



The Pontifical

SUMMER 2008

North American College

M A G A Z I N E

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FRONT COVER

The Class of 2008 poses for their class photo on the lawn in front of the College.

C O N T E N T S

RECTOR'S CORNER	<i>Rev. Msgr. James Checchio</i>	3
EASTER RETREAT AT ARS	<i>Paul Kolker '11</i>	4
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT IGNATIUS	<i>Vincent Arong '10</i>	5
ONE YEAR LATER	<i>Nicholas Vaskov '09</i>	6
CLERICUS CUP	<i>Peter Finney III '10 and E. Theodore Martin '11</i>	8
HISTORY OF THE CASA O'TOOLE		10
LIFE AT THE COLLEGE		14
A FULL HOUSE	<i>Ryan Erlenbusch '09</i>	15
LICENTIATE IN SEMINARY FORMATION	<i>Rev. David Ruchinski '07</i>	16
LEGION OF MARY APOSTOLATE	<i>Sean Danda '09</i>	18
FOUNDERS' AWARD		19
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS		20
CHOIR RECORDING	<i>Matthew Kubn '10</i>	22
SENT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL: THE CLASS OF '08		23
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT UPDATE	<i>Mary DiDonato</i>	24
ECONOMO'S CORNER	<i>Rev. Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg</i>	25
SAVE THE DATE: UMILTÀ AWARDS		BACK COVER



FEATURES

4

Easter Pilgrimages

by Vincent Arong '10 and Paul Kolker '11



18

Legion of Mary

by Sean Danda '09



8

Clericus Cup

by Peter Finney '10 and E. Theodore Martin '11



6

One Year Later

with Rev. John McDonald



Casa O'Toole

10

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OF THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE**



*The Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
outside the entrance to the College.*

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RECTOR'S CORNER

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*'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.'
Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'*



Although I wish I could attend all of our priesthood ordinations throughout the US and Australia, I was only able to attend two this summer, along with their subsequent first Masses of Thanksgiving. My heart was moved to give thanks to God as these two young men, along with their classmates in their proper dioceses, were permanently marked for the service of the Church as sacred ministers. I couldn't help but recall the words of our Holy Father in New York during his recent pastoral visit to the United States, encouraging the seminarians with whom he gathered to "Strive for a pattern of life truly marked by charity, chastity and humility, in imitation of Christ, the Eternal High Priest, of whom you are to become living icons. Remember that what counts before the Lord is to dwell in his love and to make his love shine forth for others."

Our 24 newly ordained priests have learned to dwell in the Lord's love and have given inspiring witness to what it means "to make his love shine forth for others." I likewise offered a Mass of Thanksgiving for God's goodness to these men, the Church and our College. As I reflect back on this past year, there is certainly much to be grateful for:

- 24 new priests of Jesus Christ ordained for service of His Church
- Bishop William Callahan, one of our spiritual directors, ordained a bishop for service as an auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee
- 19 priests finishing license or doctoral studies while residing at the Casa Santa Maria with 7 doctoral defences during the last few weeks of the academic year
- 72 priests given the opportunity to participate in the ICTE sabbatical program and enjoy the gift of Rome, more free time for prayer, study, fellowship and leisure
- The wonderful contributions of 18 prayerful and generous priests, 13 women religious and a large dedicated lay staff leading, guiding and caring for the four departments of our beloved College
- Over 60 new men to come to the seminary this fall raising our enrollment to over 200 for the first time in over 40 years, as well as 26 new priests to arrive at the Casa Santa Maria.
- On the temporal side we have replaced over 1000 windows in the seminary building, the Kardos Campo Sportivo is being replaced with a safer artificial turf, a new HVAC system for the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception and refectory, the stained glass windows have been restored, the outside of the Casa O'Toole is being restored as well as the outside of the Casa Santa Maria on Via dell'Umilta along with repairs to the roof and bell tower, three suites renewed at the Casa along with the student kitchen and front courtyard and finally the outside of our mausoleum in Campo Verano at the Roman cemetery has been restored.

It was a year and summer full of many blessings and activities for which our community gives thanks to God. Above all though we give thanks for the opportunity to deepen our friendship with Christ as we strive to know Him more intimately through prayer, studies, community life and service of our brothers and sisters. It is an honor to share with you some of our life here at the College through this magazine which is primarily designed, written and produced by the seminarians of the College. Your prayers and financial support allow us to continue to carry on with the good activities of this College at the seminary, Casa and sabbatical program, as we all "strive for a pattern of life truly marked by charity, chastity and humility, in imitation of Christ, the Eternal High Priest, of whom [we] are to become living icons." We are grateful for and depend upon your generous and prayerful support!

- Rev. Msgr. James Checchio

Easter *with*

RETREAT IN ARS, FRANCE

by Paul Kolker '11 Diocese of Dallas

On Easter Sunday, seminarians from the Pontifical North American College set out for Ars, France to be trained in the school of diocesan priesthood by none other than the patron saint himself, St. John Vianney, the Curé d'Ars.

Set in the rolling hills of Southern France, the idyllic little town of Ars rests on a hillside against a backdrop of snowcapped mountains. This location offered us the perfect retreat environment: we were able to absorb the natural beauty of God's creation while learning about St. John Vianney and the priesthood in his own town. The setting was perfect for a rendez-vous with spiritual growth!

Bishop Callahan, who until recently had been a spiritual director at the College, returned to direct our retreat. Preaching two sessions a day, Bishop Callahan exhorted us to be holy priests, strong men, and faithful servants of God's holy Church, especially in imitation of St. John Vianney. The most important lesson we learned came from the lips of the Curé himself, who said, "The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus." The message was clear: we who would be priests must model the love of the heart of Jesus to all those we encounter.

Having attended St. John Vianney College Seminary, this retreat was of special importance to me. For one, it afforded me the opportunity to get to know the patron of my former seminary. Indeed, I can think of no better way to learn about him than by reading his biography in my room and then venturing out into the very streets he walked to "live" his story.

