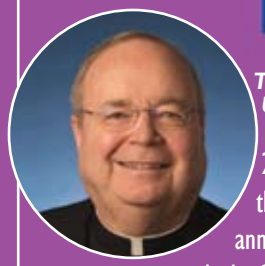
The Society of St. Sulpice

Update

Winter 2010

Provincial's message



Thomas R. Ulshafer, S.S.

2009 marked the twentieth anniversary of the arrival of the Sulpicians in Zambia, and I travelled to that country in September for my first official visit as provincial. I am proud of the ministry that Sulpicians have done and are doing there, and we are already preparing for a festive celebration of our silver anniversary in 2014.

The pioneers in Zambia were Fathers Edward Frazer and Michael Strange who went there in 1989. During the early years, several other Americans assisted in the seminaries where they were needed. Then, in 1995, the province signed a contract with the Zambian Episcopal Conference to take responsibility for directing Emmaus

Continued on p. 2

Formation for LIFE

Fr. James McKearney appointed President-Rector at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University

By James E. Myers, S.S.

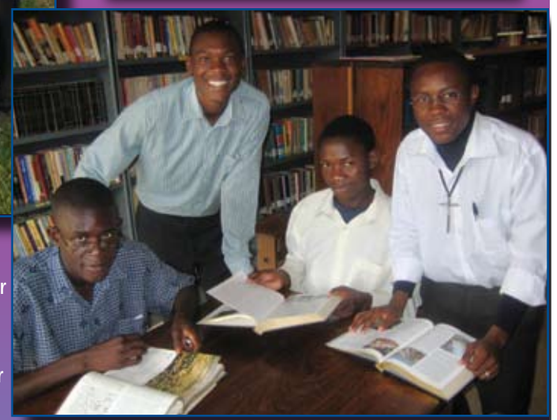
On July 1, 2009, Father James L. McKearney, S.S., M.S., M.Div., S.T.D., began his assignment as President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, CA. Father McKearney, 47, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997 and became a Sulpician in 2001. An alumnus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut, and St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland, Fr. McKearney holds an S.T.D. from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He first joined the faculty of St.

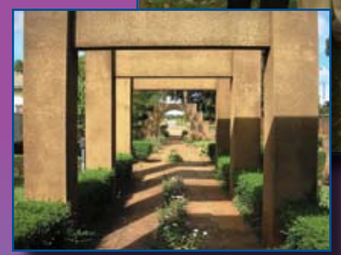
Continued on p. 6

Inside this issue:

CUA Symposium...p. 3 Anthony Perez, S.S. ...p. 4 New Visitor Center...p. 7 Recent Books...p. 8

continued from p. 1





The larger picture shows Fr. Ulshafer at a picnic with all the Sulpicians currently serving in Zambia, from left to right Frs. Cornelius Hankomoone, Victor Shikaputo, Francis Musonda, Thomas Ulshafer, Shoba Nyambe, Cale Crowley and Victor Mwanamwambwa. The other pictures show the seminarians and grounds at Emmaus.

Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, the capital. Emmaus is a one-year introductory program for new seminarians.

In the following year, 1996, we accepted Father Cornelius Hankomoone as the first Zambian priest to become a Sulpician candidate. Today Father Hankomoone is a full member of the Society with a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

During the current school year, there is only one American Sulpician still working in Zambia. He is Father Cale Crowley, former President-Rector of St. Joseph's College Seminary in Mountain View, California. Father Crowley now serves as rector of St. Augustine's Seminary, the two-year philosophy seminary about two-hours drive north of Lusaka.

We are most grateful to the Lord and to the bishops of Zambia that we now have nine Zambian priests who are either Sulpicians or Sulpician Candidates. In addition to Father Hankomoone, who serves as rector of Emmaus, two Sulpician Candidates, Fathers Shoba Nyambe and Victor Mwanamwambwa, now serve there. In addition to Father Crowley, Father Francis Musonda serves at St. Augustine's where he is dean of students. And Fr. Victor Shikaputo, another full member of the Society with a doctorate in moral theology from the Accademia Alfonsiana in Rome, is now the dean of studies at St. Dominic's Major Seminary, the theologate in Lusaka.

