM. The ability of seminarians to whistle so melodically and commandingly was a performance that left the audience awestruck. Finally, the standup jokes braved by a bold seminarian culminated the evening with laughter.



INFO WEEKEND

By Nicholas McNamara, Freshman- Diocese of La Crosse

During Information Weekend, IHM Seminary saw well over a dozen young high school and college age men visit to discern whether God is calling them to the priesthood. It was inspiring to see so many young men having the courage to step out of their safety level and give the life of a seminarian a try. When prospective seminarians began to arrive, many were filled with excitement and curiosity to discover what it was like to go through the formation process to become a priest.

Over the course of the weekend, we shared many bonding opportunities to help really give the prospectives a better idea of what the life of a seminarian is like. We had prayer and meals together, and many participated in the ultimate frisbee game afterward. Overall, everyone had a great time, and the young men I talked with personally made note of how the weekend had helped them to better discern where God may be calling them.



VOCATIONSTORY

By Robert Kinyon, Sophomore - Diocese of Rapid City

Growing up without a brother and in the presence of four sisters can make for an interesting childhood and adolescence. While not detracting from the various ways by which my sisters have edified me, I can confidently say that I have been blessed with many strong male role models - all of whom exemplify a strong masculine identity rooted in Christ. Perhaps one of the best decisions my parents **have** ever made was purchasing the house we have lived in for well over twenty years now. Indeed, the realtor's axiom, "Location, location, location" rings true. Situated directly across the street from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Rapid City, our house oftentimes lends itself as a hub to a multitude of holy people - especially priests.

Whether the occasion be a birthday party, brunch, or to share a beer with my dad, priests always seemed to be filtering in and out of our house. This has been a tremendous blessing for me. From a young age, I have personally been able to witness the happiness and joy that resides within the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and because of this, I had developed a special affection toward becoming a priest. From my earliest memories as a young boy, I can remember desiring a share in the same happiness that I was able to observe within the men who wore white collars.

However, as I grew into a teenage boy, the attraction toward the priesthood started to wane. Similar to most of my middle and high school peers, I started to desire dating and marriage as my physical changes manifested themselves emotionally. Nonetheless, I still heard God's call to attend seminary when I would pray, and the priests surrounding me continued to encourage me to look into the prospect of becoming a seminarian. This led to a rather turbulent

inner life for me, for I was eager to get married and have kids while also sensing a call to the priesthood. Thankfully, my predicament was chiefly resolved once I heard a homily from Bishop Gruss during my Confirmation Mass where he implored us to follow God the Father's calling - whatever it may be. He simply said that true happiness resides within docility to the will of God. Knowing that God desired me to at least attend seminary, I decided to take the promise seriously. Shortly thereafter, I asked for and received an application to become a seminarian for the Diocese of Rapid City, and found myself packing up my bags for Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary within the next year.

Currently, I am preparing for my Junior year here at IHM, and I can honestly say that my first two years here have been highlighted by a sense of peace and contentment that I would have been devoid of elsewhere. While seminary has not necessarily been a haven of tranquility for me, it has been a beautiful experience. I have been graced with the opportunity to concurrently study, discern, and enjoy fraternity - all of which have greatly enriched my life. I can honestly say that regardless of my ultimate vocational calling, my time here at IHM has truly been blessed and fulfilling as I continue to discern God's will.



SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

The saying, "All good things must come to an end," was supposedly coined by Geoffrey Chaucer in the fourteenth century. I suppose this may be true in some circumstances, but when looking back at my time spent at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, I do not think the saying applies. An alternate saying might be, "Not all good things must come to an end." This is especially true when looking at the growth I have received from IHM Seminary and the brotherhood that dwells there.

When reflecting on all I have received from the priestly formation program at IHM, I am truly amazed. I came to IHM Seminary four years ago as a young man with a desire to follow the Lord. Through the years, I have come to learn many things, such as the art of philosophy, a deeper understanding of celibacy and sexuality, how to practice virtue, how to serve, how to discern one's vocation, how to be a man, and especially how to pray. Prayer allows us to experience the love of God and helps us to recognize our need for Him. Seminary formation is not easy, but the Lord is always with us, carrying us along the way. IHM Seminary has truly given me the foundation of a life of discipleship and freedom.

