



July 2009

Here at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, we are still basking in the glow of the presbyterate ordinations in May. All of us have taken great pride and joy in watching Frs. Angel Anaya, Mark Brandl, Aaron Esch, Dan Janasik, Sean O'Connell and Luke Strand move through formation and give their lives to Christ and the Church as priests. Their Masses of Thanksgiving were an inspiration for us to persevere in the important work of forming men for the Catholic priesthood. When I contemplate the collective good that these six servants will accomplish in our archdiocese, I give praise and glory to God!

I was blessed to go to Colombia last month and concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving offered by Fr. Angel Anaya at his home parish of San Francisco Javier in the city of Piedecuesta. The whole experience was amazing! This parish has ten weekend Masses with a thousand people at each Mass. The convents and seminaries are full. You see young priests and sisters walking on the streets. I was blessed to celebrate the final Mass of the day at 7PM. The church was full, everyone sang and made the responses and then afterwards I stayed for another hour to hear confessions, pray with people and bless water and medals. The intensity of the faith in this community was truly remarkable.

My trip to Colombia led me to reflect on the gift that our international seminarians are to us. Alberto Gutierrez from Venezuela, Antony Primal Thomas from India, Gideon Buya from Kenya, and Enrique Hernandez, Yamid Blanco, Juan Manuel Camacho, Javier Guativa, Hugo Londoño, Carlos Zapata, Alex Guzman, and José Mario Nieto from Colombia have all heard and responded to God's call to come here to Milwaukee and serve as missionaries, not only to their own ethnic communities but indeed all of the people of God. Imagine leaving your family, country, language, and culture to go serve the Church in another country, not just for a few years, but for the rest of your life! To even contemplate such a generous commitment requires a ready courage and a magnanimous heart.

Last month, we took Seminary Sunday, our weekend program of visiting parishes to talk about vocation, priesthood and Saint Francis de Sales Seminary to St. Adalbert's, a primarily Hispanic parish on Milwaukee's south side. A fact that the seminarians who accompanied me and I tried to impress upon the people is that we have no Hispanics who were born in the United States studying for the priesthood here in the Archdiocese. As I ponder the large and growing number of Hispanics in our area and contemplate both the gifts and the needs of our African-American and Asian communities, I wonder how the seminary can be a catalyst for vocations. What a gift our international seminarians and priests are to us, but their presence does not diminish the responsibility of the entire local Church to foster vocations to marriage, diaconate, religious and consecrated life and the priesthood in all of our parishes and youth groups. I would welcome feedback on how we can be more present and effective in this endeavor of encouraging people of all races and ethnicities to ponder a vocation in the Church. Your comments can be sent to [newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu](mailto:newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu).

Very Reverend Donald J. Hying

P.S. The Vocations Office uses many modes of communication to draw people's attention to considering priesthood as a vocation. Below is a link that will take you to their new online newsletter. Enjoy!

[http://www.thinkpriest.org/pdfs\\_downloads/vocnewsjuly09V1issueone.pdf](http://www.thinkpriest.org/pdfs_downloads/vocnewsjuly09V1issueone.pdf)

You can also access the newsletter weekly on [www.thinkpriest.org](http://www.thinkpriest.org)!

Past issues of New Heart, New Spirit can be viewed on our website at [www.sfs.edu](http://www.sfs.edu). If you know someone

who would like to receive this e-newsletter, they can send email addresses to [newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu](mailto:newheartnewspirit@sfs.edu)