All in all, the retreat granted me time to discern, pray, and grow in brotherhood with my fellow seminarians. We all learned quite a bit and grew closer together through prayer, shared meals, and a stop or two at the local crêpe stand. But it was St. John Vianney that amazed me the most, for as John Paul II said, "His example cannot be forgotten." I hope and pray that I may follow the Curé's example well, that the hungry faithful will come to know Jesus Christ's burning love. St. John Vianney, pray for us!



Left: The retreat Mass was celebrated at the tomb of Saint John Vianney in Ars. Right: The retreatants gather for a conference given by Bishop Callahan.

the Saints

PILGRIMAGE IN SPAIN

by Vincent Arong '10 Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Left: The men atop the summit of Montserrat. Right: Rev. Richard Tomasek, S.J. preaches during Mass in the Chapel of the Conversion of Saint Ignatius in Loyola.

Our pilgrimage actually began twenty days before we set foot in Spain. Fr. Richard Tomasek, S.J. met with the fifteen of us one afternoon for a conversation on our upcoming journey. What emerged from our exchange were the hopes we shared in common—to encounter Christ through the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and to witness God’s providence in the country, people and culture that prepared a chivalrous Basque to give himself to a companionship that would bring greater glory than his worldly ambitions could ever achieve.

With these expectations we set out on Easter Sunday for Loyola Castle in the town of Azpeitia, near the Bay of Biscay. Gathered together in a room where the battle-wary *Íñigo* was inspired to change his life, we celebrated Mass and asked him to intercede for a fruitful pilgrimage. We departed towards the Pyrenees foothills two days later, for a stay at the ancestral home of another great Jesuit, St. Francis Xavier, who worked tirelessly to bring the Gospel to Asia.

The next day we traveled across northern Spain and scaled the enormous, jagged wonder of rose-hued rock that is Montserrat, where St. Ignatius left his sword and dagger and committed himself in service to the Lord. Montserrat overlooks Manresa, the final destination of our journey, and from there we would briefly visit Barcelona, the cosmopolitan port city that saw St. Ignatius off on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We prayed in the cave where an ascetic Ignatius spent long hours in meditation, composed his Spiritual Exercises and underwent a profound conversion that deepened his discernment of God’s will. Fitting our small band in the tiny *cova* was a challenge, but to be with one another within the same walls that witnessed the intensity of St. Ignatius’ relationship with God gave us yet more reasons to respond in love to the One who loved us first.

We returned to Rome with much gratitude for the graces we received, for the generosity of the Jesuits who assisted us, and for the gift of our fraternity—we endured rain, long drives and humorous mishaps, all of which brought us closer to God and one another. Our time in Spain gave us an appreciation for a man whose longing to serve God was similar to our own and whose life of discernment encourages us as we listen to God’s call to serve as diocesan priests. We brought our memories of the pilgrimage with us two weeks later to the celebration of Mass at the Gesù, giving thanks in a humble room where a pilgrim named Ignatius prayed for the Society of Jesus and spent the rest of his days for the greater glory of God.

ONE YEAR LATER

Catching Up With Fr. John McDonald

by *Nicholas Vaskov '09* *Diocese of Pittsburgh*

Each year, a class of men from the Pontifical North American College are sent forth to serve in their dioceses and to preach the Gospel of Christ to all people. For those of us who remain to complete our formation, we are always interested to hear about the joys and challenges of first year in the diocese. One of those men ordained just one year ago, the Rev. John McDonald '07 (Diocese of Birmingham) was in Rome recently. In his first year of priesthood he has been appointed as Associate Pastor of Saint Peter Parish in Hoover, Alabama, a parish of 2,000 families, Vicar for Hispanic Ministries for the Diocese of Birmingham, Chaplain and Teacher at John Carroll High School in Birmingham, and one of two Episcopal Masters of Ceremonies for Most Rev. Robert J. Baker, S.T.D., Bishop of Birmingham. I had the opportunity to sit down with Fr. McDonald at the Abruzzi Restaurant to ask him about life as a priest of Jesus Christ. Our discussion follows.

NV: How did your time at the North American College prepare you for your ministry as a diocesan priest?

JM: My time at the College made me perfectly adaptable for any situation - linguistic, cultural, whatever it may be. Studying in Rome I came to understand how different peoples - Ukrainian, Polish, Venezuelan, Colombian - all come together in the Catholic Church. I also learned that people do not conform to my needs, but that I must conform to the pastoral needs of the people of God.

NV: Was there anything that you were not prepared for that others preparing for ordination should be aware of?

JM: I was not prepared for the overwhelming love people have for their priests. They place an immense trust in their priests and we must be very careful stewards of that trust. People hang onto every word that you say, especially because you were educated in Rome. They are proud of you, but it can be excessive. I am constantly humbled as I am reminded of who I am and to think of what I have been called to do.

NV: What has made the greatest impression on you during your first year of priesthood?

JM: The celebration of the Mass has made the greatest impression on me. The sacrificial aspect of the priesthood is humbling and a privilege at the same time. What else can you say?

NV: What wisdom have you received from other priests since you have been ordained?

JM: Other priests have given me a few morsels of wisdom. First, don't do too much, which can be a challenge at times. Second, remind yourself that you're not the Messiah, but rather that you need the Messiah. Third, the only way to be a good confessor is to go to confession. All of these things have aided me in my first year.

NV: What has your experience of Hispanic ministry been like?

JM: It has been very fulfilling. Ministry in a multi-cultural context requires patience in order to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of many people.



Rev. John McDonald at the Abruzzi Restaurant in Rome.

NV: What do you miss most about the North American College?

JM: I miss the camaraderie, the common experience we share at the College. However, I have been able to draw upon the common experience of living in a foreign country to aid in my ministry. For Hispanic ministry, having lived in a country with a foreign language and culture has given me an advantage. I understand what it means to be a foreigner and can encourage others living in a foreign context to learn the language and culture of the United States.

