



Summer 2004

*"Training men for
the priesthood for over
100 years."*

The Herald

Mission Statement

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is a community of faith, formation, and learning, located in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, preparing men for the Roman Catholic priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the praise of God the Father, we cultivate the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral gifts of candidates for the diocesan ministry.

To this end, we commit ourselves to a responsible and effective stewardship of resources, carrying on our recognized tradition of service to the Church.

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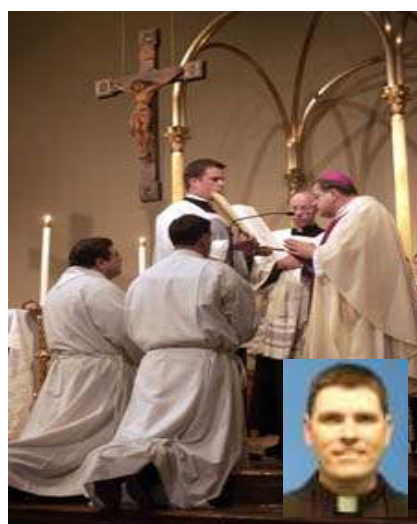
A Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

Meet the Newly Ordained Priests and Deacons From Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

Rev. Mr. Gerald Blessing is one of the many men at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary experiencing change at this time of the year. Deacon Blessing was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Archdiocese of St. Louis on May 1.

"When I walked into the seminary chapel on the day of my ordination, and saw all my friends and family standing there, I was so moved," recalls Deacon Blessing. "The whole event was very moving. I'll never forget lying prostrate, praying for the intercession of the saints that I might live out this ministry well. I found Archbishop Burke's homily inspiring as well."

Deacon Blessing reflected on a calling



Archbishop Raymond Burke ordains (kneeling, from left to right) Brother Peter Sirangelo, S.M.P., and Gerald Blessing (inset) to the Diaconate on May 1 at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

that has been with him for the better part of his life. "I've thought about the priesthood since the second grade, and it's coming to fruition. It's all happening right now and I couldn't be happier."

Other Kenrick-Glennon seminarian ordinations and ministries include:

Sacred Order of the Priesthood

Richard Edward Storey, Kansas City in Kansas
Timothy Joseph Henderson, St. Louis
Trong Binh Tran, Dodge City
Tri Tang Pham, Palm Beach

(Ordinations, continued on page 2)

50 Years a Priest: Fr. Harold Voelker



Fr. Harry Voelker entered the seminary as a thirteen-year-old, fresh out of eighth grade. He was ordained on April 3, 1954 by then Archbishop Joseph Ritter. From the day he entered the seminary to the moment of his ordination, Fr. Voelker prayed that he would

know God's will for him, and if it was the priesthood to which he was called he was happy to serve in that manner.

2004 marks Fr. Voelker's fiftieth anniversary as a priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. "My life as a seminarian was a happy time," recalls Fr. Voelker, who is Chaplain of the Our Lady of Life Senior Apartments and serves part time at Perpetual Help Assisted Living on the Cardinal Carberry Campus. "And my role

(Voelker, continued on page 2)

(Ordinations, continued from page 1)

Michael John Bies, Peoria
 Nicholas Thomas Federspiel, Rockford
 Celestine Okechukwu Obidiegwu, Tulsa

Sacred Order of the Diaconate

Ernest Ndubuisi Ogugua, Omaha
 Andrew Leon Sohm, Omaha
 Michael John Swanton, Omaha
 Gerald Joseph Blessing, St. Louis
 Paul Charles Eberle, Bismarck
 John Paul Gardner, Bismarck
 Stephen Eugene Hansen, Jefferson City
 Philip Evan Niekamp, Jefferson City
 Christopher Weldon, Lafayette
 Richard Joey Kaump, Memphis
 Dana Robert Christensen, Sioux Falls
 Michael Brian Haag, Springfield in Illinois
 Joseph Theodore Havrilka, Springfield in Illinois
 Daniel Lee Willenborg, Springfield in Illinois
 Brother Peter Sirangelo, S.M.P., Springfield-Cape Girardeau

