



The Cardinal Spirit

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Cardinal Muench Seminary

Fall 2004

Cardinal Muench Seminary Welcomes 8 New Seminarians



*Peter Sharpe
Fargo Diocese*



*Blake Ritteman
Fargo Diocese*



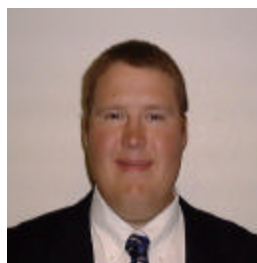
*Garrett Boyer
Fargo Diocese*



*Neil Pfeifer
Fargo Diocese*



*Zachary Peterson
New Ulm Diocese*



*Joseph Kucera
Fargo Diocese*



*William Ruelle IV
Bismarck Diocese*



*Kyle Engelhardt
Bismarck Diocese*

Once again the halls are alive with the sounds of seminarians voices. Eight new seminarians have joined the ranks at Cardinal Muench Seminary this fall. Out of the eight, five are studying for the Diocese of Fargo. They are Garrett Boyer, Joseph Kucera, Neil Pfeifer, Blake Ritteman and Peter Sharpe. Kyle Engelhardt and William Ruelle are studying for the Diocese of Bismarck. Representing the Diocese of New Ulm is Zachary Peterson. The returning seminarians this fall are Alex Thompson (Crookston), Thomas Vacek (Fargo) and Craig Vasek (Crookston).

The seminarians come from a variety of different backgrounds and different areas of North Dakota and Minnesota. A few of the seminarians are starting college for the first time, while others have either completed a degree or were enrolled as students before entering Cardinal Muench Seminary. Each seminarian has brought a different talent to the community life. For instance, many of the seminarians are musically talented; instrumentally and vocally. Choir practice each week is proving to be well worth the effort that is required. The staff members enjoy hearing the sounds of singing voices wafting through the halls.

The seminarians will be busy this year with academic studies, formation classes, Apostolic Works and prayer time. Seminarians are involved in classes offered at Cardinal Muench Seminary and North Dakota State University. Most of the academic courses are offered at NDSU while the formation classes take place at CMS. It should prove to be a very fruitful and exciting year.



Seminarians 2004



From the Desk of the Rector

The new year has begun well with new seminarians making up the majority of our student body. It is a privilege to be able to serve these young men as they prepare to serve God's people. We have had a few changes here at Cardinal Muench in these last few months. Msgr. Brian Donahue, former rector and present Vicar General / Vicar for Clergy has been called to active duty with the ND National Guard and is being sent to Iraq. Our prayers go with him for his protection and for an abundance of graces on his much-needed priestly ministry with our troops. In his absence, Fr. Dennis Skonseng will be assuming his duties thus leaving a vacancy here at CMS. We are actively seeking out someone who can fill the position of Director of Formation while he assists the Bishop in this new capacity. Also, Dr. William Weiler has retired from his position as Academic Dean after many years of service (he has been with the seminary since the beginning) while continuing to teach music. We are grateful for all that he has done to establish and maintain the quality of our academic program. He has been succeeded by Dr. Carol Andreini, professor of classics, whom we welcome in her new capacity. We are blessed to have such qualified and dedicated faculty to teach our seminarians.

Please keep our seminarians and staff in your prayers in the days ahead so that the Word of God may find a welcome in all of our hearts and lives.

*Very Rev. Gregory J. Schlesselmann
Rector/Vicar General*



Friendship

Community



Prayer



DIOCESAN RESEARCH CENTER- A DREAM OR A REALITY

by: Fr. Leo Stelten & John Nowacki

Three events happened recently that involve the library at Cardinal Muench Seminary – the death of a scholarly priest, the renovation of the one hundred year old Bishop's house on north Broadway, and Bishop Aquila's decision to move the diocesan chancery office to south Fargo. Because of these events the library has once again been enlarged.

In the 1980's, "Doc" Weiler's classroom (room 201) became the first victim to library expansion. Last fall the same thing happened to the science lab and classroom when space and shelves were needed for over six thousand books from the Bishop's House and the chancery. The science room equipment was distributed to Shanley high school in Fargo, to St. Ann's parish/school in Belcourt, and elsewhere. The rare book room in the library was enhanced by new shelves voluntarily built by Mr. Ordean Swenson and by improved humidity control. Some of the oak wood for these shelves came from the original huge exterior doors of the seminary.



*Fr. Leo Stelten & librarian John Nowacki in
newly remodeled rare book room*

Although many books are given to the seminary library by diocesan clergy, the majority of books in the rare book room come from the extensive library of the Most Reverend John Shanley, the first bishop of Fargo. Some of the books which date from the 15th and 16th centuries, as well as many others in the library's circulating collection, were donated to the seminary by Father Robert Mullins. The CMS library has the Acta Apostolicae Sedis (Vatican Documents, 1909 to the present), the Annuario Pontifico (world-wide Catholic yearbook), L'Osservatore Romano (Vatican newspaper). The library is also a repository for archival material on Cardinal Muench Seminary. The library is in the process of binding Catholic Action News (diocesan monthly 1938-1980) and plans to do the same for The New Earth (present diocesan monthly newspaper).

