Seminary Enrollment Increases
For Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year enrollment has increased at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The 2008-2009 Academic Year officially began on Monday, August 25 when 117 seminarians took to the classroom. The Kenrick School of Theology begins the year with 91 men in formation; the Cardinal Glennon College program consists of 26 men discerning their call to the priesthood.

The increase in enrollment at the seminary created the need for more seminarian living space, a welcomed challenge that was addressed over the summer with the renovation of the seminary’s west wing, culminating with the addition of 17 new individual seminarian rooms with accompanying restroom and shower facilities. President-Rector Msgr. Ted Wojcicki views the continuing trend of increased enrollment with a sense of gratitude.

“Kenrick-Glennon Seminary continues to have more good news as a new academic year begins: enrollment has increased again this year, up 21% over the end of last year, and while we miss the presence here of the newly appointed Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, we were blessed that archdiocesan adminis—

(Enrollment, cont. on pg. 6)

In-House Philosophy Program Strengthens College Seminary

Why study philosophy? Seminarians at Cardinal Glennon College were given an opportunity to reflect upon this question as they were introduced to the importance of philosophical studies. But this year began with even greater enthusiasm because it marked the return of the full program of philosophy to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary after a twenty-one year absence. Since 1987, college seminarians had received their baccalaureate degrees in philosophy through the auspices of St. Louis University. But now, Cardinal Glennon College seniors Nicholas Roberts and Chris Seiler assist Rev. Mr. John Mayo at the Cardinal Glennon College graduation Mass of May 10. (Jeff Geerling)
Come Pray With Your Future Priests

2008 Christmas Novena

Tuesday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 10
7:30 P.M. in the Seminary’s Beautiful Chapel of St. Joseph

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary invites you to join our seminarians for nine evenings of prayer and music as we prepare our hearts and minds for the joy and splendor of Christmas.

The Seminary asks that you pray with the future priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Midwest for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life and for the grace of perseverance in these vocations.

Please mark your calendar and join us for this prayerful Advent celebration.

For further information please call 314-792-6100.

Directions: Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is located at 5200 Glennon Drive, off Weil Avenue – approximately 6 blocks west of Chippewa and 10 blocks east of Laclede Station Road.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Archbishop Emeritus Raymond L. Burke

Kenrick-Glennon seminarians line Glennon Drive as Archbishop Emeritus Raymond Burke departs the seminary following his farewell Mass and luncheon of Wednesday, August 20.

Archbishop Burke’s tremendous support of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and its seminarians was well known throughout the Archdiocese. His presence at the seminary will be greatly missed. (Photo by Jeff Geerling)
Newly Ordained Deacon Reflects on His Ordination and Ministry

Rev. Mr. Russell Kovash, Theology IV, Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota

As I began my seminary studies in January, 2004, the thought of my diaconate ordination in 2008 almost seemed impossible. I could not really fathom what it might be like to actually reach that day. After four and a half years of hard work, that day arrived this past June 8 in my home diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota. With the permission of my bishop, the Most Reverend Paul Zipfel, I was fortunate to have celebrated this long awaited day at my home parish in Dickinson.

What a tremendous blessing it was for me to have my family, friends, and all those who had been praying for me for many years present at this celebration. As beautiful as the celebration was, it was also a bitter-sweet day for me and my family. Two nights before my ordination, we had to rush my father to the hospital as complications from his congestive heart failure arose once again. Because my father was so weak, he was unable to attend my ordination.

Russ Kovash is ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Bishop Paul Zipfel at the Church of St Patrick in Dickinson, North Dakota, on June 8. Though he was there in spirit, it was heartbreaking that the leader and rock of our family, and my best friend, was not present. Just hours after my ordination however, I was blessed to be able to spend a wonderful evening with my father. I am so thankful for the pictures taken and for that visit with him as just three days later he passed away. My family and friends had been praying for four and a half years that my father’s health would hold out until my diaconate ordination date. Our prayers were answered. God always answers our prayers but not always in the way we expect.