Four other Zambian Sulpicians are in graduate studies as they prepare to make a better contribution to priestly formation in Zambia in the future: Fathers Timothy Chikweto, Lewis Chilufya, Smart Chinyanwa and Patrick Simutowe.

As we look toward 2014, we are beginning to search for a property that might serve some day as a site for continuing formation and later as a place where our Zambian members might retire. We are also preparing a booklet that chronicles our history in Zambia.

An historian once commented on the history of the Sulpicians in the United States that we have had an impact that is disproportionate to our small numbers. I think that a similar comment can be made about the impact our Zambian members and candidates on the Church in Zambia. ■

Thomas R. Ulshafer, S. S. is Provincial of the Province of the United States.

Update is a publication that seeks to inform its readership of the state and current activities of the U. S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice and its membership and institutions. For more information please visit our website at www.sulpicians.org

Published by:
Illumicom

Editor:
Sheila George
Jeanean Merkel

Editorial Board:
Philip Keane, S.S.
Judith Mohan

Design:
Lisa Fiedler Jaworski
fiedlerdesignhaus.com

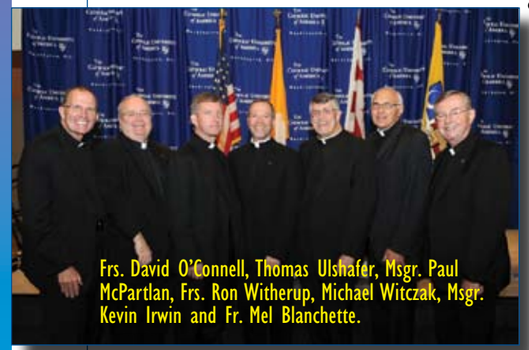
A Symposium for the Year for Priests at the Catholic University of America

By Lawrence B. Terrien, S.S.

Upon hearing of Pope Benedict's announcement of the Year for Priests, Vincentian Father David O'Connell, president of the Catholic University of America, contacted our Sulpician confrere, Father Mel Blanchette, rector of Theological College, and proposed a joint effort of continuing education to coincide with the Year for Priests. It was to be sponsored by the University's Faculty of Theology and Theological College and aimed primarily at the ordained clergy. When the Provincial Council of the Society was consulted about the plan, the members of the council were sufficiently impressed with the idea to offer financial support for the project as well.

Fr. Ronald Witherup

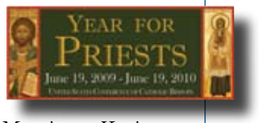
Photo courtesy of xxxxxxx



Frs. David O'Connell, Thomas Ulshafer, Msgr. Paul McPartlan, Frs. Ron Witherup, Michael Witczak, Msgr. Kevin Irwin and Fr. Mel Blanchette.

The program was associated with the annual alumni reunion at Theological College and spread out over two days. There were five major addresses and two panels. Our own Superior General, Father Ronald Witherup, offered the first presentation on the contribution of the Letter to the Hebrews to our understanding of priesthood. Monsignor Paul McPartlan, professor of systematic theology at Catholic University followed with a comprehensive survey of the theology of priesthood. Father Michael Witzak, also a member of the Faculty of Theology, drew theological insights from the ordination rites.

The morning of the second day of the conference began with morning prayer led by Washington's Archbishop Donald Wuerl who preached a brief homily highlighting the principal points of emphasis in the church's current teaching on the priesthood. Father Blanchette then chaired a panel discussion with Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary to Archbishop Wuerl, Father Walter Lewis of the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia and Father Vincent O'Malley, C.M., pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Emmitsburg, Maryland. They reflected in very concrete terms about their own experience of the priest's task of evangelizing. A lively panel discussion among the three of them expanded the topic, which then continued with questions and answers from the audience. The morning session ended with reflections on my part, attempting to situate the priest's ministry and life in the larger context of the universal call to holiness, and reviewing the themes presented in Pope John Paul II's post-synodal document on the priesthood, *Pastores Dabo Vobis.* Monsignor Kevin Irwin, Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of Liturgy at Catholic University gave the last major address on priestly spirituality, followed by another session of questions and answers.