As I approach the last days of my time at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, I can't help but be grateful. I am thankful for the formation, the faculty, the benefactors, my family, and my friends. Along with the spirit of gratitude is a feeling of excitement, especially as I move on to Saint Paul Seminary in the fall. Yet there is a bittersweet feeling, for IHM has really become my home away from home. Within this home is a strong brotherhood united by Jesus, under the patronage of our Mother, Mary. The "good thing" of a strong brotherhood is something that lasts a lifetime, and that is something to be thankful for. "Ecce quam bonum!"

FRESHMAN PERSPECTIVE

Coming straight out of high school into seminary was one of the best decisions I have ever made; however, it did come with struggles. In the beginning of the school year the seminarian schedule is intense; there is always something going on such as picnics and formation conferences. Although the seminarian schedule may be intense, it is also very rewarding to discern God's will for you and to be with other men who are discerning priesthood.

Formation is the backbone of seminary. The seminarians formation is structured around four pillars: intellectual, spiritual, human, and pastoral. Formation is like a car, and if one of the wheels on this formation car goes flat, you cannot continue to drive on it until you get it fixed. The same goes for seminary; for example, if a seminarian is lacking in sleep, his intellect will not be as open during school hours, thus making his intellectual wheel go flat. All seminarians will have to find that optimal level of performance in order to continue on in seminary formation.

The hardest part about seminary for me is time management. In the beginning of the year, one of the formators will hand you a schedule that starts at about 5:00 am and ends about 9:30 pm, and you're expected to fill it out. I would recommend filling out that schedule with not only your class times and the seminarian schedule, but also when you are going to study for each of your classes. The schedule may seem like it is over the top; however, it has allowed me to stay on top of my classes, as well as start projects earlier so that I don't have to stress about them in the future. My freshman year as a seminarian has been challenging, but I was able to get through it with a lot of prayer, and I am looking forward to what God has in mind for me next year. Thank you for all the support and the prayers. God Bless.

THOMAS SKAJA

Diocese of St. Cloud



CULLEN GALLAGHER

Arch Diocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



By Timothy Reither, Junior - Diocese of La Crosse

Monsignor Burrill recalls great memories of his time at IHM and what was at the time St Mary's College. He had felt God calling him to the priesthood since he was in 2nd grade. At the time, he thought one had to be 100% sure that God is calling you to be a priest in order to enter seminary. So he decided to enter St. Mary's College for a year as a regular student. After conversations with Fr. John Parr, the vocation director of the diocese of La Crosse, and the rector of IHM seminary who, as he recalled, was very patient and understanding with him, he transferred into IHM as a sophomore. After completing his three years of college seminary, he was sent to study theology at the North American College in Rome. After receiving a bachelor of sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, he studied and received an STL in ecumenism focused on dialogue with Lutheranism. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of La Crosse in 1998. His first assignments were serving as a chaplain and instructor at Regis High School in Eau Claire, WI. He was later appointed pastor of the tri-parishes of St. Mary's, Durand; Holy Rosary, Lima; and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Mondovi, Wisconsin. After serving as pastor for 8 years he was sent back to the North American College to serve as Director of Apostolic Formation and later as the Chair of Homiletics. After completing his time there, he came back to the diocese and has been Pastor of St. Bronislava in Plover for the past three years.

His latest assignment is now the Associate General Secretary of USCCB. He will be moving down to Washington DC in June.

He is most grateful for the formation he received from faculty at IHM Seminary and St. Mary's College as well as its Lasallian influence, and particularly the guidance and patience of Fr Timothy Reker, the Rector during his time at IHM seminary.