The term “deacon” means “to serve.” Thus, deacons are to be recognized as disciples of Jesus who came to serve, not to be served. A deacon, who is a co-worker with the bishop and priests, has three primary dimensions to his ministry. First, he is sent to teach and preach the Word of God in the Scriptures. Second, he is called to assist at the liturgy, which by virtue of his ordination, empowers him to baptize, to witness marriages, to assist the priest at Mass, to preside at funerals, and to preside at Communion services. Third, he is called to be a minister of charity in the name of Christ and to be a sign of the radical charity of God.

Seminarians Head Down Under for World Youth Day

Charles Samson, Senior, Cardinal Glennon College, Archdiocese of St. Louis

I remember standing in the Marienfeld at the conclusion of the final Mass of World Youth Day 2005 in Germany, anxiously waiting to hear Pope Benedict XVI reveal the location of the next celebration. When I heard him say: “Sydney, Australia,” I became quite excited, the thoughts of a far away land with beautiful scenery and exotic animals speeding before my mind’s eye.

Having returned from Down Under, I can say that I was not disappointed.

In fact, my original expectations were shattered. Yes, the seminarians and I saw the Opera House, Harbor Bridge, Manle Beach, and the Pacific Ocean; yes, we pet koalas, explored “The Bush,” and hand-fed kangaroos and wild parrots; yes, some of us even attempted to stomach the particularly unpalatable Vegemite spread.

But yet, no matter how extraordinary were these events, such occasions are not the parts of our pilgrimage that made the trip life-changing.

(From left): St. Louis seminarians Patrick Fletcher (Senior, CGC), Robert Ryan (Theology I) and Daniel Gill (Pre-Theology I) on the other side of the world. (Conor Sullivan) (World Youth Day, cont. on pg. 6)
Faculty News and Notes

John P. Doyle, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, has been asked and has accepted a position on the editorial board of Rivista Filosofica de Coimbra (The Philosophical Review of Coimbra). This review has been published quarterly at the University of Coimbra in Portugal since 1992.

Dr. Doyle’s essay entitled “Hispanic Scholastic Philosophy” serves as a chapter unto itself in The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy (James Hankins, ed., Cambridge University Press, 2007, 430pp., $29.99/ pbk., ISBN 9780521608930), a work recently reviewed in Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews by Professor E. Jennifer Ashworth of the University of Waterloo in Canada. Professor Ashworth is a well-known medieval scholar whose own work on Scholastic logic has been acclaimed widely in her native Canada and throughout the world. Prof. Hankins, the editor of the volume in which the essay appears, is a noted medievalist at Harvard University.

In June, Fr. Lawrence Brennan, Vice-Rector and Academic Dean, attended the biennial meeting of the Association of Theological Schools, held this year in Atlanta. He was appointed to the task force that will review the Association’s standards of accreditation in a consultative process over the next four years.

Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies, will sit for the comprehensive exams for his Master of Arts in Thomistic Philosophy on Friday, September 26, completing two years of study in the online philosophy program at Holy Apostles College Seminary in Cromwell, CT. Dr. Mahfood will celebrate the completion of another degree by racing in the Omaha Marathon (http://www.omahamarathon.com/) on Sunday, September 28. This will be his 18th marathon and after he celebrated the completion of his doctorate by running in the Honolulu Marathon in December of 2005.

Dr. Harvath will present at a Priest Training in Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri on the topic of Post-Abortion Ministry on Wednesday, November 5. Dr. Harvath will also be a presenter at a joint Conference between Fontbonne College and the Respect Life Apostolate on Saturday, October 25 on the topic of Post-Abortion Ministry.

Dr. Van Slyke is conducting a series of interviews with Dr. Van Slyke on angels, demons, and other topics. Dr. Van Slyke has also been asked to join the advisory board of the new journal Usus Antiquior, which is scheduled to begin publication in 2009.

On August 11, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology Dr. John Gresham flew to Alabama and appeared on the EWTN live television program, The Journey Home. Each week on this program, host Marcus Grodi interviews a guest who describes his journey into the Catholic Church. Dr. Gresham described his evangelical and Pentecostal roots and related how the seeds of his journey into the Catholic Church were planted when he was a student at Wheaton College. While at Wheaton, Dr. Gresham discovered the wisdom of the church fathers in a patristics course and he encountered the beauty of the Mass in a Catholic Charismatic prayer community. In the interview, Dr. Gresham shared subsequent experiences which eventually led him and his wife Mary Jane from the Assembly of God Church into the Episcopal Church and eventually on into the Catholic Church. After telling his story, Dr. Gresham answered emails and phone calls from viewers. Before the show ended, Dr. Gresham also had the opportunity to speak about Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, highlighting the increasing enrollment, the quality of the men answering the call to priesthood, and the solid formation program. Video copies of this show can be purchased and free audio downloads are available through the EWTN website.

