

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

# PATRICIAN

MAGAZINE • WINTER 2010



SEMINARIANS TODAY, PRIESTS TOMORROW

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Pope Benedict XVI**

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# President/Rector's Letter

By Reverend James L. McKearney, S.S.

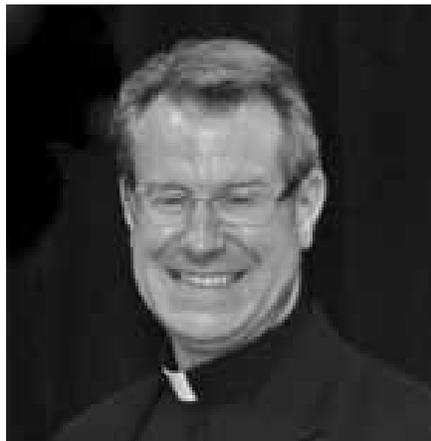
**G**reetings and welcome to this edition of the *Patrician*. The fall semester of the 2010-2011 academic year has concluded with a spirit of loving optimism that has characterized the year at the Seminary. With our dramatically increased enrollment this year, we continue to enjoy the benefits of the Holy Spirit's work of bringing about an increase in vocations. The familiar saying, "be careful for what you pray, you just may get it," has proven true for us. The Lord is bringing about a new day in priestly vocations and many new serious and mature young men have graced the campus of St. Patrick's this year. I bring you all greetings and best wishes for this Christmas and New Year season from the members of our Board of Trustees and our Board of Regents. We have much to be proud of and grateful for this year. Please allow me to highlight a few more of them for you.

As I have just mentioned we welcomed many new mature seminarians to St. Patrick's this year – 31 to be exact! In addition, we are expecting a few more in January 2011! We have not seen this enrollment number in many years. I am happy to report that, although we always lose some men who realize, after coming to the seminary, they do not have a true priestly vocation and leave St. Patrick's, this number is fairly low this year. This upward trend in enrollment is consistent with other seminaries throughout the country. Our sister Sulpician seminaries in the Eastern United States also have higher enrollments this year. With this blessing comes, inevitably, some challenges. One challenge is that we have practically run out of room for student housing this year. Our need for expansion is real. Another challenge pertains to our faculty. Our faculty, although talented and generous, is too small for our rapidly expanding program. It will be necessary to raise funds and increase our faculty for next year in order to continue to offer the best possible program.

With the guidance of our new executive level of leadership and under the careful

guidance of Fr. Jim Myers, S.S. (Vice President for External Affairs), we have expanded our advancement office in several ways. In addition to Fr. Myers and Mrs. Mary Verducci, we are now benefiting from the fundraising expertise of Mr. Barry Del Buono, founder of "Life Builders" and now Director of Institutional Advancement. He immediately brought in several generous individuals in the Bay Area to our St. Patrick's family. Some have already responded to Barry's initiatives and programs supporting the various projects of the Seminary. We are very excited both about this renewed focus and about the graced days ahead for St. Patrick's.

We also welcomed Mrs. Linda Asti back to St. Patrick's as the coordinator for the 2010 Four Pillars Gala. She took my desire as President/Rector to have the Gala on the property of the Seminary and, with the help of our excellent Gala Committee, put together an evening in honor of the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest that was nothing short of elegant and remarkable. The Seminary welcomed many new donors to our project of priestly formation and the enthusiasm has been growing ever since. We are excited by the feedback we have received from our guests and are planning, given the enormous positive response, on having the Gala at the Seminary annually. Archbishop Niederauer, as Chancellor of the Seminary, presided at the vespers service in our glorious chapel and set a tone for true gratitude and celebration.



We are very pleased with the success of our efforts in the area of ongoing formation of priests through the Vatican II Institute for Clergy Formation. This fall we have welcomed 17 priests to our annual three-month sabbatical program. The interactions among the faculty, seminarians, Sisters and sabbatical priests have been particularly fruitful and enriching this year. Before the sabbatical began we welcomed 35 priests for two programs of ongoing formation and renewal for priests. One program called "New Beginnings" is a successful program to help new priests with their ongoing orientation to the demands of life as a priest today. The second program for priests is geared to recently ordained priests who are approaching their first assignment as pastor or parish administrator. In addition to these two crucial programs, the Vatican II Institute welcomes many more priests to a program called Mantle of Elijah that is designed to equip experienced and mature priests to serve as mentors for newly ordained priests, first-time pastors, and priests who are new to the United States. Many of these mentors are graduates of St. Patrick's and many of them will serve our newest graduates as mentors. These initiatives spearheaded by Fr. Myers are not only unique to the Bay Area and the Western United States, but they are also on the cutting edge in the nation, and indeed worldwide, in the area of giving priests ongoing support in their lives as priests after ordinations. The Vatican II Institute, now in its 37th year, continues to provide excellent programs for priests and, given that it is located on the campus of the Seminary, provides an excellent and unique opportunity for the interaction between seminarians and experienced priests. Thank you for your ongoing support of these programs.

St. Patrick's is off to a wonderful start this year and we have God, first and foremost, to thank for this grace. We also know that God works through the many individuals in our St. Patrick's family who, through their generosity, are His instrument. Once again, blessings to you all in this holy season.