MSGR. JEFFREY BURRILL



SMU OPEN HOUSE

By Mitch Logeais, Junior - Pre-Theology

The establishment of community is a delicate task when a young adult first moves away from home and away from their support system. It is a most significant time for young men and women in general to be intentional about surrounding themselves with new influences that will form their independence. I've had three opportunities to do this since graduating from high school in 2008: first when I started my undergraduate in Mankato, next when I moved to Bismarck, ND in 2014 to start graduate school, and then this past fall having moved into IHM. Admittedly, even as we grow more comfortable with our own identity, new environments are intimidating, especially ones that manifest high volumes of new acquaintances. As seminarians, we have the wonderful advantage of being immediately acquainted with 30-40 other men, who are striving for the same desire to be holy men of God. It is an element of life that is intrinsic to our particular formation. While it certainly is a wonderful thing for us to grow in community with one another, it is as important for us to grow with our fellow St. Mary's students.

The open houses we have held for the campus students have been a great experience. A few days after the one this spring, I was reflecting on the different experiences from the fall. In the fall, for every one of us, even the returning seminarians, there was on some level an unfamiliarity with the larger crowd. There were many timid individuals who for the first time were exposed to the chaos of campus life. In many ways, it was like a high school graduate at his own party, shaking hands and keeping conversation light having no clue which of his parent's great aunts or third cousins he just encountered. However, this spring, there was more comfort between students, deeper conversation, and more excitement, although the crowd was smaller due to the inclement weather and looming finals. Nonetheless, it **was wonderful** day, being able to observe the beauty of integration at work. It was a powerful representation of how important the application of community life at IHM is for us as students in the classroom at St. Mary's. Overall, I'm pleased with how this year has gone. For all of us at IHM, there has been tremendous growth. I'm looking forward to next year.



MARCH FOR LIFE

By Isaac Landsteiner, Sophomore - Diocese of Winona

Participating in the annual March for Life in St. Paul on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade was a great blessing. It was beautiful to see Minnesotans gather from all over the state, and from all walks of life, who continue to prayerfully protest the decision which legalized abortion in America over 40 years ago. Because of the persistence of the Pro-Life cause, the tide is beginning to turn, and increasingly, men and women who have grown up with the consequences of legal access to abortion see the dangers that it presents to society and the urgency with which it must be addressed. As men being formed for the priesthood, it was particularly moving to see the many religious traditions represented at the March, and how the Bishops of Minnesota and the Catholic lay faithful never hesitate to take the lead in the fight against this grave evil.

We began the day with a prayer service for life at the Cathedral of St. Paul, which was well attended, especially by the catholic school children of the Archdiocese. We also had the opportunity to hear from state representatives and senators from both major political parties about the progress of Pro-Life legislation at the state level. All in all, the March was a great opportunity to spend a day in prayer and activism with my brother seminarians, and a chance to reflect on the importance of doing all we can to support the Pro-Life cause.



JUNIOR & SENIOR RETREAT

One of the greatest gifts of seminary formation each year is that we have a scheduled silent retreat at the beginning of January, prior to returning for the second semester of classes at St. Mary's. This time in the silence with God is always renewing, and the Lord does tremendous work in the lives of each seminarian, drawing each of us into a deeper relationship with the Trinity, purifying our hearts and minds, and guiding and encouraging strides in the conversion of our whole lives to Christ. Whereas the Freshman and Sophomores have a preached six day retreat at IHM Seminary, the Juniors and Seniors take a bus to Broom Tree Retreat Center, near Irene, South Dakota, for a longer eight day retreat, where the only interaction we have each day is with our spiritual director.

Each day at the retreat center we have morning Mass, we eat three meals in common, we are given scripture passages with which to pray during our three hours of personal prayer, and we meet with our spiritual director for an hour. In-between these daily activities there is significant time to explore the beautiful grounds, exercise, and get much-needed rest. On the last day of the retreat, all of the Juniors and Seniors come together to share how God encountered and worked in them over the week. It always amazes and encourages me to witness the testimonies of my brothers and to see firsthand the transformation that the Lord initiates and guides through these yearly retreats.