Fr. Jack Hunthausen, S.J., Spiritual Director of the Kenrick School of Theology, spent five weeks this past summer ministering at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Aurora, CO. He spent a half year there six years ago during his sabbatical upon leaving his ministry in Rome of the previous 15 years. He also served as chaplain at a family reunion of many cousins in Missouri in July and baptized four new cousins. On October 4 he officiated at the wedding of a couple at Holy Ghost Church in downtown Denver. He had officiated at the bride’s parents’ wedding in January, 1980 in Boulder, CO.

During the week of August 9-15 Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck, Spiritual Direction, attended the fourth annual Healing and Exorcism Conference at St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary, Illinois. There were approximately 140 bishops, priests, and deacons, along with select lay people sent by their respective bishops. The meeting focused on deliverance ministry and its long tradition in the Church, from scripture and church history. Many

(News and Notes, cont. on pg. 7)
Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the year of St. Paul in celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth. Through his letters to the early Church and his undeniable passion for the faith, St. Paul is known as one of the great evangelists in the history of the Church. In honor of “The Year of St. Paul,” The Herald asked the following seminarians: “Where in your own life have you witnessed a modern-day St. Paul in terms of the evangelizing spirit? How has that person's witness help to shape your own faith?” Here is what they had to say:

**Patrick Kelly / Senior, Cardinal Glennon College / Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau / Home Parish: St. Agnes Cathedral in Springfield**

“A present-day St. Paul that has affected me personally is Fr. John Corapi, a regular on the Catholic television network, EWTN. He is a priest who preaches the truth regularly and is not afraid in doing so. He has helped me to understand the importance of being a strong witness to the faith, whether in good times or in bad. Fr. Corapi has inspired me to pray for all who may be lost or on the wrong path, because he himself was lost as was the great evangelist, St. Paul.”

**Nick Pinkston / Theology II, Kenrick School of Theology / Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph / Home Parish: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kansas City, Missouri**

“A great example of evangelization in the modern world is the former Archbishop of Saint Louis, His Excellency Raymond Burke. While I was in minor seminary, I read that Archbishop Burke refused to continue to be a member of a board of trustees that was associating itself with an outspoken supporter of abortion. Examples are numerous where this great Archbishop shows us great courage combined with humility and warmness. He is compassionate and yet rigid. He is bold, and yet approachable and sensitive. He is truly our modern-day St. Paul.”

**Daniel Schmitz / Pre-Theology II, Kenrick School of Theology / Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas / Home Parish: St. Dominic, Holton, Kansas**

“Saint Paul would be pleased to see his evangelization continued at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. I recently witnessed an exchange between a student of Theology and a (non-faculty) support staff member, who sheepishly yet courageously admitted he didn’t know what theology was all about and was curious to know more. This knowing and charitable seminarian explained the basics of Theology and likely enkindled a desire to learn more. He readily gave an answer for the hope that was in him. More by the love and time given than by the words used, he was a witness to the Love that we should have for each Christian brother and sister.”

**Christopher Seiler / Senior, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: Holy Spirit, Maryland Heights**

“The person in my life who exemplifies the evangelical spirit of Saint Paul is Fr. Brian Fischer. Since I met him eight years ago, he has been a constant source of inspiration and support in my life, particularly in the discernment of my vocation. His personal zeal and love for Jesus Christ shines forth in both his priestly ministry in Saint Louis and his missionary work in La Paz, Bolivia. I hope that someday I might be able to work alongside him as a priest of the New Evangelization.”