NV: How has your spiritual formation at the College affected the spiritual formation of your people?

JM: The devotion to the Sacred Heart that I fostered at the College has played a large role in the lives of my people. The Sacred Heart is very accessible to people. His heart was pierced so that it can be accessible to us. Also, having access to the liturgy in Rome has made me appreciate the universal aspect of the liturgy.

NV: Finally, what advice would you offer to a priest to aid him in his first year of priestly service?

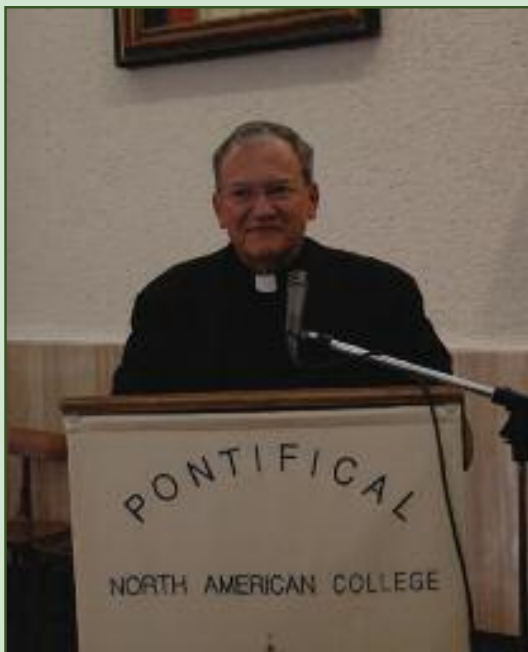
JM: I would say, survive the first year. Block out time for yourself. Plan time-off and guard it as sacred. Look out for your spiritual well-being. Be ready for your people at all times.



Fr. McDonald with altar servers at Saint Peter Parish in Hoover, Alabama.

A FOND FAREWELL

GOODBYE FR. DUARTE



For the past three years, Fr. Scott Duarte '78 has served the College as the Director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education for Priests. In addition, he serves as the Postulator for the cause for Servant of God Frank Parater. At the end of this year, he will return to his home Diocese of Richmond for service there. Fr. Scott, you will be missed.

Ad multos annos!



Right: Fr. Scott Duarte celebrates Mass in the Catacombs of St. Priscilla with priests of the Institute during a recent sabbatical.

Left: Fr. Duarte addresses the seminarians and priests of the College during the Farewell Banquet.



CLERIC

SOCCER

*by Peter Finney III '10
Archdiocese of New Orleans*

Having grown to full stature as “the world’s game,” soccer is still at a relatively infantile stage in the United States, with the nation’s best athletes generally abandoning the game in childhood for other athletic pursuits. Such a sober assessment of American soccer aptitude would naturally lead to a bleak prediction for an American squad’s chances in an international sixteen-team tournament. The North American College Martyrs, however, has proven the exception.

Combining athleticism with skill and determination, the Martyrs merited a 4th place finish in the second annual Clericus Cup, a tournament pitting seminarians and priests of various Roman seminaries against each other. Player-coach Daniel O’Mullane of the Diocese of Paterson never doubted the team’s ability, even amidst the adversities of challenging competition and injuries. “I am not surprised with our result,” O’Mullane reflected, “The decisive thing really was fielding a healthy squad, which occurred only at the end of the season.”

Spanning seven months, the season offered a number of significant moments, not the least of which was an early comeback victory against the Collegio Sant’Anselmo. Trailing 1-0 at intermission, the Martyrs scored two goals in the second frame, including a header in the waning moments by first year seminarian David Nerbun of the Diocese of Charleston. The goal and game truly were microcosmic of the NAC’s year, one raised to dramatic heights with one overtime and three shoot-out wins, one characterized by a collective and determined will to win.

Success on the pitch, of course, was only one way of measuring the impact of the soccer season. Touted as a vehicle for healthy sports activity and fraternal bonding, the Cup created a tangible communal spirit around the “beautiful game,” uniting twenty-one players and spectators alike, bringing together more closely corners of the country and the globe.

With the installation of the College’s new artificial turf sports field this summer, the team will look to build on its already notable achievements, offering an incubator for the sport’s American development, a growth noticeable one game and goal at a time.



The Martyrs Soccer team celebrates after a goal.

The NAC Martyrs soccer team was composed of James Adams, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Jacob Bertrand, Diocese of San Diego; Justin Bianchi, Diocese of Venice; Rev. Jason Cargo, Diocese of Dallas; Christopher Donley, Diocese of Pittsburgh; Jeffrey Eirvin, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Rev. Mr. Paul Fasano, Diocese of Rockford; Peter Finney, Archdiocese of New Orleans; Charles Gallagher, Archdiocese of Washington; Gannon Jones, Archdiocese of Perth; Ian Patrick McDole, Diocese of Covington; James Morrison, Archdiocese of Mobile; Daniel O’Mullane, Diocese of Paterson; David Nerbun, Diocese of Charleston; Mark Payton, Archdiocese of Perth; Rev. Andrew Roza, Archdiocese of Omaha; Adam Rust, Diocese of Memphis; Fernando Saenz, Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Philip Smith, Diocese of Toledo; Rev. Mr. Steve Titus, Diocese of Cheyenne; Rev. Mr. Julio Vicente Orellana, Diocese of Boise.

US CUP

by E. Theodore Martin '11
Diocese of Kalamazoo

HOOPS



The Martyrs Basketball Team poses with the first place Clericus Cup trophy after their victory in the finals.

This spring 15 men from the North American College began what hopefully will be a longer tradition in the life of *America's Seminary in Rome*. The well publicized soccer tournament called "Clericus Cup" was expanded to include the sport of basketball.

The season began on short notice only allowing for a single practice before the first game. However, the talent was deep and the players harmonized quickly. Father Purpura dominated the center position throughout the tournament while the athletic ability of Father Freedy proved too much for the international competition. New Man John Solomon played the starting shooting guard spot for the Martyrs. His shooting touch on offense and tenacity on defense proved a great benefit for the team. Scott Pogotchnik played the point guard spot masterfully while Craig Vasek was a consistent offensive force throughout.