# Letter of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Seminarians

**O**n October 18, 2010 Pope Benedict spoke words of encouragement to seminarians from The Vatican on the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist. He commenced his letter by speaking about his journey into the priesthood, which began during his days in the military in 1944. He told his commanding officer he wanted to become a Catholic priest who in turn rebuffed his request. Pope Benedict then

turned the focus of his letter to the needs of our world today. Here is an excerpt:

“Today the situation is completely changed. In different ways, though, many people nowadays also think that the Catholic priesthood is not a “job” for the future, but one that belongs more to the past. You, dear friends, have decided to enter the seminary and to prepare for priestly ministry in the Catholic Church in spite of such opinions and objections. You

have done a good thing. Because people will always have need of God, even in an age marked by technical mastery of the world and globalization: they will always need the God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ, the God who gathers us together in the universal Church in order to learn with him and through him life's true meaning and in order to uphold and apply the standards of true humanity. Where people no longer perceive God, life grows empty; nothing is ever enough. People then seek escape in euphoria and violence; these are the very things that increasingly threaten young people. God is alive. He has created every one of us and he knows us all. He is so great that he has time for the little things in our lives: “Every hair of your head is numbered”. God is alive, and he needs people to serve him and bring him to others. It does make sense to become a priest: the world needs priests, pastors, today, tomorrow and always, until the end of time.

The seminary is a community journeying towards priestly ministry. I have said something very important here: one does not become a priest on one's own. The “community of disciples” is essential, the fellowship of those who desire to serve the greater Church. In this letter I would like to point out – thinking back to my own time in the seminary – several elements which I consider important for these years of your journeying.”

Pope Benedict concluded his letter by detailing seven elements he considers crucial to the formation of a priest.

As our seminarians continue their journey from Seminarian Today to Priests of Tomorrow, at St. Patrick's Seminary & University, they can be assured of the support of their journey not only by our faculty, staff, and supporters, but by His Holiness as well.

To read the full letter to the Seminarians, please go to: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/letters/2010/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_let\\_20101018\\_seminaristi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/letters/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20101018_seminaristi_en.html)



# Why Do Priests Need Philosophy?

By Dr. Charles James

**P**riests have to know many things, but why do they have to learn philosophy? And why does the Vatican keep increasing the required philosophy courses for our seminarians? Our priests must learn about hearing a confession, saying Mass, marrying and burying, but why learn about Plato, Aristotle and Heidegger? For centuries the Catholic Church has required that its future priests study philosophy before they study theology. In fact, in every seminary in the world, no seminarian can go on to study theology without studying philosophy for two whole years. Why all this importance placed on philosophy in the training of our priests when most priests in our busy parishes won't even have time to remember their seminary philosophy classes?

Seminaries (including St. Patrick's) are committed to the proposition that philosophy prepares the mind to think. With so much data bombarding our minds every day, the priest must be able to distinguish reasoned thinking from the superficial and blatantly false. He stands at

the altar and ambo as a representative of the Church and must think clearly for the people of God. Philosophy helps him to do that. The rigors of logic prepare his mind to think incisively, the moral dilemmas of ethics help him to see the contemporary moral struggles that all Catholics face. His other philosophy courses build a foundation for his theology so that his spiritual convictions rest on solid ground. With an independent and critical mind he does not fall to the popular spiritual fads that appear today and vanish tomorrow.

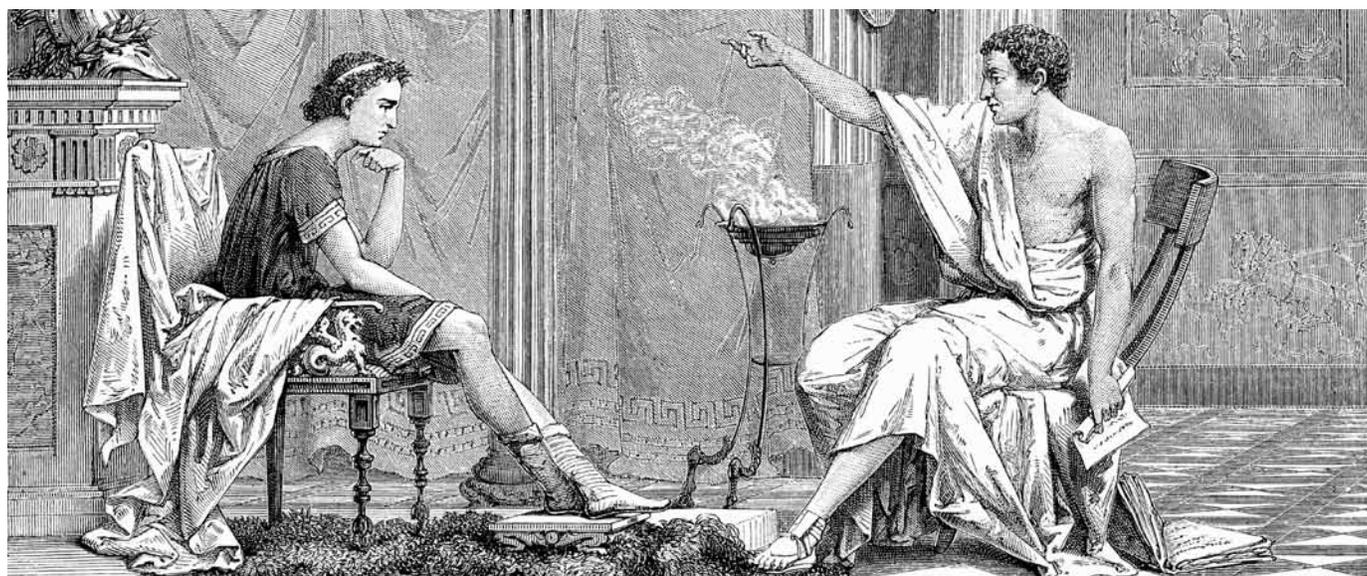
And, philosophy doesn't only help his intellect; philosophy also strengthens the seminarian's soul. As he does his philosophical study, his spiritual life is strengthened, his prayer deepens and his sense of the majesty of the Liturgy is heightened, all because he digs deep into the wisdom of the ages. As he broadens his knowledge of the various opinions and views of the philosophers, the seminarian gains the intellectual humility that is required for any pastor. Also, when the future priest sees that his mind and his heart can be allies instead of enemies, he begins to unify his life around that one

great Truth – Jesus Christ. If his intellect is not wedded to his heart, these two dimensions of his being will forever battle against each other, pitting his reason against his faith. This will produce a split priest whose spiritual and emotional life is cut off from his intellect, leaving him (and his parishioners), unable to worship the Lord of all things. Catholicism means integrations and philosophy helps us to integrate our Christian lives.

