



December 2004

# Dialogue

From St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends:

Let me begin by wishing each of you a most fruitful Advent and blessed Christmas on behalf of all of us here at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. It has been a full year since we began DIALOGUE and our commitment to communicate with you on a regular basis.

Many good things have taken place during that time. The number of seminarians has continued at a steady pace. The Rector's Development Council has grown to a substantial body with representation broadening to new dioceses within the Florida Province at a most gratifying rate.

This growing enthusiasm and ever-increasing support of the work of the seminary is especially gratifying to our Bishops, our faculty, our staff and our seminarians.

Prompted by this outpouring of support for the seminary, we have taken a closer look at ways to improve the seminary so that it does an even better job of preparing the priests of tomorrow.

During this season of giving, I want to personally thank you for your interest and support of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Your prayers and willingness to help make the seminary an even greater asset to Catholics of Florida provides all of us with validation of our daily work.

I look forward to sharing news of our plans for the seminary as we move forward.

*Monsignor Stephen C. Bosso*

Monsignor Stephen C. Bosso  
Rector/President



Oscar Schorp Library

## OSCAR SCHORP: A Friend of the Seminary

The newest structure at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is the library – administrative building on the far north end of the campus. If you've been to the campus, you have undoubtedly seen this building. It is a wonderful addition and a significant resource.

However, not many know who made this campus addition possible. The late Mr. Oscar C. Schorp, who passed away in August of 1992, bequeathed the majority of his estate to the seminary. This bequest made it possible for the seminary to build this facility, which not only houses our library and computer center, but administrative offices, as well.

Mr. Schorp, who was a native of San Antonio, Texas and former president of Carter Oil Company, had been a regular contributor to the seminary during his life. He resided in Ft. Lauderdale.

"It is so important to recognize the tremendous long term impact major gifts, such as the bequest of Mr. Schorp, have on the seminary and our commitment to preparing the priests of tomorrow," said Monsignor Stephen C. Bosso, Rector/President of the Seminary. "It is indeed the gift that keeps on giving and for which we will be ever so grateful."

# PASTORAL PROGRAM EXPANSIONS

## Continuing to Raise the Bar

For Monsignor Stephen C. Bosso "continuing to raise the bar" could easily be the slogan for his tenure as Rector/President of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Perhaps more a challenge than slogan, Monsignor Bosso firmly believes it is incumbent upon faculty, staff, seminarians and him to continuously seek ways to improve all aspects of the seminary. To him "status quo" is not the end point, but rather the beginning.

Recent enhancements to the Pastoral Formation Program exemplify how the seminary is responding. Coincidentally, these changes came about as the result of Monsignor Bosso's urging and as a priority among the seminary's owning Bishops who recognize the importance of pastoral preparation in the formation of competent and committed parish priests.

The primary purpose of the seminary is to provide priests whom, in the area of pastoral formation:

- have developed the skills and sensitivity necessary in the proclamation of the Gospel and in leading divine worship
- have developed decisive leadership skills and the ability to work collaboratively and professionally with men and women
- are able to work in a multicultural, multi-ethnic setting.

Pastoral Formation provides an opportunity for the seminarian to exercise leadership in the Church and to learn the priestly dimension of pastoral ministry. Good role models are the best teachers, witnessing to ways in which active pastoral ministry can be combined with a life of prayer and Gospel simplicity.

By offering seminarians various supervised experiences of pastoral ministry, the seminary seeks to help them develop a zeal for the mission of the Church, a love for the pastoral care of God's people and a pastoral acumen that reflects their readiness for an ordained ministry. Through guided reflection upon these experiences, candidates perceive the linkage between them and their

academic and spiritual formation. This guided reflection puts the candidates' decisions for priesthood to a realistic test as they see more clearly what a priest's life will demand of them.

