



Fall 2005

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

The Herald

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

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.

Highlights in This Issue:

Come Pray With Your Future Priests: 2005 Christmas Novena, December 5-13

2

Auction Items Needed for November 5th Convivium

3

Faculty News and Notes

4

Seminarian Spotlight: Favorite Saints, Special Devotions

5

A Parishioner Remembers Reverend Joseph J. Adragna, 1923-2005

7

Calendar of Events

8

Kenrick-Glennon Days

Exploring the Possibility of a Priestly Vocation

Kenrick-Glennon Days was a success yet again. For the seventh consecutive year, the Office of Vocations and the seminarians of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary have opened the seminary doors and invited young men throughout the Archdiocese to take a look inside themselves and open their hearts to the possibility of a priestly vocation. Some of the young men who have attended this retreat in past years have heard the Lord and followed his call to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

In 1999, Archdiocesan Vocation Director Fr. Michael Butler, with the assistance of then-Chaplain of Rosary High School/now-Director of Cardinal Glennon College Fr. Timothy Cronin and then-

seminarians/now-priests Fr. Brian Fischer, Fr. Bill Vatterott, and Fr. Tom Pastorius, decided to pursue a program that offered an encouraging environment for grade schoolers to consider a vocation to the priestly ministry. That program became "Kenrick-Glennon Days," a one-week vocation experience for the young men of the Archdiocese of St. Louis during the first full week of June.

Three programs involving high school students, sixth and seventh graders, and eighth and ninth grade students fill out the running time of "Kenrick-Glennon Days." The high school students stay for the entire nine-day camp and assist in running the program. (*Kenrick-Glennon Days, cont. on pg. 6*)



Archbishop Raymond Burke presents the "Bishop's Cup" to the winning team of the Kenrick-Glennon Days Water Olympics. (*Jeff Geerling*)

A Seminarian Reflects on World Youth Day



By Jeffrey Geerling, Third Year, Cardinal Glennon College

Before returning to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for the current academic year, I and forty other St. Louis seminarians attended World Youth Day, an inter-



An up-close picture of Pope Benedict XVI as he passes by a group of St. Louis seminarians before praying evening prayer with about 5,000 seminarians from throughout the world. (*Jeff Geerling*)

national gathering of youth with Pope Benedict XVI in Cologne, Germany. For many of us, it was the first time out of the country or in Europe, and the experience was well worth the many hours spent waiting in various lines.

I and a few of my brother seminarians had the special opportunity to shake hands with Pope Benedict when he (*World Youth Day, cont. on pg. 4*)

Come Pray With Your Future Priests.

2005 Christmas Novena

Monday, December 5 to Tuesday, December 13
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 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.

Auction Items Needed for November 5th Convivium

By Gina Scherer, Seminary Development Office

On Saturday, November 5, the seminary will host its thirteenth annual dinner auction, *Convivium*—the seminary's annual opportunity to feast together with our friends, new and familiar, who continue to support us with their generosity and prayers. Proceeds from this event are used to assist our seminarians in many different ways. *Convivium 2004* raised over \$100,000 and helped to provide new exercise equipment for the benefit of the seminarians' health and wellness needs.

The *Convivium 2005* committee is currently seeking items for the auction. New items, almost new items, furniture in good condition, themed baskets, gift certificates (for restaurants, stores, events, services), handmade items, and items big and small are most welcome.

Convivium 2004 was a wonderful evening of interaction and action (the bidding). Many of the items in Oral and Super Silent were premiums and rare finds. The Super Silent had a record number of baskets and items, including original works of art from area artists. The Certificate section held almost a year's worth of weekly events and outings.

As Fall 2005 rolls around, there is a buzzing in the wings of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The sound of the shuffling of many feet with busy hands working with baskets, center-

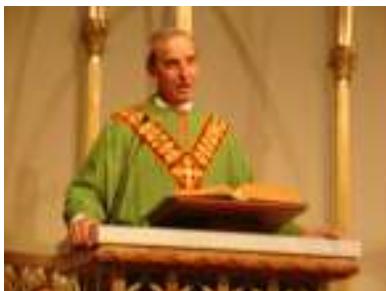
pieces, and mailings. Our volunteers (many of whom are parents of seminarians) are led by two remarkable women, Nancy Giljum and Debbie Bannes, the co-chairpersons of *Convivium 2005*.