Finally, philosophy protects the Church. Scandals are front-page news today and lurid stories about priests confront the faithful at every turn. Yet philosophy can serve as an antidote against the contagion of violation. Sharp minds are the first defense against the temptations of the flesh and rigorous thinking acts as a serum for the moral plague that faces us. If a young man discovers the truth by the sacrifices of intellectual labor, he will not easily cast it out when the enemy comes knocking. Christ called himself the Way, the Truth and the Life (Jn. 14:6). Jesus as the "Way" refers to our daily conduct. As the "Life", he is the Spirit's presence within us. As the "Truth", he captivates our minds through philosophy.

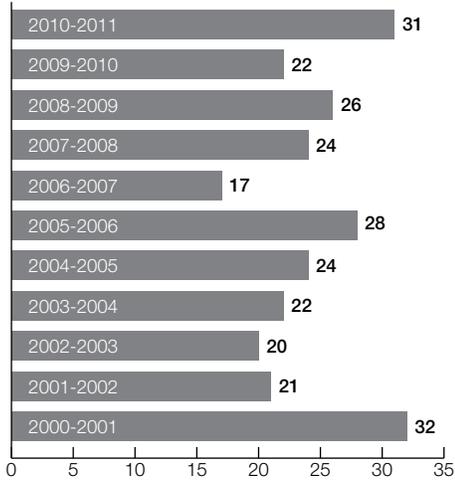
*Dr. Charles James is an Associate Professor of Philosophy, Advisor at St. Patrick's Seminary & University.*

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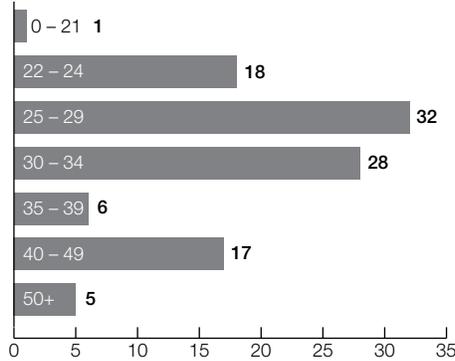


# Fall 2010 Admissions Reports

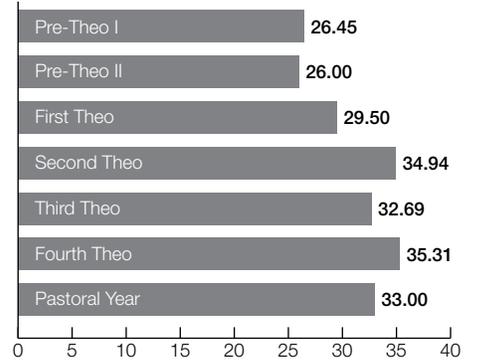
## Enrollment by Academic Year New Students Only



## Student Body by Age Group Fall 2010



## Average Age by Class Fall 2010

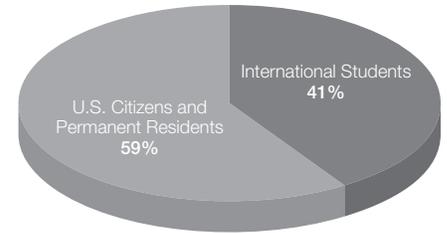


## Profile of Students by Country of Origin Fall 2010

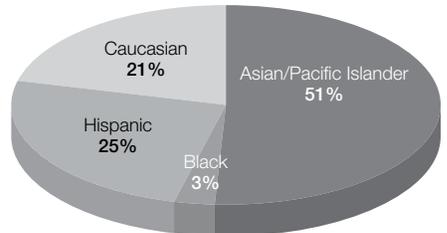
Country of Origin	Students
Colombia	6
Costa Rica	1
El Salvador	2
India	1
Korea	6
Mexico	17
Nicaragua	1
Philippines	24

Country of Origin	Students
Poland	3
Tanzania	1
Thailand	1
United States & Territories	21
Vietnam	22
Zambia	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>

## Student Body Fall 2010



## Ethnic Background Profile Fall 2010

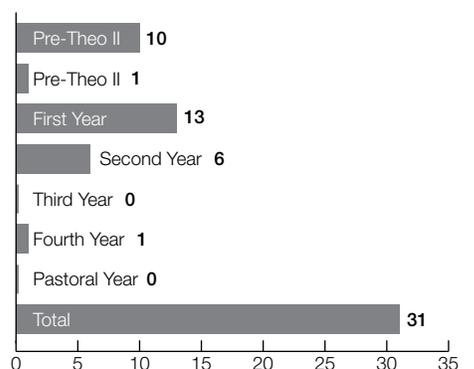


## Profile of Students by Diocese Fall 2010

Diocese	Students
Agana	1
Honolulu	1
Monterey	4
Oakland	19
Orange	12
Portland	7
Reno	3
Sacramento	12

Diocese	Students
San Francisco	15
San Jose	11
Santa Rosa	5
Seattle	6
Stockton	7
Yakima	1
OFM Conventuals	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>

## Enrollment of New Students Fall 2010



# The Life of a New Seminarian

By Seminarian Dave McCormick

Last spring, as I graduated from Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, I knew that I would be heading down to California to continue my seminary formation at St. Patrick's in Menlo Park, but I didn't know much about life in the new seminary. I study for the Archdiocese of Portland and for the last three years attended a seminary in the heart of that diocese, never more than an hour's drive from all of my family and friends. Despite making a short trip to Menlo Park once last winter to visit and investigate the school, I was still heading into a new culture that was about 665 miles outside of my comfort zone. I knew very little about the school and the people that I would meet there, but I knew that since it was California, I could expect both the weather and the people to be beautiful. Of course, I haven't been disappointed.