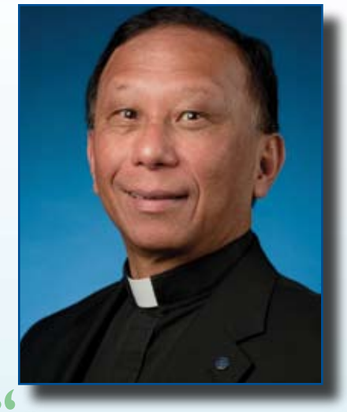
There was a general consensus that the whole event was a success. The five major addresses were published with the title *Ministerial Priesthood in the Third Millennium: Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests.* The book is available for $24.95 from Liturgical Press. ■

Former Sulpician Superior General Lawrence B. Terrien, S.S. is currently professor of systematic theology and director of spiritual life at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore

In Memoriam

Anthony R. Perez, S.S., 1952-2009

By Fr. Renato J. Lopez



"I don't go down that court to lose," Fr. Anthony Perez liked to repeat, obviously proud of his prowess at racquetball. But this past September 8 and 9, he lost. Not one to take defeat sitting down, he returned to the court on Saturday, September 12. He won 21-3, and then he succumbed to a heart attack. Tony died winning.

The energy that Tony invariably gave his game also animated his entire life. He gave his best to every call of opportunity or duty.

He applied himself with dedication and humility as a person who understood himself and his talents as gifts from God.

These qualities did not go unnoticed. After his ordination in 1977, he was appointed Rector of the Minor Seminary of his home archdiocese: Agana, Guam. He held other important positions there until 1985 when he was invited by the Sulpicians to teach at St. Joseph's College in Mountain View, California. In 1991, the Society sent Tony for further studies at the Catholic University of Louvain. While a student there, Tony joined the Society (1993). Upon completion of the Doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1997, he returned to the United States and joined the Faculty of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. For twelve years, Tony was the Director of Liturgy at St. Mary's and Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology. In 2007, he was appointed Praeses of St. Mary's Ecclesiastical Faculty and, in 2009, Vice-Rector. Also in 2009, Tony was elected to the Sulpician Provincial Council.

From the moment Tony's death was announced, there was a palpable grief that shrouded the Seminary. But mourning did not foil the effort to put together a fitting liturgical tribute to him. At 4:30 PM on September 16, St. Mary's, together with Tony's family and friends, received his body at Laubacher Hall with Solemn Vespers. The wake that followed was graced by the presence of Guamanians living in the DC area headed by their two representatives to Congress and the wife of the island's Governor. At 7:30 PM, a Christian Wake Service was led by Fr. Hurst, Seminary Rector, after which the body was moved in procession to St. Mary's Chapel where seminarians and priests took turns keeping vigil until morning. At 11:30 AM on September 17, the Funeral Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of Baltimore with three other Bishops and more than seventy priests as concelebrants. In his homily, Fr. Michael Barré, S.S. put into words the thoughts and feelings of all: "Through his simple human goodness he showed us how eternal life truly begins on earth… Fr. Tony, you were never more of a priest to us than when you showed us the way to eternal life by living it yourself while you were among us."

After the Funeral Liturgy at St. Mary's, Fr. Tony's body was flown to Guam for additional funeral services and burial on September 22. Fr. Leo Larrivee, S.S., represented the Sulpicians at the services in Guam.

Tony lived and died winning in the court of our hearts. ■

Fr. Renato J. Lopez is a Sulpician Candidate and a faculty member at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore.

Canonization Ceremony in Rome

By Ronald D. Witherup, S.S.

Four members of the U.S. Province attended the canonization of five new saints in Rome on October 11, 2009. Among the new saints was Jeanne (Marie de la Croix) Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and Father Damian de Veuster, the Belgian native who ministered for many years to the lepers on Molokai.

Attending the special ceremony led by Pope Benedict XVI were Fathers Michael Strange from San Francisco, John Bitterman and John Kemper from Baltimore, and Ronald Witherup, the superior general. They participated in the canonization Mass itself and in the prayer service held at the church of Santa Maria Maggiore the evening before the canonization.