The team got off to a fast start and swept the regular season competition. Entering into the tournament without Joe Freedy, who fell to an ankle injury, made the Martyr team's prospects more difficult, but they made it to the championship game held close to Rome's Olympic Stadium. About 50 fans from the NAC traveled to the game by bus or car to cheer the team home to victory. The Martyrs played a classy game and brought home a championship trophy after beating Redemptoris Mater.

Congratulations to the 2008 Martyrs, Clericus Cup Champions!

The Martyrs basketball team included Nicholas Bellotti, Archdiocese of Newark; Rev. Michael Triplett, Archdiocese of Baltimore; Craig Vasek, Diocese of Crookston; Rev. Mr. Josh Stevens, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Rev. Mr. Joe Freedy, Diocese of Pittsburgh; Scott Pogotchnik, Diocese of St. Cloud; Ted Martin, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Paul Kolker, Diocese of Dallas; Rev. Peter Purpura, Diocese of Brooklyn; Rev. Ryan Moravitz, Diocese of Duluth; David Carrano, Diocese of Madison; Robert Wagner, Diocese of Arlington; John Solomon, Diocese of Wilmington; David Kuttner, Diocese of Spokane; Josh Stengel, Diocese of Little Rock.



Rev. Peter Purpura '07 (Diocese of Brooklyn) goes up for a basket against his opponent.

CASA O'TOOLE

*A History of the Villa that has become
an integral part of the
Pontifical North American College*



The Casa O'Toole as it looked before the renovations.

The building named “Casa O’Toole,” formerly known as “Casa San Giovanni,” is found within the prestigious property belonging to the Pontifical North American College, located on the last slope of the Janiculum Hill facing Vatican City.

The building rises above the Janiculum Walls (more commonly known as the Aurelian Walls), which were built in 1643 by Pope Urban VIII, a member of the noble Barberini family (1568-1644, pontificate 1623-1644). The walls served as a garrison during the War of Castro between the feuding Barberini and Farnese families that had begun as a result of the Barberini’s economic and expansionist political strategies toward the Farnese family. It is interesting to note that the Janiculum Hill, despite having been annexed to Rome by Emperor Augustus and, therefore, officially within the city borders, has never lost its suburban character. This is all the more true considering that this part of the city has remained partially outside the Aurelian Walls.

It was because of its suburban character – as seen in a 1576 area map designed by Mario Cartaro – that the Janiculum hillside was home to many wealthy Roman families and religious communities up until the city’s contemporary period. For example, the Janiculum Hill was the location for the Sant’Onofrio and San Pietro in Montorio convents and the prestigious Lante and Barberini family villas.

Recent discoveries made during the restoration work currently being done on the Casa O’Toole have uncovered an inscription indicating that the original structure was built in 1734. These inscriptions were previously unknown and will once again be made visible to the public when the restoration work is completed. Indeed, the first municipal



An etching of Tiber River Valley. On the left is the Church of San Giovanni dei Fiorentini and on the right is the Janiculum Hill.

document where we find evidence of the building is the 1748 map designed by Giovanni Battista Nolli. Here the villa appears among the vineyards owned by Oratorian Fathers of Chiesa Nuova, just as was the case with vineyards run by the Gerolamini Fathers living in the nearby Sant’Onofrio convent. The area’s beauty, no doubt, provided a inspiring context for meditation. It is, perhaps, for this reason that the hillside was a favorite location among many holy people, such as St. Philip Neri, founder of the Oratorians.



A map from 1748 highlighting the Aurelian Wall, the Casa O’Toole and the property where today sits the Pontifical North American College.

In 1850 the Casa O’Toole appears among the pages of Rome’s Land Registry files, including sketches of nearby farmland which appeared to be owned by a certain D. Pietro Gabrielli – the very name to which the villa is still commonly attributed. The presence of farmland in the land registry documents is direct evidence of the property’s agricultural purpose and explains why the site still has intact over 150 meters of underground passages, which were most likely used as storage areas for wine vats and agricultural produce.

Just prior to 1870, Pope Pius IX (1792-1878, pontificate 1846-1878), decided to donate Villa Gabrielli to the Santa Maria della Pietà healthcare society, whose mental hospital had been moved by Pope Benedict XIII (1649-1730, pontificate 1724-1730) to Via della Lungara, located at the foot of the Janiculum Hill. During Pius IX’s papacy special attention was given to the mentally ill suffering from various disorders. This led to the institution of an experimental hospital program, where patients were not simply kept in closed wards, but were allowed to freely move about and carry out practical activities outside. It was with this purpose in mind that the Barberini villa gardens and the grounds of Villa Gabrielli were incorporated into the Santa Maria della Pietà hospital property, so that patients could use this land to perform gardening activities and participate in other such manual labor therapies.



One of the tunnels discovered underneath the Janiculum campus.

After Rome joined the new Italian republic in 1870, all social institutions became secularized, and, therefore, the mental health care facility and surrounding Janiculum property came under the direct management of the provisional government. The Italian government, thereupon, transferred the hospital to a new location and put the property up for sale – a fate shared by many other such institutions.

It was then that the Pontifical North American College purchased the Janiculum property. The acquisition was made possible thanks to the generous inheritance left by Mrs. Angela C. O’Meara Gormully (who died on November 8, 1920). The Rector at the time, Msgr. O’Hern, began searching for an appropriate place to build a new seminary, since additional floors could not be added to the Via dell’Umiltà property, the site of the original Pontifical North American College campus.

The decision to build a new College seminary on the Janiculum property was influenced by a particular issue with which the Vatican was dealing at the time. As the story is told, a Protestant group had set out to purchase Villa Gabrielli with the hope of raising up an anti-Catholic monument to offend the Vatican, given its strategic location facing St. Peter’s Basilica. Therefore, the Pope wanted the property to be used by a Catholic institution to prevent this from ever happening.