After orientation week we started our classes and really got to know each other. Some of the activities we do to build up our community spirit include Mass and common prayer, meals, lectures, and occasionally a whole day spent together such as our school-wide Community Day (that even included our beloved Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest along with the teaching staff). In order to strengthen the bonds of community and stay in shape, many of us have recently begun playing soccer on Friday afternoons. I have found that there is no better way to release the tension of an intellectually demanding

school week than by taking part in a physically demanding game of soccer. Once the game is over though, you can bet that we don't hesitate to spend the evening relaxing with a movie, watching television, or doing whatever else that does not involve studying or reading.

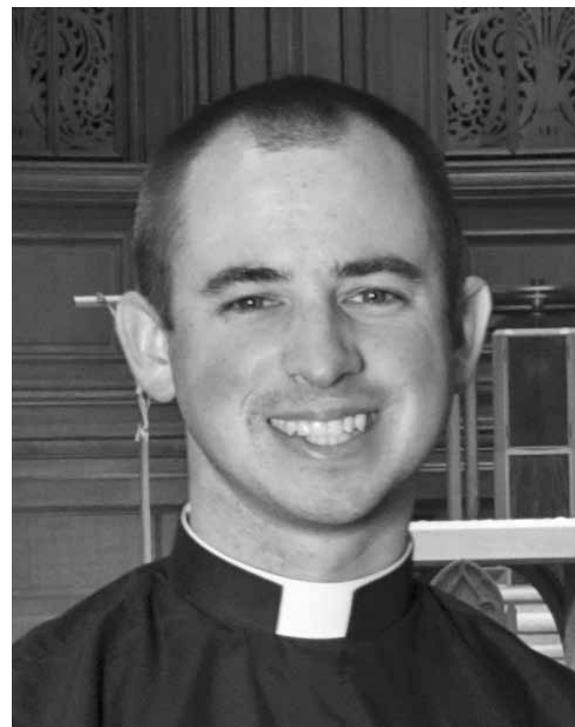
Although studying and playing constitutes a major part of our time, one of the best parts of seminary life is the time for community and personal prayer. This is the time that we set aside everyday to recharge our spiritual batteries and grow ever closer to the One who has called us here in the first place. As all of the priests here have told another, or us at one point priests and seminarians must always give first priority to the spiritual life. It

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**It is our personal relationship with God that will ultimately determine our ability to shepherd the people of God. In all that we do as seminarians and priests (God willing), the measure of our love and pastoral zeal will never exceed that which we receive from God through our life of prayer.**

is our personal relationship with God that will ultimately determine our ability to shepherd the people of God. In all that we do as seminarians and priests (God willing), the measure of our love and pastoral zeal will never exceed that which we receive from God through our life of prayer. To help us along this path toward holiness we need good formation from our teachers and the help of a strong community of friends. The friendships that I have made here have provided me with the support and camaraderie that all seminarians need as we travel down this arduous path to ordination.

In my time here I have fallen in love with the beautiful architecture and woodwork, as well as the glorious chapel with its statues, stained glass, and majestic arched ceiling. In addition to all of the



beautiful surroundings that we have here, I have also come to have a deep respect for the priests and faculty at St. Patrick's who really spend themselves for the sake of our formation. God always provides the Church with all that it needs to carry out its mission, and that loving providence is made apparent in our dedicated staff.

I certainly look forward to three more years here in formation, but not nearly as much as I look forward to being ordained and moving on to serve the Church as a priest of Jesus Christ. With the help of your prayers and support, myself along with all of the seminarians here can grow in wisdom and holiness, harvesting the riches of our faith and learning of God's goodness. Thank you for playing an important role in our formation.

# Coming Home

By Seminarian Manolito Jaldon, Jr.

**T**his past August, after four memorable years of living in Saint Benedict, Oregon and receiving my Philosophy and Religious Studies degree from Mount Angel Seminary, I made my way into the main chapel of Saint Patrick's Seminary and University. I dropped my luggage to the floor, knelt before Christ and gazed at the beautiful stain glass windows and the crucifix. I took a deep breath and with a smile on my face said, "Home at last."

As a young teenager, Saint Patrick's Seminary and University seemed like a very mysterious place. I discerned a vocation to the priesthood at that tender age and knew that a seminary

was the place where you were sent and, as one person told me, it's the place where they "lock you up and throw away the key."

Now, as a young man in my mid-twenties, I realized that this wonderful institution is not as mysterious as I thought, but just in case, I always keep my keys in my pocket!

There is a great joy in being home again. I have been able to reconnect with many of the families that I ministered to as musician at Saint Stephen Parish in San Francisco. I have also reconnected with the Youth and Young Adult Ministries in Vallejo and Fairfield. My friends along with my family are now able to take part in the second half of my journey. This seminary has made that possible.

After my first week, my parents visited the seminary and they were very impressed with the warmth and hospitality that was expressed by the seminarians and staff during their evening visit. They were also very happy with the wonderful food provided by the Oblate Sisters and knew that I was well taken care of by these loving women. Mary Lucey, my good Irish friend at Saint Stephen Parish, has asked me on different occasions, "How is Saint Patty treating you?" I think about the delicious food prepared by the Sisters and reply with a big smile, "Mary, Saint Patty is taking very good care of me!"

