

## “FRIENDS 2009” A GREAT SUCCESS



Friends of the Seminary Vespers, reception, silent auction and dinner brought together more than 200 benefactors and friends of the seminary as well as alumni, faculty, staff and seminarians. This year's event exceeded its goal by more than 17 percent or over \$35,200 compared to last year. It was noted by Msgr. Keith R. Brennan that the event has very little overhead, therefore eighty-seven percent of gifts

and sponsorships received went directly to support seminarian education.

Honorary Chairs were Eleanore "Danger" and the late Sir Jacques Vinmont, Jr. of St. Lucy Parish, Highland Beach. Carmel B. Quinn of St. Edward Parish in Palm Beach was event chair and the Sustaining Sponsor was Mrs. Catherine R. Murphy. SunTrust was once again the corporate sponsor.

The annual St. Vincent de Paul Regional Awards were also presented to the Most Reverend John J. Nevins, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Venice, and the Florida Council of the Knights of Columbus. The honors were bestowed at the conclusion of Solemn Vespers, with Archbishop John C. Favalora presiding, as part of the celebration and reception.

Presented annually since 1984, the St. Vincent de Paul Award honors those persons who have witnessed to the values of the Gospel through their lives and service to the People of God, and who have excelled in any one of the following categories:

- contributed to the formation of priests, the promotion of vocations or exceptional involvement in ministry to priests
- has been an outstanding role model for ordained or lay ministry
- promoted the equality of opportunities and the respect for the life and dignity of minorities, migrant workers, the unborn, the elderly, etc., in the spirit of Christian compassion and love of neighbor
- promoted the development and formation of lay ministers, or
- excelled in the area of evangelization

Since 1996, the seminary has granted two awards, one to a lay person and one to a religious. Nominations are made by members of the seminary's Board of Trustees and then voted on by the full board.

Bishop Nevins, a former member of the seminary's Board of Trustees, is a native of New Rochelle, N.Y. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1959 and served the Archdiocese of Miami in a variety of capacities for almost 25 years. Bishop Nevins was appointed the first Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in 1984.

Bishop Nevins has overseen the growth of the Catholic population in his 10-county Diocese from approximately 115,000 to more than 200,000 registered parishioners. To meet the needs of this growth, he has added 15 parishes to the original 39, increased the number of chapels and

missions to 13 and established one new elementary school and a School for Papal Ministry. Under his motto "To Serve With Mercy," Bishop Nevins has responded to changing societal needs by instituting many diocesan ministries including those to migrant farm workers, unwed mothers, refugees and people with HIV.AIDS.

The Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus was recognized for its long standing and tireless support of the seminary. James Schonefeld, State Deputy, accepted the "lay" St. Vincent de Paul Award, on behalf of the State Council.