The Ministry of Acolyte

Brother Christopher Ngozi Onuoha, Omaha
 Timothy Lorenz Bannes, St. Louis
 Rodger Paul Fleming, St. Louis
 Seth Joseph Jansen, St. Louis
 Joseph Stephen Post, St. Louis
 Brian Andrew Roeseler, St. Louis
 James John Maeder, Des Moines
 Joseph Frederick Pins, Des Moines
 Jeffrey David Goettemoeller, Kansas City-St. Joseph
 Steven Curtis Rogers, Kansas City-St. Joseph

Benjamin Peterson Bradshaw, Memphis
 Dennis Michael Morrissey, Rockford
 Andrew Todd Skrobitt, Rockford
 William Wayne Hennecke, Jr., Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Candidacy for Holy Orders

Christopher John Rossman, Kansas City in Kansas
 Ryan Patrick Fellows, Omaha
 Brian Edwin Hecktor, St. Louis
 Michael Joseph Houser, St. Louis
 Adam McShane Henjum, Bismarck
 Kevin Alvaro Muniz, Springfield in Illinois
 Brother Augustine Dominic Ibok, Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Cardinal Glennon College, Class of 2004

Sean Thomas Burbach, St. Louis
 Eric Jeffrey Kunz, St. Louis
 Edward George Nemeth, St. Louis
 Kevin Michael Schroeder, St. Louis
 Alan Wayne Karr, Jefferson City
 Brandon Scott Allison, Springfield in Illinois



Cardinal Glennon College, Class of 2004

(Voelker, continued from page 1)

as a priest continues to be the greatest joy of my life."

Throughout his rich and varied vocation as a Catholic priest, including years spent as a high school teacher, associate pastor and pastor, member of the vocations committee, and head of Lutheran-Catholic ecumenism in Western Illinois and Eastern Missouri, Fr. Voelker currently serves Kenrick Seminary in several capacities, including assisting with the retreat for the Kenrick seminarians, his third year serving in that capacity.

Over the years, Fr. Voelker has seen a great deal of change in the seminary and its formation program.

"Training for the seminarians is so much deeper now," says Fr. Voelker. "There is a maturity in these men that reflects well on their formation. It's an internal discipline, a devotion to the Lord rooted in the heart."

Fr. Voelker cherishes his own priesthood, and he knows the future priests of the Archdiocese will embrace their vocation in a similar manner. "The best part of being a priest is fulfilling God's will in working with the people you are called to serve. There is no greater joy than this. I can be worn out and drained, but once I'm in the company of the people of God I'm reinvigorated to serve them according to my calling."

Archbishop Burke to Receive Pallium From Pope John Paul II



Kenrick-Glennon Seminary extends its warmest wishes and sends along its prayers for safe travel as Archbishop Raymond L. Burke heads to Rome to

receive the pallium, symbol of his authority as a metropolitan

Archbishop, from the hands of Pope John Paul II on the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29, 2004.

June 29 also marks the twenty-ninth anniversary of Archbishop Burke's ordination to the priesthood by Pope Paul VI at the Basilica of St. Peter in 1975. The Archbishop's June 30 birthday caps off this memorable experience.

The pallium is made (at least

partially) from the wool of lambs—suggesting Christ, the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd—and is presented each year to the Holy Father on the feast of St. Agnes.

Church law requires a metropolitan to request the pallium from the Pope within three months of episcopal ordination or transfer. The pallium is worn only within the Archbishop's ecclesiastical province.

Seminarian Spotlight



Just because classes are finished doesn't mean our seminarians are relaxing out by the pool. Summertime is a busy period for Kenrick-Glennon seminarians. Here's what a few of our guys are up to this summer:



Michael Grosch, Second Year, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: St. Joseph's in Manchester

"Over the summer, I will work in the Vocation Office for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and will be assisting on Core Staff for Kenrick-Glennon Days, the summer camp to promote vocations. I will also take part in the Christ Power retreats for teens of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and attend the Steubenville Conference as well. I've had a great year, and I look forward to another at the seminary."