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE RETREAT

As the new year began, the freshman and sophomore classes of Immaculate Heart of Mary joyfully anticipated our 5 ½ day silent retreat. The retreat itself consisted of Morning Prayer, Mass, and Evening Prayer with three holy hours and two conferences each day. The silence stood in sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year's. For some, what silent retreat meant did not become evident until they had to turn in their cell phones, and others did not really understand that silent retreat actually means that you have to be quiet. For many seminarians, this took the form of physical desolation. This desolation was manifest in many ways such as: taking copious naps, wandering around mindlessly in the halls, and staring at paintings on the walls that no one had ever really taken an interest in before. One seminarian could even be seen in the hallway staring at the blue light of the wall phone and groping for his digital devices.

Although all of us went through some form of withdrawal, it was not without fruit. Fr. Tupper, a senior priest of the Diocese of Winona, who led the conferences, touched our hearts with what it means to have the heart of a pastor, and all of his conferences touched our hearts and filled us with joy and inspiration. Perhaps the most poignant aspect in the retreat was the silence. The silence helped us approach God without distraction, but more than that it helped God, who had been waiting for us, to open our ears so He could approach us. When the retreat ended, each one of us had experienced God's grace in some way and drew new strength for the upcoming year.

EZRA LIPPERT

Diocese of Winona



JOHN ZWEBER

Diocese of La Crosse



MUNDELEIN

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

By Eric Mashak, Junior - Diocese of La Crosse

Oddly enough, one of the many perks of discerning God's call to the priesthood at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is the opportunity to compete in a Seminarian basketball tournament each winter. This past January, fifteen seminarians and two priests departed from IHM Seminary to compete in the Fr. Pat O'Malley Basketball Invitational Tournament at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL. Mundelein Seminary hosted 14 other seminaries from across the country for this tournament.

The competition was fierce, and great fraternity was had by all who attended. Basketball, especially when played fairly and with a positive attitude, can be a sign of God's love experienced through fraternal bonding. There's something really simple and yet beautiful about this tournament and we loved it! Thank you to all who made this possible.



