



Left to right: Will O'Donnell, Diocese of Gary; Luis Reyes, Diocese of Madison; Riley Becher, Diocese of Winona-Rochester



**IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY
SEMINARY**

SPRING 2020 **NEWSLETTER**

 Behold, how good and how pleasing it is for brothers to dwell as one.

Psalm 133:1

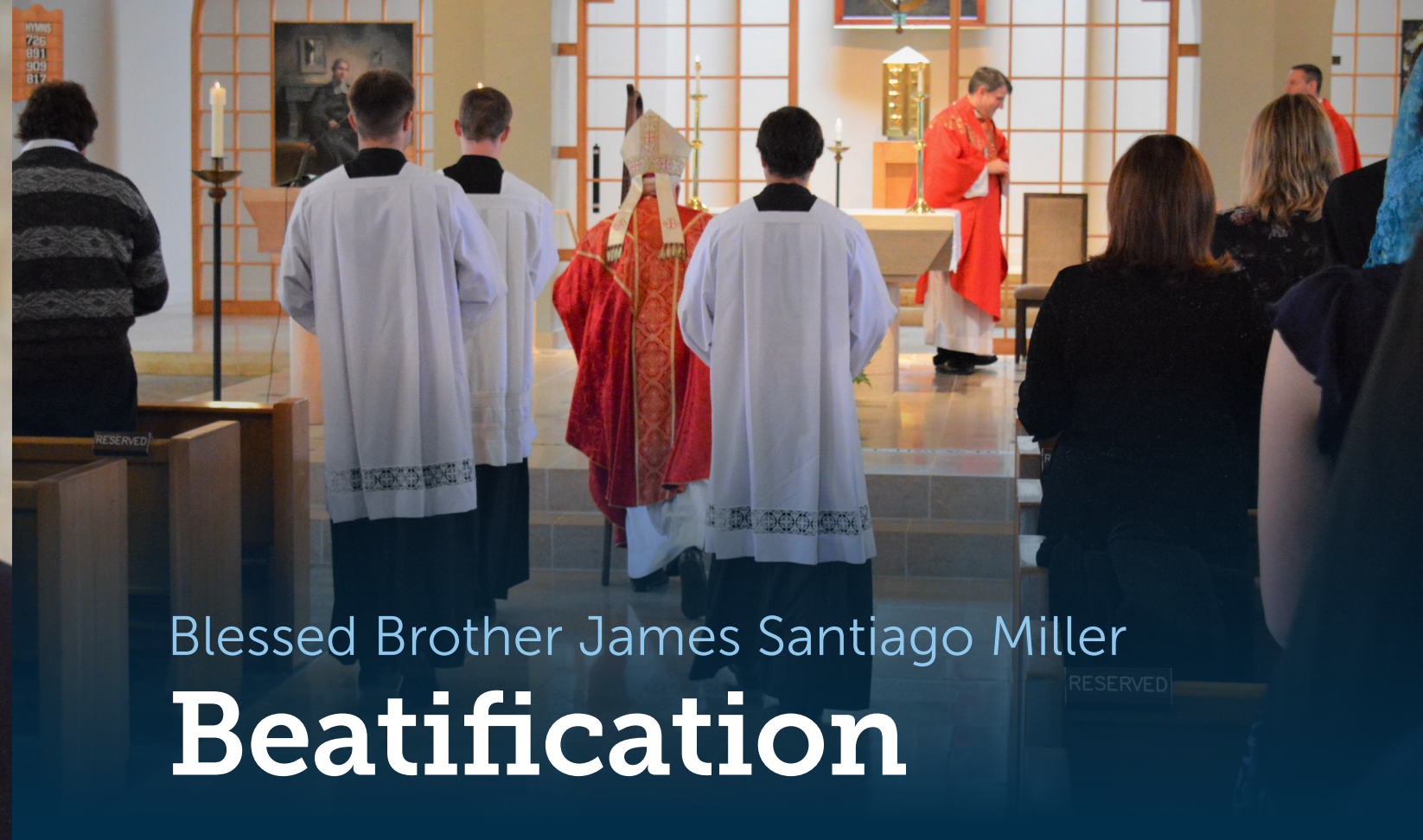
Letter from the Rector

When March of 2020 arrived, I certainly did not anticipate the remarkable series of events that would unfold over the course of the month. I had heard snippets of news about COVID-19 and its ongoing spread, but I did not expect for a moment that its progression would have such widespread ramifications, including the cessation of onsite formation for the seminarians here at IHMS. In mid-March, we sent the men back to their home dioceses, where many of them are living in parish rectories and experiencing a new mode of formation “in the trenches,” so to speak. Our work at IHMS continues, to be sure, as technology provides us with ready means and opportunities to engage the men at a distance and encourage them always to keep their “eyes fixed on Jesus” (cf. Hebrews 12:2), especially during these unusual and uncertain times. That word “uncertainty” crops up frequently in conversation and news broadcasts these days, and understandably so. At the same time, alongside such uncertainty stands the certain truth that God is faithful, and as we fix our eyes on the crucified and Risen Christ, we look upon the radiant sign of God’s ability to bring us through whatever crosses we bear—as individuals, as a Church, and as a society—to the glory of new life.