We welcome documented historical information and material about people, parishes and institutions that will contribute to the welfare of the diocese and be beneficial to a Diocesan Research Center.



NEW VOCATION DIRECTOR BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

My name is Fr. Paul Duchschere, and on June 30 of this year I became the Vocation Director of the Diocese of Fargo. My office and living quarters are out here at Cardinal Muench Seminary, which means that

I'm only about five blocks away from home! I grew up on the north side of Fargo, attended Holy Spirit school and was a member of that parish, and then went to Shanley High School, so this part of town is very familiar to me. However, I myself did not attend Cardinal Muench Seminary, and so I am now enjoying my time here at this venerable institution.

I have been a priest for 14 years as of this summer. I spent two years as a Parochial Vicar at St. Anthony's in south Fargo, and then two years as Pastor of St. Patricks in Enderlin, along with its mission churches of St. Mary's in Sheldon and St. Henry's in Alice. The last ten years I have been Pastor of St. Paul's Newman Center, serving the Catholic university students at North Dakota State here in Fargo.

I am enjoying my new position and the opportunities it gives me to help find and form new priests for our Diocese. I love the priesthood- I was called by the Lord God to be one. There are other men out there called to be one, too; and there are women called to be sisters. Obviously, part of my ministry

is bringing new candidates to the seminary to study for the priesthood. I also help to guide and direct our current seminarians until they are ordained. Right now the Diocese of Fargo has 14 fine men in seminary studies. They are a good group of men and I am proud of them. (Check out the "Priesthood" link on our Vocations website at: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/vocations/priesthood.htm> and you will find a link to our current seminarians with some information on them and a picture of them.)

I am making my way around the diocese, to parishes on the weekends and to Deanery meetings and other diocesan functions. I enjoy getting "out and about" in our diocese. Please let me know of any potential candidates for priesthood. Invite them to think about it. Pray for more men and women to answer God's call to serve in the Church. If it is indeed a person's call, there is no better way to live one's life, and the Lord God will never be short with His blessings to those who love and serve him.

Fr. Paul Duchschere
Vocation Director
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Farewell from the Director of Formation

I am soon coming to the end of my assignment as Formation Director of Cardinal Muench Seminary. I will begin my new assignment as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Vicar for

Clergy for the Diocese of Fargo on September 29th. For over eleven years, since July 1, 1993, I have lived among the seminarians, and I have been blessed to serve the seminarians by helping to form them for the priesthood. I have been given hope by seeing these young men respond in faith to the call to the priesthood. I have been inspired by their faith, their practice of prayer, their learning and maturation, and their willingness to serve the Church and those in need. Whether or not they have become priests, I have been pleased that they have come to the seminary and participated in our program of formation. I have been filled with joy to see some of them ordained as priests and to know that they are serving parishes in the Diocese of Fargo and other dioceses. Since the summer of 1997, I have had a similar experience in being the Director of Spiritual Formation for the men who are being formed for the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Fargo. I am happy to see these men become ordained as deacons and serve the people in their many needs. In closing, I am thankful to God for being able to serve in the ministry of priestly and diaconal formation with our dedicated staff and faculty, past and present. I am thankful to God for all of you who have prayed for and supported me and Cardinal Muench Seminary.

Rev. Dennis Skonseng

Quips from the College President

by: Craig Vasek

This year at CMS is looking to be very blessed and interesting. Of the eleven men in college formation, eight are new to CMS. There are four dioceses represented here, including Fargo, Bismarck, Crookston, and New Ulm. Some men are college freshmen, while others have graduated from college and are returning from their careers to pursue their calling from God to His priesthood. Some of us were baptized Catholic, while others have come from other faith backgrounds to embrace the Catholic faith, including one man whose entire Baptist community came into the fullness of the faith. God has brought us all together as a community of men to this seminary of formation, and by His grace we will be able to discern His true vocation for us.

Family Day



**September
2004**



Cardinal Muench Seminary
 100 35th Ave NE
 Fargo, ND 58102-1299

Yes! I (We) want to help.

_____ I (we) want to sponsor one of the seminarians
 Enclosed is my (our) check in the amount of
 \$5000.

_____ I (we) want to co-sponsor one of the seminarians.
 Enclosed is my (our) check in the amount of
 \$2500.

I (we) are unable to sponsor or co-sponsor this year. How-
 ever, I (we) do want to help. Enclosed is my (our) check in
 the amount of:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____

\$200 _____ \$500 _____ Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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