

"Providing Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral Formation for the Priesthood"

Dear Prospective Rector's Guild Member,

As a faithful Catholic, you must be aware of the critical shortage of priests in your diocese and in the Church at large. Every May we are thankful that St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, a graduate school serving the seven dioceses of the Province of Florida graduate seminarians with a Masters of Divinity degree. In an average year eight to ten seminarians are ordained within a short time after graduation, and have begun their first priestly assignment.



Craig Malzacher,
ordained May 10, '08 by
Archbishop Favalora,
Archdiocese of Miami.

For forty-five years St. Vincent de Paul has been preparing men who respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ and serve God's people as ordained priests. Through a program both challenging and rewarding, our most recent graduates have successfully completed four years of in-depth classroom studies in theology, plus a "Pastoral Year" at a parish in their diocese.

In the 2007-08 academic year 60 men were enrolled in our Seminary program and we expect to enroll 17 to 19 new students this fall, more than enough to replace the number of recent graduates. Some of these fine men are undoubtedly from your parish and diocese. They are the future of the Catholic Church in Florida. Each one has committed to devoting his life to serving God, you, and your family.

I am writing today to enlist your support for the seminary by joining *The Rector's Guild*, an exciting new initiative to ensure that St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary has the resources available to secure the continued flow of graduates who will serve our parishes as spiritual leaders. You can become a key participant in this endeavor by becoming a member with a contribution of \$1,000 or more. This is indeed a sizeable request, but as a friend of the seminary, I know you understand the urgency and challenges we face to accomplish our mission to train men for the priesthood. Members of the newly established *Rector's Guild* will help to underwrite the education and formation of St. Vincent's seminarians who will one day provide countless years of priestly service.

Do you know what it takes to graduate from St. Vincent de Paul? This is a subject we have not discussed enough with our friends and supporters. Did you know each seminarian must complete 106 core credit hours, eight hours of electives and eleven seminars to graduate and qualify for ordination? Course titles include Christian Spirituality, Canon Law, Prophetic Literature, Theological Anthropology, Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations, Ecclesiastical Latin and Parish Management. Because St. Vincent is one of the few bilingual Catholic seminaries in the country, students must also prove competence in both English and Spanish.

Our resident students have very full schedules, performing house jobs on campus and doing volunteer and ministerial works within the community on a weekly basis. They also attend daily Mass, morning and evening prayer, and are involved in numerous school functions each semester. During breaks for Easter, Christmas and other religious holidays, each seminarian returns home, almost always with duties to perform in their local parishes. Seminarians spend their third year, (the Pastoral year) outside the classroom working full-time at a parish where they study and perform a wide range of duties.

The call of men to the priesthood is an invitation to enter more fully into the life of God. Here at St. Vincent de Paul, each seminarian is provided with the *human, spiritual, academic* and *pastoral* training needed to properly prepare for the Roman Catholic priesthood. This requires an incredible personal commitment, faith and the patience of each of our students.

It also requires a considerable sum of money from each diocese and other contributors to help make up the difference between seminary tuition and the actual cost of educating future priests. However, in 2008 tuition paid by our seminarian's home dioceses represented only 43.5% of the \$66,000 cost of education and formation at the seminary; the financial needs of the seminary are significant.

We are hoping you can appreciate the value of our mission and the challenge to educate our future priests. The business of operating and maintaining the facility and support of the faculty and staff — comes at a price. Although we feel the price we pay is worth it, we constantly do the best we can to stretch every budget dollar.

Most of us would like to feel we have done something in our lives to contribute to making the world a better place. You now have the opportunity to help continue St. Vincent de Paul Seminary's important mission. Would you please prayerfully consider joining the *Rector's Guild* at the Seminarian level of \$1,000 or more? You will be helping seminarians from your diocese and perhaps from your own parish. Dozens of St. Vincent graduates already have been doing God's work by serving your diocese and parish.



I thank you in advance for your vision and commitment to the training and forming men for the priesthood, the lifeblood of our church.