As you page through this edition of our newsletter, you will find no references to COVID-19 outside of the piece that you are currently reading, as all of the other compositions were completed some time before the virus became the dominant theme of our national (and world) conversation. It may be presumptuous, but I dare to hope that future issues will likewise be characterized by an absence of references to COVID-19, thanks to concerted efforts by all to respond appropriately to and find a remedy for the present state-of-affairs. May the Lord be pleased to bring us through these days of trial... to the glory of new life.

...alongside such uncertainty stands the certain truth that God is faithful...

Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector



Blessed Brother James Santiago Miller Beatification

Huehuetenango, Guatemala

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and St. Mary’s University of Minnesota community honored the beatification of Brother James Miller, FSC with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Quinn.

Blessed Br. James was a Christian Brother and a graduate of St. Mary’s University of Minnesota who was martyred in Guatemala in 1982. He is remembered for his simplicity and generosity while serving the poor, indigenous populations of Latin America. Affectionately known in Latin America as “Hermano Santiago”, Br. James entered the Christian Brothers in 1959, first serving in Minnesota high schools upon graduation from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota. From this high school ministry, Br. James heard a call to serve the poor of Latin America. His first assignment was in Nicaragua, working in education roles there. Yet after a few years, an increase in political violence forced Br. James’s superiors to recall him to the United States. Br. James’ zeal for living out the Gospel was not lessened, however, and in 1981 he returned to Latin America, this time to Guatemala. Br. James, coming from a farming family in Wisconsin, was able to use his background to help Mayan farmers. These years of service in Guatemala confirmed Br. James’s commitment to live out the Church’s preferential option for the poor. It was there in Huehuetenango on February 13, 1982 that Br. James was martyred for the faith that he loved to the end. Because of his example of heroic virtue and a miracle attributed to his intercession, Br. James has been beatified, meaning that the Church formally recognizes him in heaven interceding on our behalf. Blessed Brother James, pray for us!

Elliot McLarty, Diocese of Sioux City

SMUMN Faculty/Staff Feature

Fr. James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D.

President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota



Fr. Burns has served as President of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota since July 2018. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in 1993, where he was a parochial vicar and pastor, each for three years. He later attended graduate school for psychology, completing his doctorate at Northeastern, a pre-doctoral internship at Yale School of Medicine and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard Medical School. His previous positions include, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and the Dean of the Woods College at Boston College in Boston, MA. He is a licensed psychologist in both Minnesota and Massachusetts.

What accomplishments have been made in developing the mission and vision of Saint Mary's University?

Let me first acknowledge that the progress we have made and the initiatives we have begun to advance are the result of the dedication and hard work of many members of our community, especially those who serve on my cabinet. One of our top priorities has been to find ways of validating, enhancing, verifying, and assessing our identity as a Lasallian and Catholic School. We have sought to renew our commitment to welcome all members of our community more fully by addressing inclusion and human dignity. We have had many opportunities at both the cabinet-level and more broadly to host speakers on virtue and ethics, facilitate sessions on our role as a Catholic university, and generally become more aware of our continued commitment to the practice of hospitality. We have created a University-wide Strategic Plan for 2025 entitled "Building a Future Full of Hope" that includes a robust and aggressive strategic enrollment plan. Our goal is to ensure Saint Mary's future viability by expanding programs for faculty, staff, and student formation; increasing research and assessment; improving our financial stewardship and efficiencies; overhauling our building and grounds through a renewed, property-wide master plan; forming a School of Nursing and other health professions as well as Catholic Leadership and Studies programs; enhancing business and technology approaches, and renewing our athletics facilities.

What is your relationship with IHM Seminary?

I could not imagine a better relationship in the country between a University, Seminary, and Diocese than the one that we are blessed to have here. Saint Mary's and IHM Seminary work in a mutually beneficial manner affording us spheres of reciprocal influence. The University seeks to be at the service of the Church and supportive of the role higher education plays for future Church leaders. On a more personal note, we have all enjoyed the presence of the seminary on campus and find both the seminarians and priest faculty to be supportive, thoughtful, encouraging, and faith-filled. We want to work even more closely in the future, so that we can help advance the aims of the seminary, of Bishop Quinn, the other Bishops, and the Church faithful as a whole to be authentic guardians and evangelizers of the faith. We also appreciate the seminary helping to advance the mission of the University as a faith-based institution of higher learning. Bishop Quinn has been exceptionally supportive of the University as have been Fathers Horihan, Schafer, Dobbs, and Kern. All of the priests have served in one way or another on various committees such as for strategic planning or for searches for faculty and staff. The seminarians are a gift to have on campus because they are eager to attend lectures and pursue a variety of intellectual development opportunities as well as to assist at major ceremonies and other liturgical celebrations. This allows us, in ritual form, to realize our desire to pray and learn together. Personally, I am grateful for the warm welcome by the presbyterate of Winona-Rochester and Bishop Quinn. I am also very appreciative that among our faculty at Saint Mary's we have the privilege of counting Bishop Quinn, Fr. Horihan, and Fr. Schaefer.