Convivium is a year-round effort. Preparations for the annual November event begin around the time that classes end for spring semester. Volunteers work throughout the summer and fall feverishly planning this major event.

The Kenrick-Glennon Seminary dinner auction benefits many areas of financial need here in the KGS community. Funds from *Convivium* are used to cover the expense of the seminarians'

participation in the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C.; to finance the annual Fund-A-Need project, usually involving the renovation or updating of a specific area of the seminary; and to aid in supporting the general operations of the seminary's efforts to form men for the priesthood.

"*Convivium* is a good way for the seminarians to interact with supporters of the seminary and for the supporters to spend time with the seminarians," said Rev. Mr. Joseph Pins of the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa.



Msgr. Ted Wojcicki, President-Rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, delivers the homily at the 2004 Convivium Mass. (Chris Roszman)

This year's Fund-A-Need project involves renovating and updating the Kenrick Student Lounge, and giving our seminarians a comfortable space where they can relax, recharge their batteries, and enjoy each other's company.

You may be asking yourself, "What can I do to help?" You can plan to attend this year's dinner auction of November 5; you can be on the look-out for special items of auctionable quality (a foursome golf date at a local course, a getaway trip to a beach-front condo or mountain-top resort, a car to raffle, a one-of-a-kind creation by a talented friend or relative, a collector's piece); volunteer your time and talent to assist in the preparation of this gala event of fine dining, interaction with the seminarians, and great fun for all.

The Honorary Chairperson for *Convivium 2005* will be none other than former television and radio personality and the creator of the famous mid-1980's entry into the weird and wacky in the world of sports, the "Zippo Awards," Mr. Zip Rzeppa—still a font of personality and good will in the St. Louis community.

To get involved in the joy and generosity of this annual event, or if you have questions or would like to donate an item to *Convivium 2005*, please call me, Gina Scherer, in the Development Office at 314-792-6119

Thank you for your continued support of the seminary. Our seminarians are so very blessed to count you among their friends.



Baskets aplenty lined the walls awaiting bids at last year's 2004 Convivium dinner auction. (Chris Roszman)

Faculty News and Notes

The homiletics classes for Kenrick School of Theology in the next academic year will be taught by **Fr. James J. Ramacciotti**, Professor of Canon Law.

This will be in addition to Fr. Ramacciotti continuing to fulfill his present duties at the seminary. The appointment to this position was made with full consultation and approval of Archbishop Burke. This appointment is on an interim basis for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Fr. Edward Richard, M.S., will serve as the Director of Spiritual Formation in addition to serving as Vice Rector, Dean of Students, and Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry Program (as well as Associate Professor of Moral Theology).

Fr. Don Henke will serve as the Associate Academic Dean and Director of Pre-Theology in addition to continuing to serve as Formation Advisor for Theology III (as well as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology).

(World Youth Day, cont. from pg. 1)

entered into the courtyard and church of St. Panteleon in Cologne for a private meeting with almost 5,000 seminarians from around the world. This experience, as well as spending the night in Marienfeld with

Fr. Paul Rothschild will serve as the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Pastoral Formation/Supervised Ministry in addition to serving as Formation Advisor for Theology I.

Fr. John Hunthausen, S.J., will serve as a Spiritual Director at the seminary; he will move his residence to Jesuit Hall. This summer, Fr. Hunthausen spent a month and a half ministering in Sacred Heart Parish and St. Michael's Parish in Calgary, Alberta Canada. He baptized the twin babies of a couple (whose marriage he witnessed five years ago) at Cure of Ars Parish in Leawood, Kansas, on August 13. Fr. Hunthausen officiated at the marriage of friends at the Redemptorist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 10.

Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck, Associate Spiritual Director, will serve at the seminary part-time as Assistant Spiritual Director; he will move his residence to Most Sacred Heart Parish in Eureka.