The future of St. Vincent de Paul cannot be guaranteed unless we secure its financial future. I believe that those men called to serve as priests deserve nothing less than our continued support. I ask you to help with the education of our seminarians by joining the *Rector's Guild* now. Join us as we endeavor to secure the future by providing our parishes with qualified spiritual leaders.

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith R. Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Reverend Monsignor Keith R. Brennan, J.C.D.
Rector/President

P.S. Our campus is 45 years old, and many of our facilities need upgrading and improvements. Therefore, to help you understand some of the challenges we face, I have compiled a list of specific items that the seminary needs to replace, upgrade or purchase. Please refer to it when considering your gift. Funding these improvements will make an immediate impact in the quality of education and experience of our seminarians.

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary Rector's Guild

A Proposal from Msgr. Keith R. Brennan
Rector and President



An Invitation to Prospective Members



I. The Rector's Guild



The Rector's Guild was created with the special purpose of providing a continuing source of major spiritual and financial support for the unmet needs and future challenges of the seminary.

It is an opportunity for individuals and families to express their stewardship as benefactors of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary. These individuals recognize the need for the available resources today and into the future ensuring that seminarians will be able to acquire the skills to meet the challenges of priesthood and managing a modern parish.

Your gift is not only a valuable resource to the seminary, but a source of inspiration and encouragement to seminarians and graduates of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary to continue their work and renew their efforts in the name of God.

A few of our seminarians and graduates have shared a small part of their journey with you in this brochure. Please take the time to prayerfully read and reflect upon their "stories" along with their expressions of appreciation. That same gratitude is echoed by all the men who have responded to the call of God through a vocation to the priesthood. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support for our future priests.

As a member of the *Rector's Guild* an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more is required to support the training of seminarians for the priesthood. Member giving levels include the following benefits and privileges:

Seminarian Sponsor: Annual Contribution of \$1,000 to \$4,999

- Complimentary annual subscription to *Dialogue*
- Special Invitation to Seminary activities
- Invitation to a member only retreat experience
- Recognition in the Annual Donor Mass & Brunch Program
- Annual Recognition in the Hall of Honor in St. Vincent Chapel

Rector's Circle: Annual Contribution of \$5,000 to \$9,999

- All of the above, plus...
- Two seats at the annual "Friends of the Seminary" Vesper Reception & Dinner

Pace Setters: Annual Contribution of \$10,000 to \$24,999

- All of the above, plus...
- Reserved seating in the chapel for "Friends of the Seminary" Vesper Reception & Dinner
- Table for up to six at the annual "Friends of the Seminary" Vesper Reception & Dinner



Rector's Guild Benefits and Privileges continued...

Founder's Society: Annual Contribution of \$25,000 to \$49,999

- All of the above, plus...
- Photo with Bishop and/or Rector
- "Friends of the Seminary" billboard and event program recognition

St. Vincent Ambassadors: Annual Contribution of \$50,000 to \$99,999

- All of the above, plus...
- Full page ad in the "Friends of the Seminary" Reception & Dinner Program
- Table up to ten at the annual "Friends of the Seminary" Vesper Reception & Dinner
- Special recognition presentation at "Friends of the Seminary"

Bishop Joseph P. Hurley Visionaries: Annual Contribution of \$100,000+

- All of the above, plus...
- Honorary Chairmanship of "Friends of the Seminary"
- Two tables of up to ten each at the annual "Friends of the Seminary" Vesper Reception & Dinner
- Named & Memorial Gifts Opportunities

"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48)

II. About The Seminary



St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, Florida, has educated more than 450 priest since its founding in 1963. These alumni have gone on to parishes throughout Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

The primary mission of St. Vincent is to provide a human, spiritual, academic and pastoral program to prepare candidates for the priesthood. The seminary also fosters a bilingual and multicultural environment in recognition of the growing Hispanic presence in the United States. St. Vincent is the leading bilingual and multicultural theologate in the country.

As a free standing graduate, professional school of theology, the seminary is secondarily committed to providing continuing education for clergy, religious and laity of all denominations. Qualified, non-seminarian students may enroll in theological courses and seek the appropriate degrees.