At the time the Urbanianum was also in search of a new location, but was discouraged by Villa Gabrielli's enormous size (well over 26 acres) and the Province of Rome was against dividing up the land. Then papal authorities contacted the North American College and asked its administrators to purchase about half of the property. Conveniently, the College's treasurer, Cardinal Hayes, was visiting Rome at the time for the 1924 Consistory during which he was being elevated to the College of Cardinals. The Province of Rome expected to have a final decision from the Holy See within the month of May that same year regarding the interest in purchasing the property. The decision was made when Pope Pius XI (1857-1939, pontificate 1922-1939) acquired about half the property and the North American College purchased the remaining 11 acres. The sale of land was completed between years 1924 and 1926.



Today, the Casa O'Toole is the residence of the religious sisters who assist the College in its mission.

At the time of its purchase, Villa Gabrielli had three other buildings located on the property in addition to the family home. One of them was demolished to build the sports field to be used by seminarians for recreational purposes (at the time seminarians would have come to the Janiculum property to play their games). The other two structures were subsequently removed during the construction of the modern seminary years later. It is noteworthy that no historical documents record findings of archeological remains during any of the new College's building phases. Excavations made during that time only revealed signs of minor drillings made into the undisturbed earth below.

In 1933 the decision was made to complete a large-scale renovation of Villa Gabrielli. The project cost \$30,000 and, afterward, the villa was officially renamed "Casa San Giovanni". The purpose of remodeling the building was to accommodate the great number of seminarians who wanted to remain in Rome another year following their priestly ordination to pursue further academic studies. There was no room for these priests at the Via dell'Umiltà campus so they needed to be housed in alternative accommodation. Besides resolving the housing issue for graduate student priests, another reason for renovating the building's interior was that the economy and dollar were going through a period of severe crisis (e.g. thereby ruling out the possibility of acquiring another property to meet such housing needs).

The villa's renovation was completed that same year and in accordance with plans drawn up by Italian architect Ettore Rossi. The remodeled building would be self-sufficient and could now house twenty-one newly ordained priests. One of the new priests served as the local superior of the community (the first to serve this position was Rev. Albert Goetzman from the Diocese of Davenport). Thus, the first autonomous graduate house of the North American College was established.

The need to use the property as a graduate house ceased during the turbulent times of World War II. In 1943, the Janiculum Hill property was used to take in asylum-seeking refugees. Such refugees included Jews from the city and some American medical students who were trapped in Rome. The number of refugees reached a total of about 100 persons. It is not believed that any of the refugees actually lived in the Casa San Giovanni, but rather occupied rooms in other buildings located on the estate. The Casa San Giovanni was most likely occupied by American priests working in the city of Rome who could no longer move about freely because of the German occupation. The pro-procurator of the College, Monsignor McGeough, cared for the refugees, who had brought with them their own livestock –including 30 horses, 50 cows, and 1,200 sheep.

Casa San Giovanni reopened as a residence for priests pursuing graduate degrees after the 1946 academic year.

In 1953 the new seminary was opened at the Janiculum Hill property. At this time the seminarians living at the College's Via dell'Umiltà residence were transferred to this new campus. The graduate priests, in turn, moved from the Casa San Giovanni to Via dell'Umiltà. Thus, the two communities literally traded places.

It was then that the Casa San Giovanni became a convent for the many sisters who assisted in the mission of the College. Most notable among them was Mother Pasquilina, who directed Pius XII's papal household. She was granted residence at the Casa San Giovanni upon the recommendation of Cardinal Spellman. The Casa San Giovanni property has continued to serve as a residence for religious sisters until this very day. Currently, there are two Benedictine Sisters from the United States and five Carmelite Sisters from India living in the villa.

Thus, the Casa O'Toole is a building which has undergone various changes but has never lost its character of a suburban villa, despite being located within the city of Rome. Taking advantage of the Aurelian walls on the west side of the building and the Janiculum embankment on the other sides, the villa rests on a firm foundation while rising above the walls to face St. Peter's Basilica. The building falls within such an important view of the cityscape that it cannot remain in its present state of disrepair.

Work is currently underway to reface the building's stucco facades and restore other exterior ornamental elements, while renewing the villa's overall color scheme. Beginning with a layer analysis of the original stuccowork and using samples taken from below the building's highest cornice, the building's restoration



Bert and Patti Degheri

team has applied traditional techniques to establish the new color patterns. This work has been carried out and approved by members of the Governor of Vatican City State, Italy's National Heritage Foundation for Art and Architecture who oversee restoration projects taking place in Rome's municipal district.

An additional roof repair project provides the opportunity to renovate the building – both internally and externally – so as to restore the villa to its original and proper architectural character, especially the side facing the city (i.e. facing St. Peter's Basilica). The project will rectify various damage and indiscriminate patchwork found in the upper part of the villa, some of which has gravely compromised the building's structural integrity and has made a fifth of the building's view above the Janiculum Walls into somewhat of an eyesore among the local panoramic cityscape.

The restoration work of the Casa San Giovanni is being made possible through a generous grant from the Theresa and Edward O'Toole Foundation. We are especially grateful to Bert Degheri, Co-Trustee of the Foundation for his interest in this project which will ensure that this historical treasure will be fittingly restored and continue to be used as a vibrant working part of the North American College community for many years to come.

The majority of this article is derived from the book "The American College in Rome: 1855-1955" by Msgr. Robert F. McNamara.

LIFE AT THE COLLEGE

O ROMA FELIX QVAE DVORVM PRINCIPVM
ES CONSECRATA GLORIOSO SANGVINE

Above: The inscription above the College roof which translates as, "O happy Rome, which is consecrated by the glorious blood of the two princes."



Top Left: The New Men gather shortly after arriving at the College.

Top Right: At the Farewell Banquet, seminarians review the chalices of the newly ordained.