The Sulpicians have had a close relationship with the Little Sisters of the Poor for decades. They continue to care for elderly Sulpician confreres at Saint Charles Villa and Saint Martin's Home in Catonsville, Maryland. The relationship with the Diocese of Honolulu goes back to the days when the Sulpicians operated St. Stephen's Minor Seminary on Oahu. Father Witherup met Bishop Larry Silva, a St. Patrick's alumnus, and some of the Hawaiian delegation at a Mass of thanksgiving held the day after the canonization.

...The U.S. Province rejoices in these two new saints and offers warm congratulations to their respective communities!

The U.S. Province rejoices in these two new saints and offers warm congratulations to their respective communities! ■

Ronald D. Witherup, S.S., is Superior General of the Society of St. Sulpice.

continued from p. 1

Patrick's in 1999 and was appointed Vice-Rector in 2007. In addition, Fr. McKearney has been Director of Music and Dean of Students at St. Patrick's and has taught homiletics for several years. He succeeds the Reverend Gerald L. Brown, S.S., Ph.D., who served as President-Rector from 2004 until 2009.

In reflecting upon his first months as President-Rector, Fr. McKearney has commented: "I am very honored by the appointment and humbled by the confidence of the Society as well as that of Archbishop Niederauer… The support of our leadership team coupled with the positive spirit within the house allows me to feel that we are off to a good start. I am fully aware of the unique challenges that we face at St. Patrick's and am dedicated to meeting them all head-on… In the end, however, the grace of God, so evident in this place for over 110 years, will continue to sustain us and give us new life for the sake of the priesthood in the 21st century."

Fr. McKearney

Fr. McKearney's appointment is significant not only for St. Patrick's Seminary, but also for the U.S. Sulpician Province, as it indicates a transition to a new generation of leaders for our U.S. seminaries and within the Province itself. The Provincial Assembly affirmed the importance of entrusting the Province to a new generation of leaders by electing four consultors in their 50s, namely Frs. Daniel Moore, John Kemper, James Myers, and Anthony Perez to serve as Consultors to complement the wisdom and experience of the Provincial Superior, Father Thomas Ulshafer.

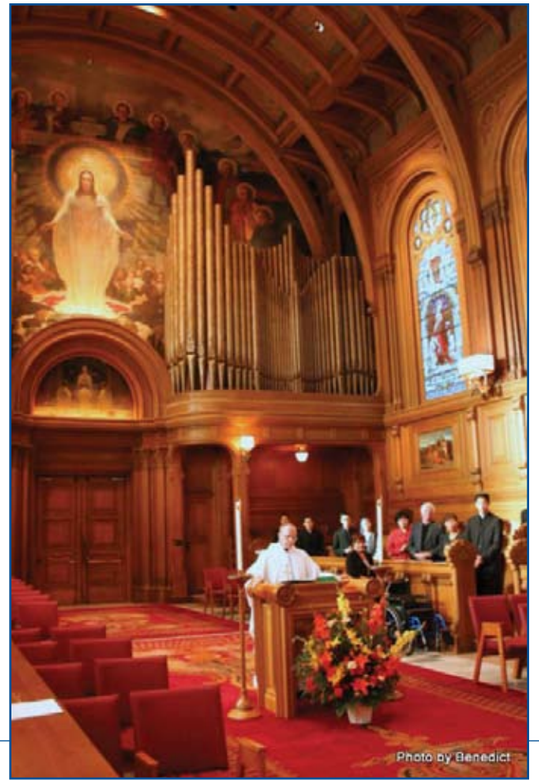


Photo by Benedict

In keeping with the Sulpician *Constitutions*, Father McKearney was selected by the Provincial Council to fulfill the term of Fr. Perez, whose untimely death on September 12 left an opening on the Council.

The U.S. Province is fortunate to include among its members, both in Zambia and in the United States, priests who are qualified and capable of assuming significant leadership roles in our seminaries and institutions in the years ahead. Fr. McKearney's appointment as President-Rector marks a promising era both for St. Patrick's Seminary and for the Society of Saint Sulpice in the United States. ■

James E. Myers, S.S. is the Director of the Vatican II Institute at St. Patrick's and a member of the Sulpician Provincial Council.