In late September, we celebrated San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, the first Filipino martyr, with Bishop Oscar Solis presiding over the sacred mysteries. It

was a very new experience for me. I saw many familiar faces from the Archdiocese and many new faces of guests from the Bay Area. It was unique to have a prayerful procession of the Filipino martyr along the roundabout of the seminary with the People of God.

One beautiful thing worth noting was that the General Intercessions were prayed in many different tongues. It was an expression that even though Lorenzo may be Filipino, he belongs to all of us. After a very prayerful Liturgy, the reception was filled with delicious food shared by our guests. Performers sharing Filipino cultural dances and song highlighted the evening. It was also the debut of one of our

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**His [San Lorenzo's] witness and love for Christ, along with the love of the Religious, friends, and family has inspired me as a first generation Filipino American, born and raised in the Bay Area, to run after the heart of Christ at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University.**



seminarians as he and others embraced a new media of evangelization: rapping the Gospel and witness of Lorenzo Ruiz through a very creative music video.

Celebrating the life of Lorenzo with the people of this Archdiocese and the Bay Area was a great encouragement to march on in this journey to the priesthood. His witness and love for Christ, along with the love of the Religious, friends, and family has inspired me as a first generation Filipino American, born and raised in the Bay Area, to run after the heart of Christ at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University. Indeed, it is good to be home!

# Newly Ordained 2010

**Rev. Jesus Ballesteros**  
St. Teresa of Avila  
3000 North Lompa Lane  
Carson City, NV 89706

**Rev. Michael Baricuatro**  
St. John the Baptist  
Catholic Church  
416 Chestnut Street  
Chico, CA 95928

**Rev. Hector Basañez**  
St Catherine of Alexandria  
17400 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**Rev. Wade Bjerke**  
St. Pius Parish  
1100 Woodside Road  
Redwood City, CA 94061

**Rev. Fredy Calvario**  
501 Fair Oaks Avenue  
P.O. Box 860  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

**Rev. Francisco Cancino**  
Saint Ann Parish  
7025 South Park Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98408

**Rev. Tito Jesus  
Cartagenas, Jr.**  
Holy Family Parish  
4848 Pearl Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95136

**Rev. Michael Cox**  
Our Lady of Mercy/St.  
Patrick's Parish  
671 E. Yosemite Avenue  
Merced, CA 95340

**Rev. Michael Estaris**  
St. John Vianney  
10497 Coloma Road  
Rancho Cordova, CA  
95670

**Rev. Mauricio Hurtado**  
Saint Mel Parish 4745  
Pennsylvania Avenue  
Mail P.O. Box 1180  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

**Rev. Joseph Kim**  
Holy Spirit Parish  
1200 Redmond Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120

**Rev. Martin Muñoz**  
Saint Edwards the  
Confessor  
P.O. Box 27948  
Tempe, AZ 85285

**Rev. Matthew Oakland**  
St. John Mission  
St. Mary Magdalen Parish  
8517 7th Ave SE  
Everett, WA 98208



*Graduating Class Left to right: Francisco Cancino, Martin Muñoz, Joe Kim, Wade Bjerke, Michael Cox, Mauricio Hurtado, Matt Oakland, Michael Baricuatro, Alexander Quiros (Pastoral Year), Michael Estaris, Carlos Perez, Jesus Ballesteros, Rafal Duda (Pastoral Year), Edilberto Castanas (Pastoral Year), and Fredy Calvario.*

# Welcome New Faculty!



This year we welcomed a new full-time faculty member: **Fr. Chris Arockiraj** (a Sulpician candidate) who will be with us for approximately two years. His background is impressive. He is a priest from the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore in India and has been released by his archbishop to the Society of St. Sulpice. As he begins his candidacy this semester, he comes to us well qualified. He holds credentials in philosophy (PHL), pastoral counseling and English Literature (M.A.). As a full-time faculty member, Fr. Chris will be teaching in the pre-theology program. He will take the usual caseload of spiritual directees and advisees and will serve as a member of the faculty council.



**Fr. Paul Maillet, S.S.**, returns to St. Patrick's Seminary & University after completing his doctorate in Sacred Scripture at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. Fr. Maillet is a

member of the Society of St. Sulpice as of May 2005 and reports that he was happy at St. Patrick's as a faculty member for two years before going off to graduate studies. He is teaching courses in Scripture as well as Latin. He is serving once again as a member of the faculty council and as a director and advisor to the seminarians. Fr. Paul is also an outstanding concert pianist who was successful as a touring artist and teacher before he entered the formation program in response to the Lord's call to serve as a priest.



**Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S.**, former President/Rector returned to St. Patrick's Seminary & University upon completion of his year-long sabbatical. He is assuming the role of Director of Pastoral Year Program, assisted by **Ms. Anne Grycz.**



This academic year brought us our new Sisters. **Sr. Margarita Garcia** will serve as the new superior and director of the

kitchen. **Sr. Margarita** served at St. Patrick's years ago and for many years.



We also welcome **Sr. Lorenza**, who has been working in Chicago.



**Sr. Lucy**, who served with Sister Margarita in New York. Sr. Lucy is a guitarist and will help with liturgical music in the place of Sr. Manuela

who begins her new duties as the new superior of the house in Chicago. Sr. Amada will serve as the new superior of the house in New York. Sr. Ester returned to Mexico during the last school year in order to attend to her health, and Sr. Esperanza is moving into a much-deserved retirement.

## Sulpicians are Multi-Cultural Too

By Reverend Jeffrey Hubbard, S.S.

**W**hile walking down the B-wing of St. Patrick's Seminary one finds oneself surrounded by the faces of the past as the walls are lined with graduation photos dating back to 1902. The names of these seminarians reflect the ethnic background of Catholics in the Bay Area for that time.