Dr. Susanne Harvath will serve as the Coordinator of Human Formation Services (as well as Professor of Pastoral Counseling).

Dr. Harvath will be on sabbatical during the spring semester.

Other Notes:

At the 2005 Religious Education Institute for school and parish teachers sponsored by the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education held at Saint Louis University on August 16, the following Kenrick faculty gave presentations:

Dr. John Gresham (Professor of Systematic Theology) on "The Divine Pedagogy As a Model for Teaching"; **Msgr. Griesedieck** on "Stirring Up the Spirit"; **Fr. Hunthausen** on "What's So Tough About Prayer?"; **Dr. Anne Marie Kitz** (Professor of Sacred Scripture, Old Testament) on "Theology of Biblical Blessings and Curses"; **Fr. Lawrence Brennan** (Professor of Systematic Theology) on "The Teaching Authority of the Church"; and **Fr. Richard** on "Beatitudes and Gospel Morality."



Fr. Butler discusses priestly vocations with Eric Olsen and Brian Fallon in Maastricht. (*Jeff Geerling*)



Brian Fallon and Fr. Bill Vatterott discuss events of World Youth Day in Rüdesheim, Netherlands. (*Jeff Geerling*)

Seminarian Spotlight



Many people have saints to whom they have a special devotion and to whom they pray for intercession. The following seminarians discuss their favorite saints and explain why they have a special connection to these holy men and women.

Jason Kurth, Pastoral Internship / Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa / Home Parish: St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines, Iowa



"One of my favorite saints is St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. I appreciate St. Joseph because while in discernment I have come to realize that whether I become a priest or married lay person my call is one of fatherhood. I speak to St. Joseph about my desire to be a good and holy father, who loves his children and is willing to make sacrifices for them. Often my prayer is simply, 'St. Joseph, I pray that I may be a good father...help me to love my children as you loved Jesus—with my whole heart.' St. Joseph's fatherhood to Jesus was not by blood but by adoption, it was spiritual and he fathered by example. Through pastoral charity the priest also begets many spiritual children. Just as Jesus chose Mary to be his mother, he chose St. Joseph to be his earthly father, so I contemplate the characteristics of the fatherhood of Joseph that Jesus wants me to see in him. St. Joseph, pray for us."

Jordan Gongora, Theology I / Diocese of Belize City and Belmopan / Home Parish: La Inmaculada, Orange Walk Town, Belize

"The Saints, living exemplary lives, provide for us examples to follow so that we may, in turn, follow them to Heaven. I have devotion to a man who has not yet become a saint but is on the way to sainthood. This humble servant of God, Archbishop Oscar Romero, inspired me immensely. Archbishop Romero sparked my vocation by his remarkable life. Most attractive for me is his relationship with and love for the poor, unprivileged, and the suffering. As well, his amazing spiritual life profoundly encourages me to the priesthood of Jesus Christ."



Brian Fallon, Second Year, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: Holy Infant, Ballwin



"One saint to whom I have a devotion is my Confirmation saint, St. Francis of Assisi. I chose St. Francis because of his jovial attitude towards life, seeing Christ in everyone and having the determination to do God's will. Although I have quite a long way before I could be compared with Francis, it gives me great hope that God works wonders in all people if a wealthy merchant's son could be transformed to touch countless lives by working in God's vineyard."

Rev. Mr. Andrew Skrobutt, Theology IV / Diocese of Rockford, Illinois / Home Parish: St. Patrick, St. Charles, Illinois

"The saint that has had a great influence on me was Maximilian Kolbe. His relationship with the blessed Mother and his gift of martyrdom and purity have all been wonderful things about which to read and pray over. His story is quite unique and the consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary has been a great influence on my vocation. I ask him to intercede for me and help me with my struggles. He is a great modern saint and an example for my future priesthood."



(Kenrick-Glennon Days, from pg. 1)
ning the camp as Junior Counselors, ministering to grade schoolers during three three-day camp sessions, two for sixth and seventh graders and one for eighth and ninth graders.