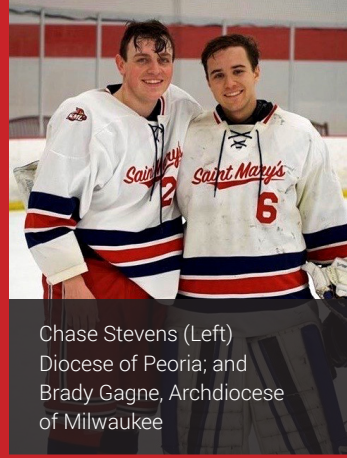
How does your role as a priest coincide with your role as President of SMUMN?

One way to think about this question is to say that being a priest is who I am and being president of the University is the role in which I currently minister and serve. To serve as president, I intend to bring my whole self to advance the mission and identity of Saint Mary's, and that includes my service as a shepherd of the University. In official statements Presidents at Saint Mary's have been referred to as "Brother President", because I am a priest I am referred to as "Father President," in either case it reminds us of our two-fold responsibility: to lead the University toward academic excellence with the pastoral care of each individual in the community at the forefront of our hearts and minds. Personally, I enjoy spending time with students informally at lunches and events but also at award ceremonies and graduations along with in advising and even brief spiritual counsel. As a priest, I am liturgically involved from blessing buildings and people, to praying and celebrating the Sacraments and Holy Mass (both for formal occasions as well as on weekdays, as time allows).

How does it feel to be back in Minnesota, where you grew up?

It is very good to be back in Minnesota, though my travels on behalf of the University are such that in any given week I can be in Winona, Minneapolis, Rochester, the East Coast, the South East, or South West (sometimes all of these in a matter of days). I am especially grateful to be closer to my father who is still living at age 87 (my mother passed away in 2013) and my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews. I have been able to attend more family functions and see my father more. Recently, I was even able to drive through the old neighborhood in St. Paul's West End (St. Francis de Sales parish) and Frogtown (St. Agnes) where I grew up and went to school. I have also been able to reconnect with friends from many walks of life who I knew from grade school, high school, college, and seminary as well as the places I worked before becoming a priest and the parishes where I served when I was newly ordained. I hope that if any priests, seminarians, or IHM Alumni want to come to campus that they will let us know so we can arrange a welcome for them at Saint Mary's. We want to continue to be here for them and, if I haven't had the chance already, I look forward to meeting with them.

IHM Recreation



Chase Stevens (Left) Diocese of Peoria; and Brady Gagne, Archdiocese of Milwaukee



SMUMN Club Sports | Hockey

Chase Stevens, Diocese of Peoria

Why did you decide to join the SMUMN club hockey team?

Originally, I did not plan on playing hockey here. Brady (Archdiocese of Milwaukee) and I found out practices were on Tuesday and Thursday nights on which I just so happened to be free. Once Fr. Horihan gave us the go ahead we started practicing that week. Ultimately, I decided to join the club team because I missed hockey.

How might playing a club sport, like hockey, play a role in your formation as a seminarian?

It just gave us another opportunity to be human. It taught me more about relationships than I could have ever learned in a classroom. I really came to care for my teammates and not just their performance on the ice.

How does this opportunity build fraternity?

Hockey allows you to be yourself. Once a guy is himself and he's accepted by others friendship really begins. In addition, contact sports tend to draw men closer to one another. You find out that others are willing to give themselves not ultimately for a school or mascot but for each other and that really builds fraternity.

How do your brother seminarians support you through sports?

Our brother seminarians would often come to the games and cheer us on. They also kept our team in prayer throughout the season. Plus, some of them even had classes with our teammates and were able to establish relationships with them in the stands.

How do your teammates see you, both as a hockey player and as a seminarian?

At first, I think our teammates were cautious because they hadn't known any seminarians personally. As they got to know us, they could tell we had no religious agenda but just wanted to get to them and give ourselves to them on the ice. Once we became friends and real trust was built from love of one another, they shared their hearts with us. They respect us and likewise we respect them, never pushing Jesus or judgement, but just witnessing to each other.

What have you learned about yourself as a result of playing hockey?