The same is true of the Priests of St. Sulpice who served on the faculty. The original Sulpicians who arrived at Archbishop Riordan's request to open the seminary were predominately French. This was due to the fact that the Society was

French in origin and had only come to the U.S. a century earlier. Later as the Sulpicians grew in the U.S. their ranks would reflect the ethnic makeup of the Church they were serving. This fact remains true today.

Of the seminaries in the U.S. operated by the Sulpicians, St. Patrick's has the most diverse student body. The Sulpicians on the faculty in a small way reflect that diversity also.

Meet two recent priests who have joined the seminary faculty and who are candidates with the Sulpicians, Fr. Chris Arockiraj and Fr. Noel de Lira. Fr. Arockiraj, who is originally from India, has studied in his home country, in France, and

in the U. S. He also served as a priest in his home diocese of Madras-Mylapore and most recently in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Fr. de Lira, a native of the Philippines, also has extensive international experience. He studied in the Philippines, Spain, and in the U.S. while also doing pastoral ministry at home and in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Both priests bring a wide variety of pastoral and educational experiences coupled with an experience of the Church universal. The value of this for the contemporary seminary goes without saying.

*Father Hubbard is a Pre-Theology Instructor and Advisor at St. Patrick's Seminary & University.*

# Archdiocesan Collection for St. Patrick's Seminary

The annual second collection for the support of St. Patrick's Seminary & University will be held in all parishes of the Archdiocese of San Francisco on January 22-23, 2011. The seminary collection was inaugurated last year as a means of providing financial support for St. Patrick's and of promoting the importance of the work of the seminary among the people of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

St. Patrick's provides parishes with fliers, envelopes, and similar materials to

assist with the collection. Several pastors will welcome archdiocesan seminarians to speak in their parishes about vocations and priestly formation during the month of January.

The Parish and Community Outreach Committee of the SPSU Board of Regents spearheads the efforts of our Regents to promote the collection at the parish level. The Committee is looking for seminary benefactors who would be willing to serve as a liaison between St. Patrick's and their own parish. The role of the liaison would

be to ensure that seminary materials have arrived in a timely fashion, to assist with the distribution of the materials as needed, and to answer questions about the collection. If you would be willing to serve as a parish liaison for St. Patrick's, please contact Mary Verducci at 650-325-5621 or [mary.verducci@stpatricksseminary.org](mailto:mary.verducci@stpatricksseminary.org).

Additional information about the seminary collection may be found on our website [www.stpatricksseminary.org](http://www.stpatricksseminary.org).

## Vatican II A Sabbatical Program from a "Down Under" Glance

By Fr. James Cutcliffe  
Bathurst Diocese, Australia.

"God said, 'Remember to rest'. This is not a lifestyle suggestion, but a commandment... we need Sabbath...it honors the wisdom of dormancy. We've all lived too long where we can be reached." (Fr. Ron Rolheiser)

In other words, honor your humanity.

I vividly remember the conversation when my Bishop in Australia asked me if I was interested in a Sabbatical course. I had been the Parish Priest of the Cathedral for some 13 years and I wasted no time in gratefully accepting his invitation.

Australia is a long way from the rest of the world and I carefully considered the Sabbatical options. Rather than choosing the Vatican II Institute here at Menlo Park it seemed to choose me with its philosophy and approach. Some 10 months later I found myself 12,000 miles from home where a whole new experience awaited me. What a blessing in my life it has been as I celebrate 25 years of priesthood.

It is almost impossible to describe this profound experience in this brief overview. The sabbatical is about human well

being. It's not a holiday, not study leave, not a pilgrimage, but a process model of Sabbath rest, where we bring our insights, experiences and yearnings of priesthood.

These three months are the minimum time needed for opportunity, change and refreshment. The process is about engaging with God, having a genuine sense of "being away" (giving the people at home a sabbatical also!) and allowing each one in the course to look at themselves and see how we understand ourselves.

One can't begin to understand this whole concept unless we appreciate the mission statement of St Patrick's Seminary & University, our host institution, which focuses its primary purpose as the initial and ongoing formation of Roman Catholic Priests in a contemporary multicultural world.

To borrow the words from the website, "The Vatican II Institute is a three-month experience conducted each fall. It is designed for priests who are active in ministry, in good health, psychologically adjusted, and interested in spending significant time reading, listening and discussing their theology, pastoral effectiveness and spiritual and personal growth".

In other words, to remain effective priests we must renew ourselves in body, heart, soul and mind. In a time where priesthood is facing pronounced transition in the Church, and as we come to this place, somewhat exhausted and yet with willing hearts, our time here is about becoming our best self. It is about personal transformation.

In these months, we are affirmed and challenged; encouraged to pray, rest, study and read, exercise, socialize and enjoy solitude, and then go home from sabbatical transformed, renewed and psychologically and spiritually well.

In other words, go home different. Our people, our families, our friends, will await our return as we now take time to listen to the music, the heartbeat of our lives.

What better place in the world could you ever find than beautiful California, in the mild and warm days that accompany the change of seasons, with sometimes the color of the golden leaves the only indication that we are here in the fall.

Upon my immediate arrival at Menlo Park, we gradually met one another as arrivals

*See Vatican II, page 10*

## Vatican II

### A Sabbatical Program from a “Down Under” Glance

continued from page 9

and airport trips came and went. But in that first day or two, I particularly remember that one of our initial conversations was focused on the whole concept of ongoing formation. As the Director of the program, Fr Jim Myers S.S. welcomed each one of us personally, he also shared a few insights over the afternoon social hour; I was both amazed and excited by the initiatives already in place for the ongoing formation of priests.

Whether it is the initial formation of seminarians, or the mentoring of newly ordained priests, or priests having been ordained five years, or a sabbatical program like this, it was a conversation that inspired hope and life...bringing into focus support for those living this life. A source of great encouragement. A professional model of support that was different. It was focused on spirituality, scripture, personal growth and well being, ethics and accountability, psychology, pastoral planning and the skills of the effective pastor, the celibate male and the human man living in a way that reflects the Gospel.

