



**October 2009**

Dear Friends:

This fall semester has gone by more quickly than ever, filled with an enormity and variety of activity here at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. Johnny Burns, who studies for the Milwaukee Archdiocese at the North American College, was ordained a deacon at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome and preached the next day at San Clemente Church. Yamid Blanco, Juan Manuel Camacho, Friar Hans Flondor and Ryan Pruess were instituted as acolytes by Bishop Sklba. Our fall dinner hosted 500 guests and was amazingly successful. Bishop Callahan blessed our restored grotto in the Seminary woods. Leonardo de Fillipis performed his John Vianney drama at Cousins Center. Bishop Blase Cupich spoke about the new translation of the Roman Missal and the commonalities binding priestly and lay ministry. We hosted a Vespers and dinner for the families of seminarians. And Antony Thomas and Erich Weiss declared their candidacy in anticipation of their diaconate ordination.

As I contemplate this flurry of activity, the one fixed point, the one constant factor, the one person that binds all of this together is the person of Jesus Christ. All that we do is an explicit response to the Christ event, as Jesus invites us to enter into His Heart, life and ministry, and then sends us out into the world to proclaim the Good News of salvation. Recently, Deacon Chuck Wrobel preached a homily on the feast of Saints Simon and Jude. He used the image of an hourglass to illustrate what occurs here at the Seminary. Deacon Chuck talked about how just as disparate grains of sand pass through a narrow point and come out on the other side, so God calls an amazingly diverse group of people to the Seminary, men of different nationalities and languages, various life experiences and ages, temperaments and personalities that differ. Then all of us here at the Seminary pass "through" the narrow point of Christ, as we are formed in His image and configured to His heart and then are sent forth to pastor God's people. We here at Saint Francis de Sales seek to know, love and serve Christ. We desire that every person who visits and passes through this holy place experiences the enveloping presence of Jesus through us. We want to radiate the love of God!

During the month of November, we celebrate the saints and we pray for the dead. We will remember all of our deceased benefactors and alumni in our daily Masses in Christ King Chapel. If you have any deceased loved ones that you would like us to remember or any special intentions you want us to pray for, please forward them and they will be included. As I walk through the Seminary woods, look at the grave stones in the cemetery and pause to pray at our newly-restored Lourdes grotto, I am amazed by the striking colors of the autumn leaves. Nature puts on its most beautiful dress right before surrendering to the death of winter's harshness. So too we believers embrace the mystery of death,

both the end of our earthly life but also the daily surrenders that constantly meet us, wrapped in the beautiful attire of faith. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can face the seasons of change, knowing that God will lead us through the valley of darkness to that sacred place where the Dawn from on High will break upon us.

Thank you for your ongoing support, interest and prayers for the success of our Seminary mission. Tune in to listen to our monthly radio show on the first Saturday at 11 a.m. on Relevant Radio, 100.1 FM.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Donald Hying

P.S. Previous issues of my New Heart New Spirit newsletter can be read on our website at [www.sfs.edu/sfsnews\\_newsletters.html](http://www.sfs.edu/sfsnews_newsletters.html). I always welcome your ideas and comments. Please email me at [newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu](mailto:newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu) with questions or ideas for the Seminary or the radio show, or to sign up for this newsletter. Thank you!