Above Left: Greg Ihm '11 celebrates Saint Isidore the Farmer's feast day.

Above Right: From left, Michael Lantagne '10, David Kuttner '09, and Rev. Joe Freedy '08 toast the departing Rev. Avelino Gonzalez '06 at the Farewell Banquet.

A Full House

by Ryan Erlenbush '09 Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

In the Fall of 2008, the Pontifical North American College will expand its student residences for the housing of seminarians. In the past, the corridor on the “hospital wing” of the fourth floor has been used as a guest wing, but with an incoming class of sixty-one New Men, in addition to the nearly one hundred forty returning men, the College requires additional rooms to house next year’s student body of over two hundred men, the largest in over forty years of the College’s recent history.

In order that the new corridor might have a balance between under and upper classmen as well as deacons, the College requested volunteers from among the men who would be returning to the College next year, asking those students interested to help establish this new hall. Eleven men volunteered to join the hall and are already in their new rooms.

Rev. James Quigley, O.P. will be the faculty priest for the hall together with Msgr. William Lyons. Ryan Erlenbush and James Adams, both to be ordained to the diaconate next October, will serve as deacons for the new corridor. In addition to the eleven volunteers who have joined the hall, it is expected that at least ten of the 2008 New Men will be assigned to the hall, bringing the occupancy to twenty-one students and two faculty priests.

Indeed, even in its incubate state, the new corridor has already been welcomed by the whole College community, many of whom have generously donated coffee pots, rugs, plates, and other items in order to assist the new corridor in building an adequate community space, which serves as the place of fraternity amongst the men of each hall.

In opening this new hall, the true greatness of the North American College is seen: men coming together to live in a fraternity based upon Jesus Christ and relying on the assistance and encouragement of the wider Church community.



Standing from left: Ted Martin '11, Diocese of Kalamazoo; David Nerbun '11, Diocese of Charleston; James Adams '09, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Brandon Bernhard '11, Diocese of Tyler; Ryan Erlenbush '09, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings; Rich Mastrogiacomo '11, Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Seated from left: Jeb Donelan '11, Diocese of Arlington; Cory Stanley '11, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

by Rev. David Ruchinski '07
Diocese of St. Augustine

STUDIES IN SEMINARY FORMATION

Having been given wide latitude to choose what area of theology I wanted to study for my second cycle (the fourth and fifth years of theological study here in Rome), I proposed to my bishop a program in seminary formation. My interest in the program was based on a research project I had in mind regarding priestly leadership (a continuation of previous research I had done in the area of educational leadership). As I investigated the possibility of doing such research, I discovered the “Formation for Formators” program.



Fr. Ruchinski in front of the statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd at the Pontifical Gregorian University

The *Centro Interdisciplinario per la Formazione dei Formatori di Seminaristi* (CIFS) was created by the Congregation for Catholic Education, in collaboration with the Institutes of Spirituality and Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University as a concrete response to John Paul II’s call in *Pastores dabo vobis* for “special preparation” of seminary formators. The goal of the CIFS program is “to offer an integral and integrated vision of the various aspects of priestly formation—human, spiritual, pastoral and religious—facilitating the development of the formative function” in those who are currently or will be engaged in seminary or religious formation. As the name suggests, the coursework for the program is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from the fields of theology, spirituality, psychology and canon law. In addition, the program involves guided visits to various Vatican congregations and to other seminaries and colleges here in Rome, to see first hand how seminary formation is conceived and implemented by the universal Church in different cultural venues. One may pursue a one-year Diploma in Seminary Formation, or a two-year License in Spirituality specifically oriented to seminary formation.

For those who are preparing for diocesan priestly ministry, the CIFS program has a number of important applications. One obvious venue would be the seminary, either at the theologate, pre-theology, or college level. In addition, some dioceses also have houses of prayer and discernment to provide college-aged men and women, who are considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life, a place to live their universal Christian calling while pursuing a regular college degree program. Such houses of discernment provide some structured prayer and spiritual direction without the formal requirements of a seminary. Though my diocese does not currently have its own seminary, there has been some interest in creating a house of discernment connected with the University of Florida in Gainesville, where I have been assigned after finishing my studies here in Rome. I will also put my studies to work as associate vocations director once I return to the Diocese of St. Augustine this summer.

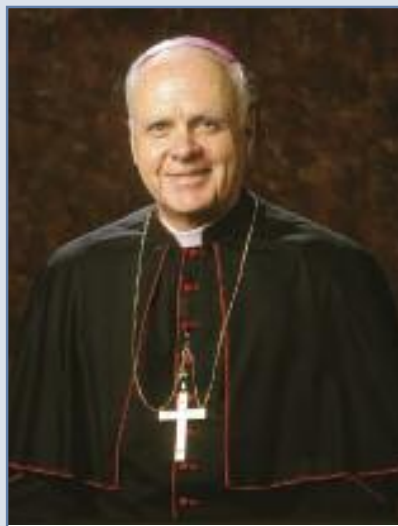
SECOND CYCLE STUDIES

There are several other programs within my diocese (and in many others as well, I suspect) which involve vocational discernment and formation for ministry. These include a newly initiated permanent diaconate program, a nationally certified lay ministry formation program, several campus ministry programs, and four Catholic high schools. Ultimately, the principal place in which I would hope to encourage and develop a sense of ministry is in the parish. Here, too, I believe I will benefit from the training involved in the CIFS program regarding how best to accompany people on their spiritual journey to discern God's will and act on it in their lives. In any of these capacities I would like to help foster a "vocational" way of thinking. That is to say, I want to encourage every Christian that I encounter to exercise those principles of discernment that are such a necessary and explicit part of seminary formation programs.