**John A. Straatmann / Theology II, Kenrick School of Theology / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: St. Francis Borgia, Washington**

“When I think of a ‘present-day St. Paul,’ one person who comes to mind is a lady from my home parish. She—amid other ‘present-day St. Paul’s’—is always at the forefront of supporting the ‘culture of life’ in my community. When clarifications or insights are needed, she is very reliable, as she truly preaches the faith both in season and out of season. Her evangelizing spirit is often seen in letters to the editor in her local newspaper and in the St. Louis Review, as she has defended the Church and Archbishop Burke on many occasions. I feel that her strong witness, inspired by the Holy Spirit, gives me the courage to preach Christ’s message and evangelize as St. Paul did some 2,000 years ago.”
trator Bishop Robert Hermann was with us for our opening Mass of the Holy Spirit.”

Kenrick-Glennon continues to draw heavily from dioceses throughout the United States and Belize, with men from 17 dioceses and religious orders discerning their vocations at the seminary. (See side panel for a complete list of sponsoring dioceses.)

Msgr. Wojcicki added: “The year begins with my heart full of gratitude: to God for calling our seminarians to holy priesthood; to our seminarians for accepting their calls; to our sponsoring bishops for their generous collaboration; to the faculty for their distinguished role in priestly formation; to our alumni for their selfless example of pastoral zeal; to all our benefactors and friends for their support of our mission.”

Sponsoring Arch/Dioceses and Religious Orders

St. Louis, Missouri
Belleville, Illinois
Belize, Central America
Bismarck, North Dakota
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Des Moines, Iowa
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Memphis, Tennessee
Omaha, Nebraska
Peoria, Illinois
Rockford, Illinois
Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Springfield, Illinois
Wichita, Kansas
Intercessors of the Lamb

(Enrollment, from pg. 1)

for me. Rather, it was the inescapably Catholic element of the experience that really touched me.

Upon our group’s arrival, we were immediately given Immaculate Conception Parish as our home base where we would gather for Mass, prayer services with groups of young Catholics from around the world, and breakfast every morning. Families from the parish were gracious enough to take us into their homes and provide nothing but authentic Australian hospitality, including a few “Sausage Sizzlers” and all-around awesome food. Their generosity was at times so expressed that it made it easy to forget that we were, in fact, on pilgrimage and not on a vacation!

The practical benefits of staying with host families aside, it was the pure element of human connection with people who literally live on the other side of the world that deeply moved me.

Actually, I should say that it was the purely Catholic connection with people from every corner of the globe that made World Youth Day an eye-opening, jaw-dropping, and faith-filling experience. This event was no mere horizontal, global youth festival; it was a celebration of the Church Universal uniting itself to its Cornerstone and its Rock.

Because of World Youth Day in Sydney, I will never be able to read Psalm 98 without fondly recalling the packed streets littered with the colorful flags of the world. Now I think I understand what the Psalmist had in mind when he wrote: “All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into song, sing praise.”


(News and Notes, from pg. 4) speakers emphasized placing deliverance and exorcism ministry in the context of healing. The importance of celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation as an essential element to this ministry along with the rituals of the Church for exorcism and deliverance was emphasized. Also emphasized was the importance of bringing the person to a conversion of lifestyle. Avenues that open the door to demonic influence, such as the occult, wounds, and habitual sin were also explored. The growing number attending gives evidence that priests and bishops are giving more attention to this ministry in the Church.

Dr. Andrew J. Sopko, Director of the Souvay Library, attended the Annual Meeting of the American Theological Library Association in Ottawa, Canada this summer. He also currently serves as a member of the local committee which is making the preparations for next year’s ATLA Annual Meeting in Saint Louis.

(Only new material in this section)

Fr. Thomas K. McDermott, O.P., Associate Director of Spiritual Formation and Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology, recently published Catherine of Siena: Spiritual Development in Her Life and Teaching (New York: Paulist Press, 2008, 368 pp.).

[From the back cover:] “In his ground-breaking, systematic presentation of Catherine of Siena’s teachings, Thomas McDermott draws on Catherine’s writings to explain her principal teachings in relation to spiritual development and identifies her possible sources as well as her areas of originality. By examining Catherine’s life and mystical experiences, McDermott shows how she grew spiritually and how her growth corresponds to her later teachings. Finally, he explicates what he regards as the fundamental message of Catherine’s life and teaching. Students of mysticism and spirituality will find this book a trustworthy guide through the rich mysticism of one of the fourteenth century’s most amazing women. Preface by Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P., Theologian to the Papal Household.”