The photo on p. 1 shows Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, center, with Frs. McKearney and Ulshafer during the installation ceremony for Fr. McKearney. The remaining pictures are from the installation ceremony.

Dedication of New Visitor Center

By John C. Kemper, S.S.

Main entrance of Center.

"Living History at Sacred Site" was the front page headline of the September 17, 2009 edition of *The Catholic Review*, the newspaper for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The cover photograph (also seen here) showed Gus Augustus, coordinator for Community and Faith Based Organizations, Office of the Mayor; Fr. Thomas Ulshafer, Provincial Superior; Cardinal William Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore and Archbishop Émilius Goulet, p.s.s., now the retired archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba, Canada, cutting the ribbon opening the new Visitor Center at St. Mary's Spiritual Center & Historic Site.

Over 250 people attended the September 13 dedication Mass and blessing of the new Visitor Center. The dedication of the new Visitor Center brought to an end the yearlong celebration of the bicentennial of the dedication of the historic Seminary Chapel and the arrival of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at her home on Paca Street. The new building was designed by GWWO Architects and built by H. H. Lewis Contractor. The new building includes a state-of-the-art lecture hall, gallery and exhibit space, a gift shop, modern restrooms, and expanded parking. Included in this transformation was new landscaping that invites individuals into a spirit of reflection.

Oblate Sisters view historical documents.

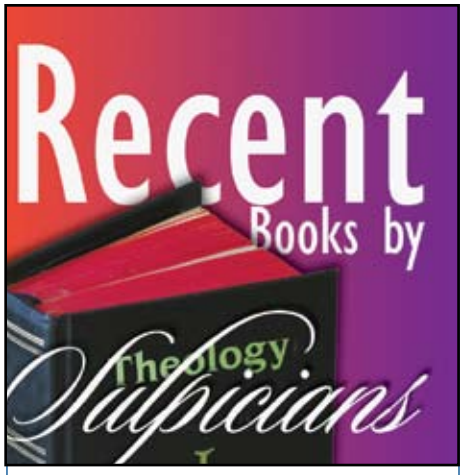
The final phase of the site restoration is the interior of the historic Seminary Chapel. During his homily, Fr. Ulshafer reminded the participants that the site restoration will not be complete until the interior of the chapel is completed. A committee has met several times to discuss the restoration of the chapel. Since the chapel is currently seen more as a historic site than a contemporary worship site, the sanctuary will reflect the historic nature of the chapel while the nave will be still available for contemporary functions, such as retreats and workshops. Likewise,

Father Ulshafer delivers homily.

Continued on p.8

Archbishop Goulet celebrates Mass with Deacon Chris Ballard.

Attendees enjoy outdoor reception following Mass.



Recent Books/Translations by Sulpicians:

Raymond E. Brown, S.S., **Japanese trans. of The Gospel and Epistles of John: A Concise Commentary** (Trans. Toshiharu Yuasa and Noboru Tanaka; Kyoyusha, 2008)

Raymond E. Brown, S.S., **Lire les Évangiles les dimanches du temps ordinaire** (Cerf, 2009).

Ronald D. Witherup, S.S. (editor, with Catherine Upchurch),. **The Four Gospels: Catholic Personal Study Edition** (Liturgical Press, 2009).

Ronald D. Witherup, S.S., **The Bible Companion: A Catholic Handbook for Beginners** (new ed.; Crossroad, 2009).

Ronald D. Witherup, S.S., Lawrence B. Terrien, S.S., et al., **Ministerial Priesthood in the Third Millennium: Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests** (Liturgical Press, 2009).

continued from p. 7

the infrastructure needed to support future use will include a new heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system, painting, and new lighting and sound systems. Over the next two years, the capital campaign for the site will be reaching out to alumni, friends, and foundations to help the Sulpicians with this much needed historic restoration of the St. Mary's Seminary Chapel on Paca Street. ■

John C. Kemper, S.S. is the Director of St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site. He is a member of the Sulpician Provincial Council.

Update

Sulpician Provincial House
5408 Roland Ave.
Baltimore MD 21210-1998
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT # 1078