*The Pontifical North American College
Congratulates
these Metropolitan Archbishops
who Received the Pallium on June 29th, 2008*



*Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt '73, C'76
Archbishop of St. Paul-
Minneapolis*



*Most Rev. Edwin F. O'Brien C'76
Archbishop of Baltimore
Chairman of the
Board of Governors of the
North American College*



*Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile*

LEGION OF MARY

by Sean Danda '09 Archdiocese of Indianapolis

You'll never believe how many lost pilgrims there are in St. Peter's Square. During my experience in the Legion of Mary apostolate, I have met them all. Everyone seems to be searching: "Where are the Vatican museums?" "When does the Pope come out?" "What is it that you Catholics believe?"

The Legion of Mary is only one of many apostolates that we have at the North American College. While each apostolate helps to build good pastoral skills and has an element of evangelization, the Legion of Mary is unique in its total dependence upon Divine Providence and charity. When we enter St. Peter's Square for an afternoon, we do not know whom the Lord will bring to us that day or why. In the end, we do not need to know.

Providence provides. We always seem to be talking to the right people at the right time. Our contacts are always searching. If it is not for directions, then for answers to questions about the Catholic Faith or others thus related. They are all pilgrims, whom the Lord has brought to Rome to meet Him, but many do not realize it. They wander around St. Peter's Square like lost sheep without a shepherd, and it is our job to seek them out. One of the essential tasks to which priests are called is that of shepherding God's people.

Charity must prevail. Every contact that we make depends upon it. Meeting people for the first time, we might speak different languages or come from different backgrounds. We do not know their prior experience of the Church, of the Faith, or even of God. But, everyone knows charity. It is part of our human nature. Without charity, we cannot draw people to encounter God here in Rome. Legion of Mary work teaches us the many ways of communicating the Faith. The first way is by charity.



The men of the Legion of Mary Apostolate pray and sing with pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square.

APOSTOLIC FORMATION



After working in the Square, the Legion of Mary apostolate meets once a week for discussion and to pray the rosary. We share how the Lord has been encountering people at St. Peter's Square, and we pray for the grace to continue the work of the apostolate.

There are so many pilgrims who travel to Rome. I hope that we are able to be God's instruments which direct them to encounter the Lord. The Legion of Mary is forming pastors here at the North American College who shepherd God's people by His Divine Providence and proclaim the faith in charity.

The Legion of Mary Apostolate allows the men of the College to follow the example of Mary and to always give their "yes" to the Lord.

Founders' Award

Each year, during the College's annual alumni reunion, the Board of Governors, the Rector, and the Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association present the Founders' Award to an outstanding alumnus for his priestly dedication and service to the College community.

On June 18th, in the presence of more than 75 fellow alumni in Chicago, Rev. Msgr. Kevin C. McCoy '81, CSM '86, received the 2008 Founder's Award. As noted in the citation that was awarded, Msgr. McCoy "was ordained to the service of the people of God in the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa on July 25, 1981. In 1986, he earned his doctorate in sacred theology from the Alfonsianum of the Lateran University. He has served his diocese as parochial vicar, director of vocations, chancellor and moderator of the curia. In 1998, he was named a prelate of honor of his holiness."

From July 1998 to June 2000, he served the North American College as the Director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education. In July 2000, he was appointed Vice Rector for Administration, and one year later, was appointed Rector - serving until 2006. Subsequently, he worked diligently as the Executive Director for the *Vision For The Future* capital campaign raising over twenty-eight million dollars for the needs of the College.

From the beginning of his service as Rector, Msgr. McCoy described his greatest joy as, "...having the opportunity to know and form generous young men to be priests of Jesus Christ."

A truly deserved award for a truly dedicated alumnus! *Ad Multos Annos*, Msgr. McCoy!

Presenting the Founders' Award (from left): Rev. Msgr. Mark Svarczko, Executive Secretary of the College's Alumni Association; Rev. Msgr. Kevin McCoy, recipient of this year's Founders' Award; Most Rev. Edwin O'Brien, Chairman of the College's Board of Governors; and Rev. Msgr. James Checchio, Rector of the College.



PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

The beginning of Summer has seen a flurry of activity at the North American College. Below, scaffolding encases the roof line of the Casa Santa Maria in the historic center of Rome. Workers continue the work on this building which dates to the 1500s. In addition to masonry work and painting, workers are repairing the bell tower of the Casa Santa Maria and parts of the roof.



Bottom left, workers will also clean the many reliefs and carvings on the Casa Santa Maria, like this one depicting two angels.

Bottom right, work has also begun on the Kardos Family Sports Field. Workers have already prepared the ground and are in the process of laying pipes for drainage and spreading stone. When all is completed the Janiculum campus will enjoy a state-of-the-art artificial turf field.



Getting Better All The Time

Right: Work also continues on the Casa O'Toole. Here, the columns are being prepared for a new faux marble finish.

Below: Another view of the extensive restoration work at the Casa Santa Maria.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



After 45 years of service to the Pontifical North American College, Mr. Sante Necci retired from the Casa Santa Maria this year. Having seen many priests come through the Casa as they pursued advanced degrees, Mr. Necci was honored with a dinner at the Casa Santa Maria. Here, Msgr. Francis Kelly, Superior of the Casa Santa Maria, presents Mr. Necci with a hand-carved statue of Saint Joseph. Thank you Mr. Necci for your years of service to the North American College and for the example of service you have been for so many priests and seminarians throughout your years at the College.

SINGING PRAISE TO GOD

by *Mathew Kuhn '10* *Diocese of Saint Cloud*

The Choir of the Pontifical North American College recently sang for a professional recording for international record label, JAV. To be approached by a professional label for such a project was a unique honor for a seminary choir, and we were happy to accept it. For three days in early May, Mr. Christopher Berry, our choir director, and the men of the choir spent their evenings in the Immaculate Conception Chapel choir loft with microphones and world-renowned concert organist, Mr. Stephen Tharp, at the organ console.



The choir sings during Mass at the College.

