



Holy Family Seminary's Alumni Newsletter 2013

Annual Newsletter #3: August 2013 ● Ed Koeninger, Jr.: Chief Correspondent ● Maurice Prater: Editor
Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF) ● 3014 Oregon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118
(888) 484-9945 ● www.holyfamilyseminaryalumni.catholicweb.com

HOLY FAMILY SEMINARY UPDATE 2013

Greetings, Friends in Christ!

Welcome to the third edition of the *Holy Family Seminary's Alumni Newsletter*. It's hard to believe that this is our third annual newsletter; time really flies.

Our Annual Apostolate Meeting was held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the Oblate Retreat Center in San Antonio, Texas. One topic of business was the new *Holy Family Prayer Book*, recently published in English and Spanish by Liguori Publications. We decided to have a book sale and signing at all parishes served by our Holy Family priests and brothers, and this happened on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Do you have a copy of our new prayer book? If not, please see the back cover for ordering information.

There was also a recommendation to have an Alumni Event in Missouri and Texas, running simultaneously, in the near future. In order to do that, we need a Coordinator to handle Alumni Events in Texas. Any volunteers for the Coordinator position? Any suggestions for an Alumni Event? If so, please contact Maurice Prater in the advancement office in Saint Louis via the contact information at the top of this page, or send an e-mail to mprater@msf-america.org.

We are currently looking for photographs of the old Book Store (before the fire) and Sawmill. If you have any stories or pictures that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you!

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father José Mario Galindo, M.S.F., age 67, died on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. Father Mario became a Holy Family priest on April 13, 2007.

Father John Flanagan, a diocesan priest and a former member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, died on July 9, 2013. We were also notified that alumnus Leroy Hermsen died in 2011.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

A GREAT PLACE FOR YOUNG MEN

by William J. Betz



Diaconate Dinner at the Provincial House: May 1967

On a Sunday afternoon, October 21, 1962, I was at home visiting my mother and six siblings (my father had passed away three years earlier). I was a young man, just 15 years old, and I had recently decided to transfer from a private high school in St. Louis to attend Holy Family Seminary in Overland, Missouri for my sophomore year.

My friend John Ferrara attended Holy Family with me. Our mothers would take turns each week driving us back to the seminary, always making sure to get us back before the Rosary was prayed.

After the Rosary, it was dinnertime. Sunday dinner was always interesting. As soon as John and I took our seats, we would quickly take inventory because there were always a few young men, especially early in the school year, who did not return after their Sunday trip home.

As we finished dinner, we anxiously awaited to hear whether Father John McDermott (“Father Mac”), our seminary rector, had picked up a movie. We were lucky this week! Everyone shuffled into the Rec Room. Lights out, movie on, and cigarettes and pipes lit. I kicked back with my pack of Lucky Strikes in hand.

After the movie, we headed back to the sophomore dorm. Lights were out by 9:30 p.m., but we would often cajole Fathers Mac and James Lienert to let us up to the third floor to chat and smoke some more.

Monday morning, October 22, 1962 sprung upon us sooner than expected, and we often regretted sneaking in those extra hours past curfew. By 5:30 a.m., we were up and in our uniform black pants, a white shirt, and a black tie (many were clip-on ties). First to the Chapel for Mass, and then to the Dining Room for breakfast. Breakfast was the best meal served, but no talking was allowed. In the background was a lector, and on this particular day he was discussing the life of St. Francis.

Unless you were on kitchen duty that week, you had 30 minutes before classes began. I often spent this time trying to finish my homework while puffing on a Lucky Strike.

The first class was English with Father Arthur Ockwood. English was not my strength; in fact, it was my worst. But, Father Ockwood was great. He was one of the younger priests who was funny and had a kind demeanor, and, more importantly, he did not get upset if one failed to do the homework assignment — which often was the case with me.

After English was Latin with Father James Lienert who “ran a tight ship.” In addition to teaching Latin, he ran the Stamp Club and the Yearbook. The morning wrapped up with Geometry taught by Father Herman Defler. Geometry was one of the few subjects I enjoyed, primarily because we got out of the classroom to do things like measure the size of the lake on the seminary grounds.

When lunchtime rolled around, I often met my plate with trepidation. Miss Elizabeth, the cook; Brother Theodore Garcia, the assistant cook (and choir director); and Father Joseph Mathey had an affinity for preparing German food. I, on the other hand, did not have the same regard for this cuisine. We then had another 30 minutes of free time before the afternoon grind of History, Spanish, and Religion. History was taught by Father Lawrence Rindt, a great history buff who was always injecting historical one-liners like, “*Coal always moves to steel.*” Years later, I finally figured out what that meant!