In such a sabbatical experience, we are reminded that our first vocation is

1. To be human
2. To love
3. To give your gifts in service of others
4. To be in relationship with the mystery of God.

It is about being human and understanding authentic compassion; it is about wholeness and integrity. To live a healthy life, you must be transparent, connected, honest, peaceful and self-aware. The

priest is called to be mentally alert, spiritually vital and physically fresh.

The priest in the parish will need to find his voice, but at the same time, help others find their voice. His effectiveness is built on character. To become effective, you have to be credible. Therefore he must be open to continual renewal and interpretation.

The Vatican II Institute enjoys a unique and enriching relationship with St Patrick's Seminary & University. The hospitality offered to the sabbatical priests extends from the Oblate Sisters, the administrative staff and the ground & maintenance staff, the Sulpician Priests, and especially the seminarians themselves, who graciously share their home and facilities with the men from Vatican II.

It is with much gratitude to Fr James Myers, S.S. and Fr James McKearney, S.S. that all this actually happens. It is a place that beckons you, that ensure that you are very welcome, and it becomes a place we call home for these few months. One could not thank anyone without mentioning Amy Yamamura, who with the official title of Administrative Associate, looks after our many travel or business inquiries, and offers a spirit of hospitality that gives the place a heart.

To join with 16 other men from all over the world for these three months is a privilege. As a group we have talked, laughed, listened, prayed and socialized together in a way that has built a genuine sense of trust and rapport. We have indeed affirmed, but also challenged each other, shared our personal stories and listened to the matters of the heart.

It has indeed been a privilege for each of the 17 priests gathered in this place at this time.

In our initial few days of orientation, Fr Jim Myers posed the question, ‘what does God want for you?’ During these weeks, we have been reminded that God is a God of the future...calling us forward...personhood is a way of being fully human. We are all mystics. We are all aware of the spiritual and sometimes we need to just stop, rest and be awakened to the mysticism of God. We will soon go home, so renewed and fully understanding that our spirituality is the inner mood that governs the tide of my relationship with God and others in my life.

In a recent lecture, while reflecting on the dignity of the human person, the presenter reminded us that a priest couldn't serve the people with an empty wagon.

When Fr Jim met me at SFO International airport upon my arrival in September, he encountered a man jet lagged and yet excited, also quietly nervous of the traffic which he believed was on the wrong side of the road. It will be a different man leaving to holiday around America in December.

In a few weeks, this sabbatical time will draw to an end, and we will go home. But we will go home as different men. Why? Because with gratitude to God and the people we love in our lives, we have been given this sacred opportunity to go home transformed. We have listened to our own heartbeat, so now we can go home to play the music that comes out of the people. What a blessing!

# 2011 Discernment Retreat

Ever thought about becoming a Catholic priest? Try seminary for a weekend!

**H**ave you ever thought about the Catholic priesthood? Was there ever a priest who made a huge difference in your life and you thought of the possibility of becoming a priest? You are not alone! Many men today have had the same thought and felt the same possible call that you feel. St. Patrick's Seminary & University offers you an opportunity to come to the seminary for a weekend retreat.

Saint Patrick's Seminary & University will be hosting its Annual Discernment Retreat from **Friday, January 14 through Sunday, January 16, 2011**. Father Joseph Kim of the Diocese of San Jose and a recent graduate of St. Patrick's Seminary & University will lead the 2011 Discernment Retreat.

The Discernment Retreat includes conferences and vocation panels, times reserved for personal and communal prayers, social and faith sharing, and opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Through these sessions, you will be given opportunity to meet and spend quality times with priests and seminarians. You will also be given tools

and tips on how to discern the priesthood properly. Also, opportunities to discuss discernment with other men who are in the same situation will be available. This will truly be a wonderful event to explore the possibilities of the diocesan priesthood.

If you are interested in coming to the retreat, please contact your diocesan Vocation Director. You can find their information on the Diocesan website

in your area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact seminary and they will have the information on where you need to go to come to this wonderful retreat. Please feel welcome to come and give the Priesthood a try.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few."

*Are you ready to say YES to the Lord?*



## Archives News

**T**he Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco are located in the mezzanine basement area of the C-wing of St. Patrick's Seminary. The Archives contains documents reflecting the life of the Church as far back as the Mission era.

A recent patron of the archives, Dr. William Issel, formerly of San Francisco State University, has written an important new book based on research done largely at the Archives. Temple University Press

published *For Both Cross and Flag: Catholic Action, Anti-Catholicism, and National Security Politics in World War II San Francisco*. It explores postwar Catholicism in the Bay Area by focusing on the life of Sylvester Andriano. The result is a revealing look at our local church and civic culture.

The Archives is always looking for additional materials—photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia. The archives recently received the personal papers

of St. Patrick's alumni, Father William O'Donnell, the social action priest from the Diocese of Oakland, as well as the papers of Father Ronald Burke. The sister of Fathers Francis and Thomas Reilly (Foo and Tuck) recently brought by interesting articles found while cleaning her house. We are always on the lookout for such items.

To contact the Archives call 650-328-6502 or email [aasf@stpatricksseminary.org](mailto:aasf@stpatricksseminary.org).



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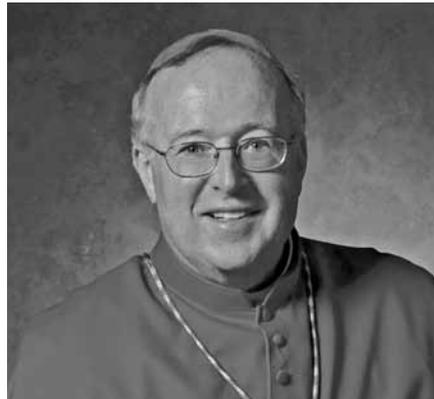
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# St. Patrick's Alumnus Named Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy, an alumnus of St. Patrick's Seminary & University, was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of San Francisco on Tuesday, September 7 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption by Archbishop George H. Niederauer. St. Patrick's cancelled classes on



that day to ensure that the entire community could participate in the ordination.