Fr. Michael Butler, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, speaks with a young camper and his mother after Mass. (*Jeff Geerling*)

Current seminarians Timothy Noelker, Derrick Flannigan, Jeffrey Geerling, and Brian Fallon attended Kenrick-Glennon Days during grade school and high school.

"I attended the first Kenrick-Glennon Days [KGD] as a participant the summer after my eighth grade year," recalls St. Louis seminarian Timothy Noelker, a senior at Cardinal Glennon College. "The next time I attended was as a junior counselor after my sophomore year. I was also a part of Kenrick-Glennon Days after my senior year—as an incoming seminarian—and during my freshman, sophomore, and junior years in Cardinal Glennon College. Kenrick-Glennon Days provided me an opportunity to meet some good, healthy, holy seminarians and priests. It helped to shatter my misconception—from society—that priests and seminarians cannot have fun. I was inspired by the prayerful, joyful, and outgoing nature of the seminarians leading the camp. As a junior counselor, I was fortunate enough to spend more time with the seminarians, some of whom are now my brother seminarians. Overall, the experiences helped open me to responding to God's call. Previously, I

was afraid to respond to my vocation, but when I saw the joy and peace of the seminarians and priests, I knew that society's ideas about them were just lies."

A rotating group of current Kenrick-Glennon seminarians serve in directing the camp. Second year St. Louis theology student Edward Nemeth has served as the seminarian camp director for the last two summers.

"One of the hardest parts of answering God's call for young men is the sense of the unknown that lies ahead of them," said Edward. "At KGD we remove the 'veil' of mystery that can cover the seminary. Young men are able to come here and see what the seminary is like, and see that seminarians are normal, healthy men who are able to have fun, as well as be serious about our faith and spirituality. Above all, we show young men that it is acceptable for a man to discuss faith and to spend time in prayer, which is essential in this day and age where junior

and senior high school guys don't see praying as the macho thing to do."

Fr. Pastorius, who continues to lead and participate in the Kenrick-Glennon Days program, joked: "I'm involved in this program mainly so that I'll be as-

Glennon Days' does not exist specifically to make these young men priests, but rather to give them the opportunity to think about that vocation. With the lack of priests and religious in classrooms, Kenrick-Glennon Days serves as a concentrated effort to put priests and the priesthood in a positive light and allow these young men to better know what it is that a priest does, how a seminarian lives, and studies, and that priests and seminarians are normal guys who like to have fun."

The camp activities are four-fold: (1) There are education and craft-based sessions that teach the Catholic faith to the campers; (2) there is the liturgical/sacramental component of the camp, involving Mass and Reconciliation; (3) there is the "organized fun" portion of the camp, which includes team-building exercises; and (4) there are the "unorganized fun" elements of Kenrick-Glennon Days, which involve pick-up soccer games, swimming, and other activities.

At the close of the camp's Olympic ceremony, Archbishop Raymond Burke joins the campers and presents the "Bishop's Cup," a trophy filled with candy that is awarded to the team that accumulates the most number of wins

during the various games of the Water Olympics.

"It's been great to see the Archbishop come out and visit the campers," said Fr. Pastorius. "The kids have such a positive reaction to him."

"Seven years ago, we had thirty campers per session and four high schoolers helping us out. Today, we have forty-five, eighty, and one hundred campers per session, with forty-five high schoolers participating."

"The real key to Kenrick-Glennon Days is that the high school men—many of whom attended this program as grade schoolers—work alongside the seminarians and priests orchestrating and ministering to these grade schoolers."



Archbishop Burke addresses a group of Kenrick-Glennon Days campers. (*Jeff Geerling*)

sured of having an associate some day and be able to retire." "Seriously, though," remarked Fr. Pastorius, who was with ordained in 2003 with Fr. Fischer and Fr. Vatterott, "Kenrick-

A Parishioner Remembers Reverend Joseph J. Adragna, 1923-2005

By Gina Scherer, Seminary Development Office

Recently, I (many of us) lost a good friend, a spiritual counselor, a confidant, and a gentle person who guided by example. Reverend Joseph J. Adragna passed into life everlasting on June 22, 2005. He touched the lives of many since his ordination in 1965. I was blessed to be one of many people to whom he ministered and was guided by his examples.