The process was very exciting, as this was the first experience for most of the choir members of recording a CD. The pursuit of perfection in pitch, rhythm, and phrasing was challenging, as each measure of music had to pass the inspection of the recording engineer, Mr. Christoph Frommen of Germany. Many times the words “we must try this again” were heard from the recording booth in the sacristy. “That was too flat,” or “there was a sound of an ambulance/seagull/motorino from outside,” were the usual reasons for successive retakes. Thankfully, there were many moments of humor to break up the seriousness of the business at hand.

The goal of the project was not simply to professionally record Maurice Duruflé’s setting of the chant *Messe cum júbilo* for organ and unison baritone choir. The Duruflé *Messe* was set into the context of an entire sung Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, including chanted Scripture readings, Gregorian chants, presidential and diaconal chants, motets, and the Marian antiphon. In this way, the College would celebrate her 150th Anniversary with a complete recorded Mass for the feast of her dedication. This recording was also conceived of as a gift to Pope Benedict XVI in honor of, and in keeping with, his writings on music in the Sacred Liturgy, especially his Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacramentum caritatis*.

Looking back on the project as a whole, the process helped the choir to fine-tune its abilities and provided a unique and memorable experience for all involved. The CD will be released in early 2009 and will be made available to the public during the 150th Anniversary year of the College. The men of the choir eagerly look forward to hearing the fruits of their collective labors.



Left: The choir is under the direction of Mr. Christopher Berry.



Right: Daniel Champoli '09 (Diocese of Brooklyn) accompanies the choir on the organ.



SENT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL



The community of the Pontifical North American College congratulates her sons of the class of 2008 who have been ordained to the priesthood this summer in their home dioceses. After four years of formation at the College we celebrate with them as they now share in the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ. While some have completed their studies and have begun to serve in their pastoral assignments, many will return to the College in the Fall to complete their advanced studies.

Left: Rev. Sam Kachuba '08 (Diocese of Bridgeport) bestows his first priestly blessing upon his classmate, then-Rev. Mr. Robert Lampitt '08 (Diocese of Peoria).

Below Left: Rev. Robert Lampitt processes into the Church for his first Mass as a priest.

Below Right: Rev. Robert Lampitt bestows his first blessing upon family and friends after his ordination.

To the Class of 2008, congratulations and *Ad Multos Annos!*



INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Mary DiDonato

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



While attending Mass this past Sunday, during which they blessed the newest group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion prepared to serve the parish community, I suddenly had a daunting thought...what would happen if there weren't enough priests available to serve my parish.

This thought brought to mind a recent conversation I had with an alumnus during the College's annual alumni reunion. He told me that he would soon be transferred from serving one parish in the mid-West to a new assignment where he and two other priests will minister to a cluster of six parishes – each spread many, many miles apart!

And that's just this year! What will happen in 2009 and 2010? Will that cluster of six expand to eight or more in some areas? What about five or ten years down the road? How severe will the shortage of priests become by then?

That's why the mission of the Pontifical North American College is still so vital! After nearly 150 years, it still exists today solely to educate and form extraordinary young men – who are answering God's call – into future generations of good, holy and zealous priests. These men are formed as priests who will provide a lifetime of religious service in their home dioceses in the United States – perhaps even in your local parish.

That's why your prayerful and financial support of the College is so critical...to ensure that promising young men – just like the twenty-four deacons of the Class of 2008 who are returning to their home dioceses this summer to be ordained - will always have the best resources available to them during their four years of formation in the very heart of the Catholic Church.

And, if for one second, you ever doubt that your personal contribution doesn't matter, just stop and think...what would you do next Sunday if a priest wasn't available for Mass in your parish?

Please be assured that each and every contribution received is making a tremendous difference in the lives of the seminarians and priests who are being prepared to lead and serve the faithful in parishes across the United States. We are truly fortunate to have special friends like you - who not only believe in our mission but who also are helping to ensure that there will be a priest on every altar this Sunday...and every Sunday thereafter!

- Mary DiDonato

ECONOMO'S CORNER

Rev. Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg '89

Diocese of Tulsa

Vice Rector for Administration

Rome is one of the few places in the world where history is tangible. This is certainly true at the Casa Santa Maria. Few things at the Casa speak of its history quite like the bell tower.

This distinguished landmark towers above the Casa and is visible from many places in the city of Rome. It was not from a distance, however, that I observed the tower but from the close proximity of construction scaffolding. This tower is just one of the many areas of the Casa Santa Maria currently under restoration but it tells a distinctive story.



On this tower are marked two defining years of this venerable building. The first year, 1655, was the year in which the bell tower was constructed – more than half a century after the building was first founded as a convent. It was from this tower that bells called the sisters to prayer for nearly 200 years. It was also from this tower that the moment of consecration, taking place at Mass in the Chapel, was announced to the surrounding neighborhood.

The second year, 1948, was the year in which the American seminarians returned to Rome after World War II to continue their priestly formation at the North American College. The tower's function, however, remained much the same, only now it served to call young Americans to prayer and to announce the pivotal moments of each day.



The bell tower has defined much of the community life of this sacred building for nearly than 400 years.

Recently, the bells fell silent. Concerns about the stability of the tower meant that the bells were no longer rung. Still, the prayer life of the Casa Santa Maria continued...but something was missing.

Thanks to the recent works of the *Vision for the Future* Capital Campaign, the bells will now ring once again. Special gratitude goes to the many benefactors who have given generously of their resources. This and many other facilities of the North American College are being updated, improved, restored, and renovated. Your gifts in support of the mission of our College help us to carry out our ministry of forming seminarians and priests who are deeply immersed in the rich and ancient tradition of our Church and to express that faith in ways that are ever new.



Thank you for your support. We rely on friends like you to assist us in our mission. When the bells of the Casa ring, I will remember with gratitude the many blessings which the North American College has received. It is through you, our alumni, benefactors, and friends, that the Lord has blessed us in a particular way during these recent years. Please remember to include the North American College in your annual charitable giving this next year as well. The bells of the Casa Santa Maria are but one of many areas that will be renewed thanks to your generosity.

- Rev. Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg

SUMMER 2008 25

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