Dr. Lawrence J. Welch, Professor of Systematic Theology, has contributed to a new commentary on the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The entire commentary is the work of an international team of some 26 theologians. It is entitled Vatican II: Renewal within Tradition. The book is meant to respond to the call of Pope Benedict XVI for a “hermeneutics of continuity” in the interpretation of the documents of Second Vatican Council. According to this new commentary, Vatican II was indeed putting forth a vision for the future of the Church but that vision was grounded in two millennia of tradition. Taken together the essays of the commentary show that the documents of the Second Vatican Council are a development of an established antecedent in the Catholic Church. Each chapter contextualizes the teachings of Vatican II within that tradition. A chapter on Presbyterorum ordinis (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests) is Dr. Welch’s contribution to the project.

(College, from pg. 6) graduate degree in philosophy. “The return of the philosophy component to the Seminary is such a blessing,” said Msgr. Timothy P. Cronin, Rector of Cardinal Glennon College Seminary. “Our faculty members do not simply teach philosophy, but they are totally dedicated to the formation of these young men as seminarians and, God willing, future priests. The interaction which has taken place in and outside the classroom, as well as the interaction between philosophy and theology faculty members, has added significant depth to our formation.”

The philosophy faculty includes Dr. Randall Colton, Associate Academic Dean of Cardinal Glennon College and Professor of Logic, Ethics, Modern, and Contemporary Philosophy, and the Philosophy Synthesis course; Dr. Ryan Madison, Professor of Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Nature, Philosophical Anthropology, and Ancient Philosophy; and Dr. John P. Doyle, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and Professor Emeritus at St. Louis University, who teaches Natural Theology, Medieval Philosophy, and Latin.

Msgr. Cronin emphasized that college seminarians have the best of both worlds—the systematic study of philosophy at the seminary and the experience of St. Louis University. Cardinal Glennon College continues to collaborate with St. Louis University for first and second-year college seminarians who pursue a liberal arts curriculum through classes on the SLU campus.

This year there are 46 seminarians in the college and pre-theology programs, with 32 of these men from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Charles Samson, a fourth-year college seminarian who has studied at St. Louis University and Cardinal Glennon College, remarked that both experiences have been positive, and he has especially appreciated the opportunity to be part of the new philosophy program. He said, “Studying philosophy in the same place we will study theology helps us to integrate our studies and to see the interplay of faith and reason. I have been given a great foundation in philosophy so that I may begin my graduate studies in theology.”

It is expected that nineteen college and pre-theology seminarians will receive the Bachelor of Arts in philosophy on May 9, 2009. They are especially hoping that a new Archbishop of St. Louis will be installed by then to confer their diplomas and to share in the joy of the return of philosophy to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.
2008 Christmas Novena—December 2-10
From Tuesday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 10 (beginning at 7:30 P.M.), you are invited to come to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and pray with your future priests in the Seminary’s beautiful Chapel of St. Joseph. Please join our seminarians for nine evenings of prayer and music as we prepare our hearts and minds for the joy and splendor of Christmas.

Seminary Open House—February 15, 2008
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary will be hosting its fifth annual Open House on Sunday, February 15, from 1:00-4:00 P.M. There will be seminarian-guided tours, display tables featuring various aspects of seminary life, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet the future priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Midwest United States.

Summer Ministry in Mexico Offers Insights, Growth
By Anthony Gerber, Theology III, Archdiocese of St. Louis
Mexico. When we hear the name of the country neighboring us to the south, we may tend to think of desert, Spanish, tortillas, and mariachi bands. Yet, during this past summer, the world which is Mexico became, for ten third-year theologians, so much more—it became home. From June 16 to August 1, these ten “seminaristas” were immersed in the culture, language, and family life of two of the country’s major cities: Guadalajara and Mexico City. There, they studied Spanish and entered into many homes of the people—using what they had learned in class—in order to evangelize and to become more familiar with the traditions of, ideas held by, and problems facing the Mexican people. Of course, of paramount concern is immigration. While a frequently debated issue in the United States, the reality of the loss of their working men is a troubling reality for many families in Mexico—many whose fathers and husbands have left home, never to return or to be heard from again. Yet, there remains hope. The seminarians, having called Mexico home for seven weeks, returned to St. Louis a little wiser, a little more humble, and a lot more prepared to serve all of God’s people.

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