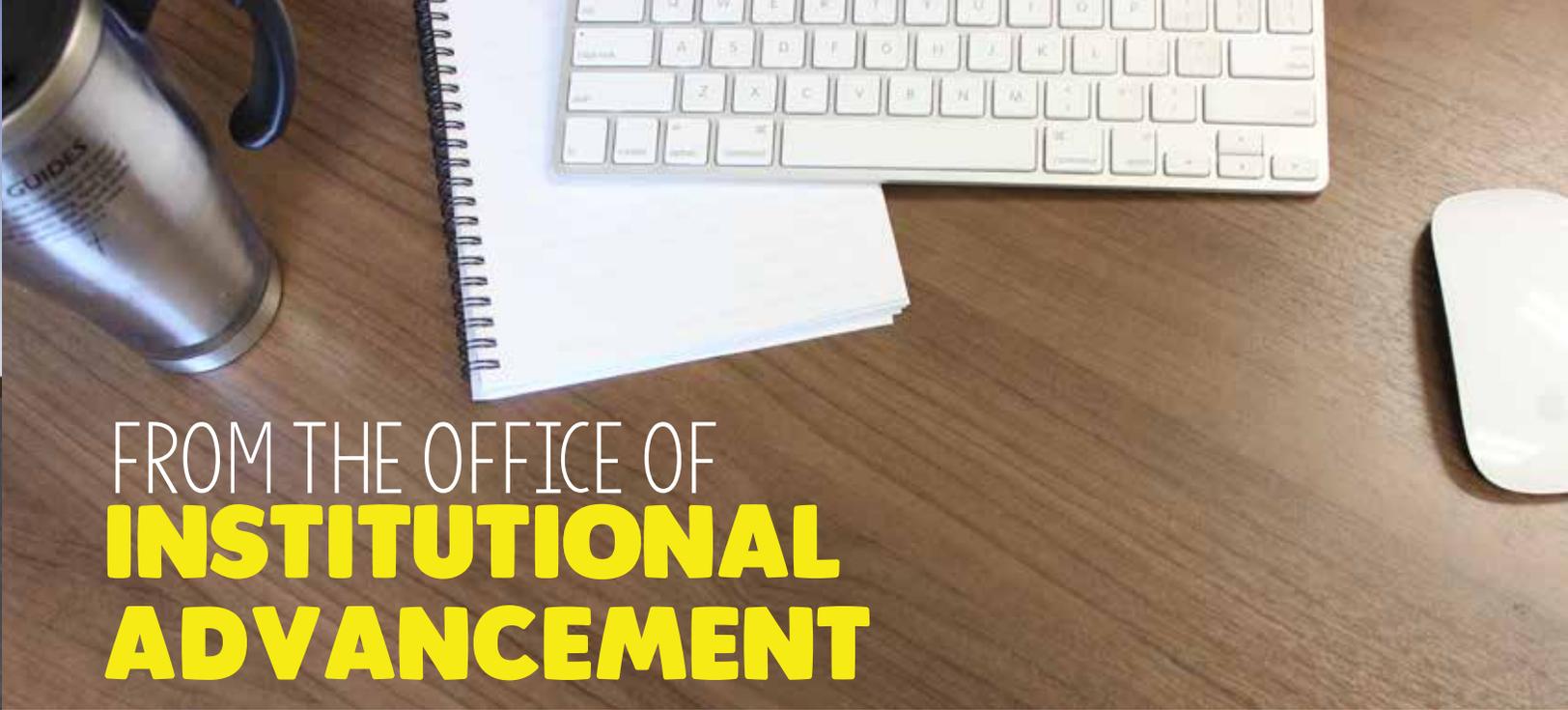


RENOVATION

IHM Seminary has been in operation since 1948. Throughout the past the seminary has gone through minor updates but is now in desperate need of repair. Our goal for the renovation is to create an inclusive atmosphere throughout the seminary for those who call this place home and those who visit. This includes new infrastructure for the seminary, electrical, plumbing, and heating and ventilation, along with updates to technology and barrier free accessibility. Renovation is expected to begin this fall and is expected to last the full year. For more information as the project progresses visit our website www.ihmseminary.org/about-ihm-seminary/ihm-renovation/.

There are still opportunities to sponsor pieces of the renovation project or to assist in the general funding of the project. If you would like to know what those opportunities are or make an additional gift to the renovation project please contact Rebecca Peters, *by phone at 507-494-8844 or by e-mail at rpeters@ihmseminary.org*.





FROM THE OFFICE OF **INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary continues to improve and hold fast to the mission of supporting men as they discern God's call in their life. This discernment is not possible without the support of faculty, staff, and fellow seminarians. More importantly though, it is you, our benefactors, who remember the seminarians in prayer and financially assist the needs of the seminary. Your support has led to the renovation project being able to begin this fall, as well as the continual formation of the seminarians throughout the year.

We are grateful for your support and are working to become more transparent as we make necessary improvements in our database management system. Just a few items the new system will help with are: mailings, easily tracking gifts, emailing, online donations, and event planning. We are excited for the improvements this fall will bring and can't wait to share them with you.

Thank you for your continual prayer, support and sacrifice. With your generous support through the Hearts on Fire annual appeal, the March for Life campaign, the Bishops and Rector Dinner and general donations, we are able to continue and improve our programs. If you are interested in donating to the renovation project or would like to know more about what Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary does and how it is funded, please contact me by phone or e-mail.



Rebecca Peters
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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:

- St. Paul/Minneapolis
- Duluth
- Green Bay
- Madison
- New Ulm
- Peoria
- Rapid City
- Saint Cloud
- Sioux Falls
- Winona
- La Crosse
- **Marquet**
- Crookston





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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUCTION JULY 14

Just a few items included in the sale are:

- Antique Barber chair
- Bicycles
- Harley Davidson Merchandise
- Lamps
- Commercial Mixer