Father Joe entered my life shortly before the death of my husband in 1993. Throughout this difficult period of my life I met with Father Joe as he counseled me in dealing with my sorrow and the feeling of loss. Again in Renew Groups, RCIA, and throughout the formation of the Adoration Chapel at St. George Church, Fr. Joe exhibited an understanding and a passion in a relationship with the Word of God, the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

He was instrumental, through instructions and directions, in bringing my grandchildren, my daughter-in-law, and several dear friends of our family into the Faith of the Catholic Church. His service to the members of my family and friends most recently included a funeral service for my daughter-in-law, Shelly, who died of cancer in September of 2000 at age twenty-nine. The homily at Shelly's funeral that Fr. Joe deliv-



Fr. Joe Adragna



Fr. Joe administers the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at St. George Church.

ered was indeed a beautiful tribute to her short life. He worked with both my family and Shelly's family and friends during the months following her death to gain a greater understanding and acceptance of a basic part of the life cycle and our role(s) in the continuance of living the earthly life.

As a tribute, the Adoration Chapel at St. George will be dedicated in memory of Father Joe as *"The Living Room of God"*, founded and nurtured by Reverend Joseph J. Adragna for its first 11 years until his death on June 22, 2005."



Fr. Joe dances with parishioners at St. George Parish picnic.

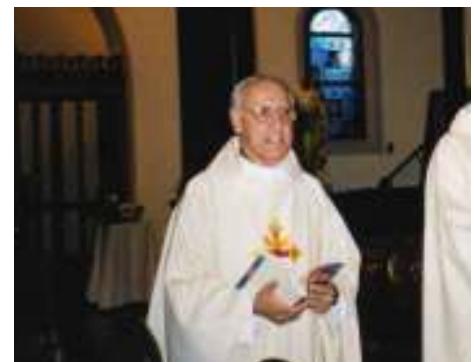
Fr. Joe will be missed by many parishioners at St. George, as well as all of the other parishioners he ministered to during his priesthood from 1965-2005.

The Priestly Service of Rev. Joseph J. Adragna: Kenrick Seminary Ordination Class of 1965

Ordained in 1965 from Kenrick Seminary, Father Adragna served as an assistant pastor at St. Ambrose Parish in the Hill neighborhood. In 1969 he was named part-time associate pastor at Holy Infant Parish, Ballwin, while also teaching at Mercy High School. In 1970 he was named associate pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, St. Louis, then in 1975 was assigned as associate pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in the Baden neighborhood.

From 1979 to 1983 he was associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Ferguson, then for five years was associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Kimmiswick. From 1988 to 1993, he was pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in DeSoto and served as dean of the Festus Deanery for two years, until his assignment to St. George Parish.

(From the July 1, 2005 issue of the *St. Louis Review*.)



At home in the Mass: Fr. Joe prepares to lead his parishioners in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Coming Events at Kenrick-Glennon

Evening Prayer With the Seminarians

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary invites you to join our seminarians for Evening Prayer in the seminary's Chapel of St. Joseph. Future dates (all Sundays, all beginning at 7:30 p.m.) for this monthly event open to the friends of the seminary include October 16, November 20, January 29, February 26, March 26, and April 30. Mark your calendar now.

Alumni Day—October 5th

The Kenrick Alumni Mass and Dinner are scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th. The evening will begin with Holy Mass in the Chapel of St. Joseph at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke will be the celebrant and Golden Jubilarian Rev. Msgr. William A. Drennan will be the homilist. All alumni are invited to attend.

Seminary Open House—November 13th

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary will be hosting its second annual Open House on Sunday, November 13th 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 Midwest United States.

Opening Mass of 2005-2006 Academic Year—September 1st, 2005



(from left:) Rev. Mr. Andrew Skrobutt (*Diocese of Rockford*) and Msgr. Henry Breier assist Archbishop Raymond Burke in the celebration of the opening Mass of the 2005-2006 Academic Year. (*Chris Rossman*)

The Herald

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Alumni and Friends Newsletter
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