Seth Jansen, Pastoral Internship / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: St. Joseph's in Cottleville

"This summer I have decided to participate in a program for diocesan seminarians in Omaha, Nebraska, called The Institute of Priestly Formation. This ten-week program begins with an eight-day silent retreat which includes spiritual direction every day. After the silent retreat, there will be nine weeks of classes, which include topics ranging from prayer to celibacy. During the last five weeks of the program all 120 seminarians in the program will participate in various ministries such as hospital and nursing home visits. The thing about The Institute of Priestly Formation that I am most excited about is coming to know God and myself at a deeper level so that I can be a holy, happy, and healthy priest. I am grateful for the generosity of those who have made it possible for me to attend this summer program."



Steven Rogers, Theology III /Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph / Home Parish: Visitation

"I'm looking forward to my fourth year as camp director at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Osceola, Missouri. For sixty days—six ten-day sessions—13,500 boy scouts and scout leaders attend the camp, offering myriad opportunities for ministry, including homesickness. Many faiths are represented at this camp, but we all share a common value system. This camp has a special place in my heart: I worked there as a boy, and eventually became an Eagle Scout. It means a lot to me to be able to provide for others the same opportunities for growth and spiritual development I was afforded when I was younger."

John Mayo, Fourth Year, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: Our Lady of Fatima in Florissant

"This summer, I will be working at my home parish, Our Lady of Fatima located in Florissant, Missouri. My primary duties will be working maintenance. This job consists of cleaning classrooms, some painting, and various other odd jobs that come up during the summer. I will be living with my parents this summer. Both of these experiences help me to gain insight into the life of a parish priest. At the parish, learning what goes into maintaining a school helps me understand what a parish priests needs to be concerned about in his duties as a pastor in charge of maintaining an aging physical plant. At home, I continue growing as a man of communion by trying to be as good a son as God allows me to be."



Tim Noelker, Third Year, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: St. Joseph, Neier

"The highlights of my summer will include helping with the annual Kenrick-Glennon Days camp, vacationing in the Gulf of Mexico with my family, and working at a local nursery. Throughout the summer, I hope to relax, participate in daily Mass, visit family and friends, serve others, and learn to play the guitar. Before returning to Glennon, two Kenrick seminarians and I will travel to New Jersey for the national Seminarian Life Link Conference. I then hope to return refreshed for another great year of discernment and formation for the Holy Priesthood."

Pastoral Internship: A Year of Parish Service

Part of the priestly formation program for the Archdiocese of St. Louis is a pastoral internship year at a sponsoring parish. This year of service occurs after two years in the Theologate program and it affords Kenrick seminarians the opportunity to “live out in service” what they have learned in the seminary, as well as understand what aspects of their future ministry they must continue to address in their later seminary training.

Christopher Martin recently completed his year of pastoral internship (also called the Acolyte Year) at St. Dismas Parish in Florissant. Apart from the sacramental duties of assisting at every Mass in the parish and making frequent Communion calls, Christopher also spent time teaching in the grade school, Parish School of Religion, Confirmation class, RCIA, and Apologetics courses. Christopher also served on several of the parish committees, helped lead the youth group, assisted coaching various sports teams and started a Catholic Book Club. It was through these various experiences that Christopher gained an insider’s perspective as to how a parish

operates from a variety of different aspects.

“Serving at St. Dismas was an invaluable experience,” recalls Christopher. “Getting to work with the people at the parish meetings was both a joy and at times very challenging. I learned a lot from that experience: how different people communicate, how dedicated so many of God’s people are to the Church, and—most of all—how as a community to stay focused on Christ and look to the future with hope.”

So what was the best part of his Acolyte Year? Christopher explains: “The truly graced moments of my year at St.

Dismas were the countless unscheduled ministry opportunities. Simply becoming a part of parishioners’ lives and allowing them to become part of mine. I learned from their life experiences what role the Church plays in their lives, and they learned from me what role it plays in mine as a young man studying for the priesthood.”

“This Acolyte Year at St. Dismas told me a lot about the deep faith and dedication found within the parish community and reaffirmed why I’m studying to be a priest. It was inspiring.”



Kenrick seminarian Christopher Martin with two of the newly confirmed from St. Dismas Parish in Florissant.



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