III. The Impact of the Seminary – What Our Alumni Say

Current seminarians and our alumni best describe the role and importance of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

“The counsel and direction provided by the priests and staff at St. Vincent has helped me to grow in virtue and holiness, and their example has shown me what it will be like to be a good and holy priest,” says Richard Vigoa of the Archdiocese of Miami and Class of 2008. *“I feel blessed to have the love and support of my family, friends and others who support vocations here at St. Vincent de Paul. Please continue to pray for all seminarians, and know that you are in all our prayers each day.”*

Father Christopher Ligouri, Parochial Vicar at Cathedral-Basilica, St. Augustine, Florida and member of the Class of 2003, recalls his years at the seminary as *“a time of discernment and conversion during which I was called by God to be one of His shepherds. It was also an opportunity to grow in love for God and for others and to learn to trust God. I was able to give total commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church.”*

Alumni Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., fondly recalls senior class members returning to the seminary to share their pastoral experiences and to renew friendships. *“This often helped to keep me focused on the goal of my vocation – ordination to the priesthood and holiness of life.”*

“Many seminarians and future priests get to know one another and can share in their common experiences and receive similar formation with an emphasis on strong spiritual growth while at St. Vincent. The seminary can also strengthen the relationship of the Roman Catholic Faith through a concerted effort toward catechesis and evangelization.”

“While there are many reasons to support the seminary, it is important to know how their seminary successfully integrates the various cultures of the Church in Florida and the areas where its alumni serve the people of God.”

Our campus is 45 years old, and many of our facilities need upgrading and improvements. Therefore, to help you understand some of the challenges we face, I have compiled a list of specific items that the seminary needs to replace. Please refer to it when considering your gift. Funding these improvements will make a real impact in the quality of education and experience of our seminarians.



**URGENT FACILITY, EQUIPMENT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS
FOR
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL SEMINARY***

July 2008

Urgent Facility, Improvement or Equipment Need	Description	Estimated Cost
Two (2) Defibrillators	AED's with wall bracket & sign, carrying case, installation, training	\$6,954
Safety Railings (campus stairs/auditorium)	Safety hand railings for campus stairs and steps in auditorium	\$15,000
New Guest Room Furniture	Replace various age mixed and 2 nd hand furniture with new furnishings for 8 guest rooms (includes paint & drapes)	\$13,500
Classroom Conversions	To convert 3 existing classrooms to a modern teaching facilities. Improvements include new ceiling and A/C reconfiguration, a white board, overhead mounted LCD projector, podium and PC, wiring, speaker system, carpeting, new paint and furnishings. \$40,000 each	\$120,000
Refectory Tables & Chairs	Replacement of 45 year old chairs and 20+ year old tables for refectory and multi-purpose use	\$60,000
Kitchen Equipment	New range stove, brazing pan	\$20,000
Two (2) Laptop PCs	Replacement of 8 year old single laptop PC for use by students and staff	\$4,000
LCD Projector	For use in presentations on and off campus	\$1,200

* Named & Memorial Gift Opportunities are available for those listed above and for a wide range others on campus. Please contact the SVDP Department of Institutional Development for more information.

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(561) 732-4424 - www.svdpc.edu

MEMORANDUM OF ACCEPTANCE

TO: Msgr Keith R. Brennan
Rector & President

THE RECTOR'S GUILD

FROM: Prospective Member



Dear Msgr. Brennan,

I am pleased to accept your invitation to play a leadership role ensuring the future of the seminary.

Please enroll me as a member of the *Rector's Guild* to help underwrite the education and formation of St. Vincent's seminarians.

Please enroll me as a member of the *Rector's Guild* at the following level:

\$1,000 - Seminarian Sponsor

I'm interested in an expanded role at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

\$5,000 - Rector's Circle* \$10,000 - Pace Setters* \$25,000 - Founder's Society*

*Eligible for additional benefits, as indicated in the enclosed proposal.

I am unable to join the *Rector's Guild* at this time. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

Signed: _____

Date

Please list my name (our) name(s) in the Annual Donor Mass & Brunch Program as follows:

I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

My check to St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is enclosed.

Please charge my: Please check one: AMEX Discover Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you for your commitment and your vision.