Bishop McElroy received his Master of Divinity Degree from St. Patrick's in 1979.

He was ordained to the priesthood on April 12, 1980. St. Patrick's was honored to welcome Bishop McElroy as the celebrant for its annual Priests' Day Mass on Tuesday, November 23.

Bishop McElroy joins several other SPSU alumni who serve the Church as Bishop, including Bishop Francis Quinn (Bishop Emeritus of Sacramento), Bishop Daniel Walsh (Santa Rosa), Bishop Richard Garcia (Monterey), Bishop John Wester (Salt Lake City), Bishop Larry Silva (Honolulu), Bishop Randolph Calvo (Reno), and Bishop William Justice (Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco).

Congratulations, Bishop McElroy, on your ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco.

# Californiana and Western Americana In the Gellert Library

By Dr. Cecil White

A lesser-known part of the extensive collections of Gellert Library at St. Patrick's Seminary & University is the Shumate Collection of Californiana and Western Americana. This 6,000+-item collection is housed in the lower floor of the library and in the Library's Rare Book Room. Through the assistance of the State Library of California and the work of Mr. Stuart McKenzie, this collection was cataloged and made available to the wider community served by the Seminary Library. Mr. McKenzie did much of the work on a voluntary basis.

In October 2009, the library received a 700+-volume addition to its collection of Californiana and Western Americana. The Roy N. and Eugenia E. Cloud Trust of Redwood City donated the Cloud family collection of California-related materials to

the general collections of the library to serve as an adjunct to the Shumate Collection. A large number of these volumes are titles not held in either the McKeon Collection or the Shumate Collection. These volumes are currently being cataloged through the generous volunteer work of Stuart McKenzie, whose love of and interest for his native state and the seminary encouraged him to volunteer his time for this project. The library is grateful for the Cloud Trust's gift, and for the generous gift of Stuart's time and professional skill in making these works available to a wider public.

To view these collections, The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Library is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## Four Pillars Gala

By Linda Asti

**O**n September 18, 2010 St. Patrick's Seminary & University hosted its third annual Four Pillars Gala on the beautiful grounds of St. Patrick's Seminary. Three hundred and fifty guests attended this year's festivities, which began with Most Reverend George H. Niederauer, Archbishop of San Francisco presiding at Vespers.

A social hour followed with entertainment provided by the seminarians of St. Patrick's Seminary. Dinner and dancing followed under the stars and all enjoyed a delightful evening.

As in years past, a special person or group of people is honored yearly. This year the seminary honored the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest. The Sisters arrived at St. Patrick's Seminary & University in 1994 to breathe new life into the seminary. The Sisters serve the seminary community in many capacities. Most importantly, they invite the community into their spiritual lives, demonstrated by their open invitation to join them at their weekly Holy Hours and Prayer. Thus it was fitting that they were honored this year.

Among the honored guests in attendance were Most Reverend(s) George, H. Niederauer and William J. Justice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Most Reverend Tod D. Brown of the Diocese of Orange, and Most Reverend Stephen E. Blaire of the Diocese of Stockton. Also in attendance were special guests, Philippine Consul General of San Francisco, Marciano Paynor and Mrs. Teresita Paynor, along with Lynne Sesante of the San Francisco Consulate office.

Following dinner, the seminarians gathered on the steps of the seminary to serenade the Sisters by singing the Salve Regina, which was a fitting end to a beautiful evening.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the fourth annual Four Pillars Gala that will be held on September 17, 2011. As this year, the Gala will be held at St. Patrick's Seminary & University.

### Alumni Day – April 30, 2011

Alumni Day will begin with a Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2010 at St. Patrick's Seminary & University. We will be honoring the 50th Anniversary Class, Rhet 1961, the 40th Anniversary Class, High School Class of 1971 (including College Class of 1975) and the 25th Anniversary Class, College Class of 1986 (including High School Class of 1982). The Celebrant for the Mass will be Rev. Rick Rodoni, C'86, and the Homilist will be Msgr. J. Patrick Browne, R'61, both from the Diocese of San Jose. Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Rev. Jack O'Neill, R'61, Archdiocese of San Francisco.



## In Memoriam

John T. Butler, R'51 • January 2, 2010

Bruce Arnold, C'82 • January 9, 2010

Clifford A. Munger, R'50 • January 20, 2010

William T. Joyce, R'47 • February 24, 2010

Donald C. Atkinson, Esq., R'48 • February 28, 2010

Rev. William Worner, R'40 • February 28, 2010

Donald Kohles, R'52 • March 29, 2010

John P. McAuliffe, R'54 • April 3, 2010

Kevin J. Ryan, R'53 • April 7, 2010

John C. Leipelt, R'59 • April 10, 2010

Rev. Ronald A. Burke, R'48 • June 19, 2010

Paul D. Allen, R'64 • August 14, 2010

Mel Waggoner, R'54 • August 29, 2010

Norman J. Brown, Jr., R'50 • September 3, 2010

Donald Broderson, R'62 • September 19, 2010

Thomas Fry, SPS '63 • October 12, 2010

Rev. Kirby Hanson, SPS '70 • October 15, 2010





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A photograph of four brick pillars supporting a structure, with a decorative capital on top. The image is framed by a white border and set against a dark green background.

SAVE THE DATE

2011 FOUR PILLARS GALA

Saturday, September 17, 2011

St. Patrick's Seminary & University