By 3:00 p.m., classes concluded and work period began. Typically, I spent this time in my position as head of the library crew, a job I inherited from Doug Cruise, who had graduated. My assistant was Bob Dietz, and together we had fun manning the Library, climbing on the shelves to catalogue the many books.

I normally spent my work period in the Library, but not this fall day. Father Roland Albers was the “Boss of Work Period,” and he designated today, “Leaf Day.” We spent our work period raking leaves. Jim McNamee drove the tractor, which pulled a trailer, and we tossed our piles of leaves into the trailer to be hauled to the pit to be burnt.



Picnic Area on the Seminary Campus

Since our seminary campus on Ashby Road in Overland was quite large, Father Albers would sometimes cancel classes for the next few days so we could finish our work. I never minded work periods like this. The weather was nice, and the fall season is probably the best for Overland, which is part of Greater St. Louis. These were great times!

After work period, we hit the showers (at least, most of us did). By 5:00 p.m., we convened to pray the Rosary and then proceeded to dinner. This evening of October 22 was different, however. When we arrived in the Cafeteria, there was a TV where the lector usually stood. I was baffled. Father Mathey then explained that President John F. Kennedy was going to address the nation at 6:00 p.m.

I vividly recall President Kennedy coming on screen and looking quite serious. I had grown up in the Cold War Era, and I always worried about nuclear war; we all did. As I listened intently, President Kennedy explained the situation with Cuba, the missiles, and the Russians. Needless to say, we were all scared.

That night, as John Ferrara and I, along with another friend, Steve Corkery, walked around the seminary lake, we heard the roar of the jets flying fast overhead. They had just taken off from Lambert Airport, which was close to our Overland campus. Was this the start of nuclear war?

As the days and weeks rolled on, the fear of being bombed dissipated. Life as we knew it at Holy Family Seminary continued, and soon sophomore year came to a close.



Outdoor Nativity Crib at the Seminary

As we parted for the summer, we knew many young men would not return for another year. I returned for one more. But, after my junior year, I was one that the other young men did not see in September for the first day of school. I left Holy Family Seminary and returned to my former high school. Perhaps I entered Holy Family to explore whether I had a calling to the priesthood. Perhaps it was merely a means to escape a house full of five sisters. Or, perhaps, it was an adventure I wanted to share with my buddies. No matter the reason, I have very fond memories of my time at Holy Family. It was a great place for young men, and it was a great place for me. +JM+

ALUMNI CONTACT INFORMATION

Do we have your address *and* e-mail? If not, please e-mail it to Maurice Prater at mprater@msf-america.org or complete the form below and mail it in the enclosed envelope to the provincial office.

We are missing addresses for most of our alumni! Do you know the current address for any of the students in school with you at Holy Family Seminary? If so, please send the information to us. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Holy Family Seminary Alumnus Contact Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

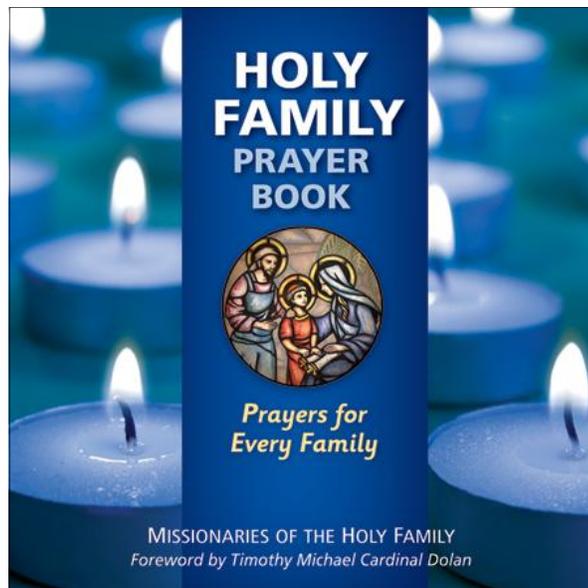
“It has become clear that much needs to be done to strengthen the vocation of marriage and the life of the Christian family. The *Holy Family Prayer Book* deserves to find a place in every family’s home!”

— Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

This prayer book is devoted to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the standard of holiness for all families. The variety of original and traditional prayers are dedicated to helping families stay spiritually grounded in an increasingly secular world. **A great gift for any occasion; only \$8.99 each!**

The English version has a foreword by Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York, and the Spanish version has a foreword by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Both editions have an imprimatur by Bishop Emeritus Robert J. Hermann of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. **Place your order by calling (800) 325-9521.**

Thank you and God bless your family!



Also Available:

- Perpetual Masses
- Prayer Apostolate
- Messenger Magazine

Call (888) 484-9945

www.msf-america.org

© 2013

Missionaries of the
Holy Family

Family • Vocations • Missions