Father Horihan always says, "We want to be bridges to Christ, not obstacles." I really learned what it personally means to live that statement.



Family Weekend lunch—a time to share the seminary with others. Pictured: Luis Reyes, Will O'Donnell, and their families.



Vir in Cristo Weekend was a great time of relaxation, fun, and prayer with the brothers. Pictured: Robert Budzius and Fr. Dobbs.



The bi-annual Rec Fest usually turns into a Rec "feast," with seminarians sharing homemade dishes with each other. Pictured: Luke Olson.



Seminarians enjoying some active time with a friendly game of indoor frisbee.



Josiah Hanson, Diocese of Rapid City, reads a piece of literature during seminarian-led "Pumpkins, Prose, and Poetry" Night.



Peter Specht, Diocese of Duluth, repaints a statue of St. Joseph in IHM's art room.

Bishop SPOTLIGHTS

Bishop Donald DeGroot

Installation: Thursday February 13, 2020

On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2019, Pope Francis appointed Rev. Donald DeGroot to succeed Bishop Paul Swain as the bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls. At a press conference on December 12, Bishop DeGroot expressed his excitement to serve in a rural diocese. In a message to seminarians on the same day, Bishop DeGroot assured them of his prayers and support, as well as his desire to serve them as their spiritual father. He also had one request for the faithful: to pray for him. Seminarians from the Diocese of Sioux Falls at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary were invited to serve at the Mass of Ordination and Installation that took place February 13th at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls, SD.

Alexander Leschisin, Diocese of Sioux Falls



Bishop Robert McClory

Installation: Tuesday February 11, 2020

Since the end of last year, The Diocese of Gary has been bustling in excitement as preparations were made for the ordination and installation of Bishop Robert J. McClory. I can personally still remember the announcement of the Bishop's appointment just before Holy Mass, on the day when many of us were focused on returning home for Thanksgiving break. Naturally, as a Seminarian for the Diocese of Gary, one can imagine the joy that my diocesan brothers and I felt, and still do feel. Much like our Bishop Emeritus, Dale Melczek, Bishop McClory is a native of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Bishop McClory also studied at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, where he would later serve as a part-time faculty member. Besides this, the Bishop earned a Bachelor's in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and has a Licentiate in Canon Law at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Bishop McClory was ordained a priest in 1999, and since then has served in numerous pastoral assignments throughout the Archdiocese, including his most recent assignment as rector of the National Shrine and Minor Basilica of the Little Flower. Further, Bishop McClory also served as Chancellor, Vicar General, and Moderator of the Curia in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Diocese of Gary, I believe, is blessed with a highly qualified shepherd. Yet, most importantly, regardless of his own merits, I have high hopes that Bishop McClory will, with a pastor's heart, lead us all closer and closer to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Collin van Waardenberg, Diocese of Gary



Lenten Reflection

Ryan Mann, Diocese of Peoria

During the season of Lent, our minds are perhaps drawn to some of the characteristics that mark this forty-day period: abstinence from meat on Friday, days of fasting, an increased focus on the necessity of repentance, etc. If we are not mindful of the deep spiritual significance of Lenten observances, they can quickly be misperceived as burdensome punishments or remnants of unreasonable medieval practices. Such notions are wrongheaded. The Church does not view Lent as a time for punishment or desolation; on the contrary, the season should be one of rejoicing, as St. Gregory the Great declares in his popular Lenten hymn: "The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise." How, amid a period of somber penance, does one find reason to rejoice?

The answer can be found in the Lenten liturgy. As one of the prefaces for Mass during Lent eloquently details: "For you, Father, have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure." Through His Death and Resurrection, Christ redeemed humanity's fallen state. The Church, rejoicing in God's merciful love, manifest in the Paschal Mystery, encourages Lenten practices as a beautiful means of preparing ourselves to more fully celebrate the mysteries of our redemption at Easter. Let us pray that we may have our hearts and minds made pure through prayer and penance this Lenten season so we may more faithfully serve God in this world and look upon His glory in the next.

"The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise"



"... preparing ourselves to more fully celebrate the mysteries of our redemption at Easter."



UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

May 8
Baccalaureate Mass

May 9
Saint Mary's University
Commencement

May 11–15
IHM Formation Workshops

May 18–Aug 17
Summer Recess

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IHMS is more than a place.

*It is an experience...an opportunity
for men to follow Christ.*

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is honored to be represented by the following dioceses, who have entrusted us with their seminarians' formation.

Diocese of Crookston, Diocese of Duluth, Diocese of Gary, Diocese of Green Bay, Diocese of La Crosse, Diocese of Madison, Diocese of Marquette, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Diocese of Peoria, Diocese of Rapid City, Diocese of Sioux City, Diocese of Sioux Falls, Diocese of Superior, Diocese of St. Cloud, Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

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