

*Kenrick-Glennon
Seminary: "Training men
for the priesthood for over
100 years."*

The Herald

'Blessed and Humbled to Serve'

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Bids Farewell to Fr. Tom Molini

In June of 1994, Rev. Thomas M. Molini came to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary as the College Director and Vice-Rector. A year later he was informed that he would serve as Vice-Rector and Dean of Students—and those are the positions he has held until the close of the 2003-04 academic year, at which point he was granted a three-month sabbatical at the Institute for



Fr. Molini as a Kenrick Theologian in 1981.

Continuing Theological Education at the North American College in Rome. When he returns from his sabbatical, Fr. Molini will be reassigned to a new position within the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Looking back on his ten years of service at

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, Fr. Molini feels that he has been blessed. "I was flattered to be brought on board at the seminary by then-Archbishop [Justin] Rigali," remarked Fr. Molini. "I had served in two parishes as an associate pastor for over eight years when he asked me to come to Kenrick-Glennon. And while it was difficult for me to be pulled out of the parish, it was also humbling to be asked to do this by the Archbishop and exciting to be involved in the formation of priests."

Fr. Molini's duties these past ten years have directly involved the daily life of the seminarians, as he has supervised the seminarians' human, spiritual, and pastoral programs, as well as coordinated their annual evaluations. Fr. Molini has had a hand in the admissions process into the seminary

as well. From one-on-one conversations with seminarians involving their progress in priestly formation, seeing to the good order of the house, organizing the seminary calendar, and consulting with other members of the formation staff about the seminarians and their progress, Fr. Molini's experience as Vice-Rector and Dean of Students at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary has been a journey of challenges and blessings.

"As Vice-Rector and Dean of Students, I've gotten to know so many of those men who are and who will be priests throughout the Midwest," remarked Fr. Molini. "Kenrick-Glennon has formed so many wonderful priests, and I look forward to continuing to work with them when I return from my sabbatical."



The Most Reverend George Lucas of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, (right) joins Fr. Molini for "Fr. Molini Appreciation Day," on August 29, 2004. From 1994-99, then-Monsignor Lucas served with Fr. Molini as Kenrick-Glennon Seminary's President-Rector. (Photo by Chris Rossman)

Those who served with Fr. Molini remember him fondly. "The time during which I served as Rector was filled with

many personal blessings for me," said Bishop George Lucas of the Diocese of the Springfield in Illinois. "Living, praying and working with Father Tom Molini was perhaps the greatest of these. I always valued his dedication to the priesthood of Jesus Christ, his plainspoken common sense, and his generous heart, and I have missed all of that since I left for Springfield. So many faculty, staff, seminarians, and rectors have benefited from his ten years of service. I join them all in thanking God for the blessing that Father Molini has been for us and for the Church."

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary's current President-Rector, Reverend Monsignor Ted Wojcicki, endorses those senti-

ments. "Fr. Molini is a big man with an even bigger heart. As children we were members of the same parish, St. Louise de Marillac, and I was blessed to again be with him as a brother priest at the seminary. Both I—and the seminary—received the invaluable benefit of his wisdom and experience from his having served with three rectors before I arrived. He was always generous with his assistance; he provided a sense of stability in challenging times.

His love for the Church, love for the priesthood—and love for the seminary—is boundless. Now his gifts will benefit the Church in a new way."

With Gratitude to You, Father Molini

“Thank you for your humility and ability to shift gears in minutes, from introducing archbishops to washing dishes. Your active example spoke louder than any words, and believe me, that had to be loud. God bless you in your new assignment.”

—Rev. Mr. Jack Weldon
Theology IV
Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana

“Just to let you know that you are always in our prayers as we wish you God’s blessings in your new assignment. Remain blessed in the Lord.”

—Br. Augustine Ibok
Theology II
The Society of Our Mother of Peace

“Your passion and love for the priesthood has been a great inspiration. I have always felt that you took great personal



An excellent cook, Fr. Molini is no stranger to the kitchen. Here he is in the Seminary kitchen with another splendid chef, seminarian Benjamin Bradshaw (Theology III / Diocese of Memphis).

interest in my discernment and that you were there to listen and offer your own perspective, which I found very valuable.

Thank you. You will be greatly missed at Kenrick.”

—Jason Kurth
Theology II
Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa

“Thank you for the three years I have had the privilege of being one of the students you’ve ‘deaned.’ I hope you will enjoy your well-deserved sabbatical. May your parish ministry be spiritually fruitful and enriching beyond your wildest dreams. Know that you are in my prayers.”

—Dennis Morrissy
Theology III

Diocese of Rockford, Illinois

“Many thanks for all your help and support the past year and a half. You are truly a great inspiration for the priesthood and it has been a blessing to collaborate with you. Many blessings and ‘Tanti auguri!’”

—Jack Hunthausen, S.J.
Kenrick Director of Spiritual Formation

“In the fall of 1977, you and I began our College Seminary days with no thought that we would be asked to return some twenty plus years later to serve in roles of Seminary Administration. You have served well! Thank you, good friend, for your support and the time we have shared together here!”

—Fr. Timothy Cronin
Director, Cardinal Glennon College

“I cannot thank you enough for making me feel so at home at Kenrick after being out of school for seventeen years. You are a heck of a good man and a wonderful priest. You will be missed. God bless you on your new assignment.”

—Russ Kovash
Pre-Theology
Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota

Molini Memories: We’ll Miss You, Father!

By Jeff Goettemoeller (Pastoral Internship / Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph)

After ten years of welcoming, teaching, encouraging, admonishing, inspiring, challenging, gardening, singing, celebrating, mourning, praying, playing, honoring, and loving, Fr. Tom Molini completes his time as our Dean of Students and Vice Rector this summer.

What memories come to mind? A warm, mischievous smile and bellowing laugh. Gerald Blessing’s shell-shocked face at this year’s final softball game, af-

ter Fr. Molini preemptively dumped a cooler full of ice on his head! Fr. Molini in a kilt for “Ham and

Cheese”! A pastor’s touch when we were confused, when challenges seemed insurmountable, when we were sick or mourning. Fr. Molini was there.

Thank you, Father. We love you. We will miss you, but we are happy you will be a parish priest once again, embracing the life you spoke of fondly – the vocation you inspire us to accept as a gift. We know you will be a good shepherd to your flock, because you have been for us.



All beat up! Fr. Molini at the 2003 Kenrick Seminary Halloween Gaud.