



## Holy Family Seminary's Alumni Newsletter 2015

Annual Newsletter #5: August 2015 ● Ed Koeninger, Jr.: Alumni Director ● Maurice Prater: Editor  
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### HOLY FAMILY SEMINARY UPDATE

#### *Greetings, Friends in Christ!*

Here we are in the month of August already, which means the annual issue of our Alumni Newsletter is available to keep everyone up to date on current activities. The Lay Apostolate Board of the Missionaries of the Holy Family met in San Antonio, Texas on Friday afternoon, October 17, 2014. Following is a brief summary of some of the topics discussed:

- We do not have any priest or brother candidates in formation in the North American Province. The shortage of vocations is currently being offset by priests from our international provinces. More about this can be found in the article by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F. on the back page of this newsletter.
- Maurice "Maury" Prater is assisting Father Wasser with vocation work, and they will have an exhibit booth at the World Meeting of Families in September 2015 in Philadelphia.
- The Year of Consecrated Life was featured in the Winter 2014-2015 issue of *The Messenger* magazine.
- The North American Province will launch a new website later this summer.
- Ed Koeninger, Jr. is still seeking information on seminary alumni for our database records.
- Our alumni website has a new address, [\*\*www.holyfamilyseminaryalumni.website\*\*](http://www.holyfamilyseminaryalumni.website)

Saint Louis members of the Apostolate Board met at the provincial offices on Wednesday evening, May 20, 2015. Some of the questions addressed were:

- ◆ *How can we increase membership in the Holy Family Prayer Association?* For example, in Saint Louis, the prayer association meets quarterly for Mass and fellowship. This helps to keep members engaged.
- ◆ *How can we be more effective with social media?* The youth ministry at Holy Family Parish in New Braunfels, Texas will attempt to create two-minute videos that will be featured on the MSF website. This has promise for appealing to teenagers and young adults.
- ◆ *What is the status of the Alumni Monument Project?* Since MSF does not have a firm contract with the City of Overland regarding the cemetery, this project is on hold.
- ◆ *What is the status of an Alumni Reunion?* We are looking into Fall 2016 as a possibility. Stay tuned!

+JMJ+

## ANOTHER FAMILY TO ME

by Jerry Jekel (class of 1966)

As a child growing up in Saint Pius V Parish in South Saint Louis, I was in awe of the priests celebrating Mass. I thought that was what I wanted to do!

In 1957, the parish was privileged to have a young priest from Ireland assigned there. He was very inspirational, and he encouraged the male students to consider a priestly vocation.

When I graduated from Saint Pius V Grade School in 1962, I entered the archdiocesan high school seminary with two of my friends. In my junior year, however, I decided to continue my studies at the Holy Family Seminary in Overland. I was familiar with the Missionaries of the Holy Family through the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Jerry Jekel is third from the right in this photo from the 1960s.

At one time, the Sisters had a home for the aged in South Saint Louis, and I would serve Mass there. The Holy Family priests served as chaplains for the Little Sisters of the Poor. (This relationship still continues today. The residence is now in North Saint Louis where Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F. is the current chaplain, and he lives onsite to minister to the spiritual needs of the residents.)

I completed high school at Holy Family Seminary, and I was accepted into the novitiate program. Before completing my college courses, I was already in temporary vows for three years. When it came time to consider professing perpetual vows, I felt that God was moving me in a new direction.

After a period of discernment with the guidance and support of my good friend, the late Father Larry Rindt, M.S.F., I made the decision to leave the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

Although I left the Missionaries physically, emotionally they will always be a part of me. Through them, I learned so much about life and my faith. This fostered an even greater love for prayer, Mass, and the Holy Eucharist, including a devotion to the Holy Family.

The Missionaries of the Holy Family became another family to me and my family. Over the years, the Holy Family priests have presided over family weddings and baptized many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. They have been there for us in times of sorrow and spiritual need. I will always cherish my relationship with them.

Although the pursuit of what I had once thought would happen, those many years ago, did not come to fruition, it did prepare me for life — and life eternal. While I did not become a priest, my time with the Missionaries of the Holy Family remains as a source of encouragement as I strive to be faithful to God on my journey to everlasting life with Him.

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, enlighten us, help us, and save us!*

**+JMJ+**

## MEET OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL PRIESTS!



### **Father Peter Prasetyo, M.S.F.**

Missionary of the Holy Family

- **From: Java Province, Indonesia**
- **Born: March 14, 1980**
- **Age: 35**
- **Ordained: July 15, 2008**
- **Arrived in Saint Louis: Dec. 10, 2014**



### **Father Denis Velomana, M.S.F.**

Missionary of the Holy Family

- **From: Madagascar Province, Africa**
- **Born: September 11, 1964**
- **Age: 50**
- **Ordained: April 9, 2000**
- **Arrived in Saint Louis: Dec. 8, 2014**

Father Peter and Father Denis are living in the rectory at Saint Wenceslaus Parish. While both speak English, they are working on improving their language skills. Father Peter works with a private tutor, and Father Denis attends classes at the International Institute of Saint Louis. Welcome, Father Peter and Father Denis!

# VOCATION & FORMATION REPORT

by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

At the present time, we are working to rejuvenate our Vocation and Formation Programs. We are receiving inquiries about our Community on a regular basis and responding to them.

However, most of these men who are contacting us are either over 50 years of age or they are contacting us from foreign countries. For those contacting us from a foreign country, we forward their request to one of our international provinces closer to their home. This way, the other provinces can follow up with qualified requests and work with the possible candidates.

For men who are from the United States, out of high school, and under the age of 45, we do correspond with them to see what their preferences are for religious life. Currently, we do not have anyone enrolled for the fall semester. There are a couple of men with whom I am in correspondence, but they are not ready to make a commitment.

We have received two more priests through our international co-op program in December 2014, Father Peter Prasetyo, M.S.F. and Father Denis Velomana, M.S.F. We are working to receive another priest in early 2016. This program is bearing much fruit, and we are grateful for the positive working relationship we have with our international provinces.

## REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Joe Lawless, M.S.F., age 88, died on Saturday, October 18, 2014 in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Former MSF priest, Father Steve Devine, age 79, died on Saturday, November 29, 2014.

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father John Lombardi, M.S.F., age 78, died on Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas.

*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.*

## IN CLOSING

If you have any stories of your memories of Holy Family Seminary or pictures that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you! We are currently looking for pictures of the old Bookstore (before the fire) and Sawmill. Again, just contact Maurice in the Advancement Office.

**God bless your family! +JMJ+**



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