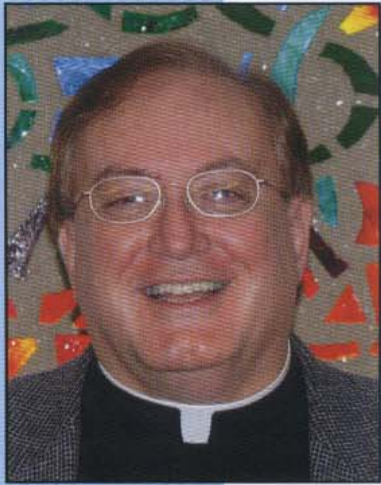
Among recent enhancements to the Pastoral Formation Program is the appointment of Monsignor Michael McGraw, a priest and a licensed social worker, as the Dean of Pastoral Formation. Sister Maureen Grady, the immediate past Dean, continues in the program with increased responsibility for supervisors as the new Director of Field Ministry. "It had become apparent to Monsignor Bosso and to Sister Maureen that there were opportunities to improve several aspects of the program," said Monsignor McGraw. "With the doubling of the staff, we are now able to complement field supervision with sessions at the seminary, helping to achieve greater benefit for seminarians engaged in this important part of the formation." He also noted that seminary based supervision offers professional training and years of experience to this engagement.

The Pastoral Formation Program's presence on campus has also undergone changes. Monsignor McGraw and Sister Maureen are located in adjacent offices next to a conference room within the central core of the seminary complex. "Being in the hub of seminary life with convenient facilities for individual and group activities will be beneficial for fulfillment of the professional pastoral goals of the seminary."

Curriculum changes include the addition of one unit of required Clinical Pastoral Education. This is typically a three-month on-site intensive training term in a health care or human services environment with the following components:

- Pastoral reflection which focuses on one's self as person and minister in relationship to persons in need
- Pastoral formation which is concentrated on personal and pastoral identity in learning and ministry
- Pastoral competence which emphasizes a deepening of knowledge and experience in pastoral function and skills.

Additional requirement changes include two integrative seminars, each taught by a male / female faculty team. Field placements include such areas as religious education, pastoral care of the sick and infirm, social welfare services, youth and young adult ministry, etc.; and supervision for all field placements takes place on site as well as the seminary.



Msgr. Mike McGraw

# Rector's Guild Reception



Our first Rector's Guild Reception was hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Eskra and son David (pictured with Monsignor Bosso) at their home in Coral Gables. We extend our sincerest thanks for their support of the Seminary. Please contact Bill Conroy (561-732-4424, ext. 152) if you would like to host a reception in your area.



## A Journey That Began in the 3rd Grade

When Rev. James R. Boddie, Jr., was a young man growing up in Jacksonville as a member of St. Pius V Catholic Church and a student at the parish school, he did many of the things other youngsters did at that age. "I also used to practice celebrating Mass at home and I am certain that was the beginning of God's calling," he said. "I admired our parish priests and pastor."



Rev. James R. Boddie, Jr.

The oldest of four children, Father Boddie has two sisters (Annette & Cynthia) and a brother, Frederick. Annette is a health care professional at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, while Cynthia recently retired from Florida's Department of Children and Families. Frederick, who is an executive with the Minneapolis Convention Center, resides with his family in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.

Father Boddie's vocation continued to grow through elementary school and during his four years at Bishop Kenny High School. "I played sports and enjoyed the sciences, but felt a continued deepening of God's calling as I grew older. I was always involved in church activities and looked for ways to help the parish."

After receiving his high school degree in 1970, Father Boddie entered St. John Vianney Minor Seminary and then on to St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary where he was a member of the Class of 1978. He was the first African American priest ordained in the Diocese of St. Augustine and in the state of Florida.

Father Boddie has had six assignments since graduating from St. Vincent de Paul – St. Paul's Church and Christ the King in Jacksonville; St. Catherine's at Orange Park; pastor of Sacred Heart in Green Cove Springs and a return to his home parish as pastor of St. Pius V. He is currently back at St. Catherine's as pastor. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

"I firmly believe that it is important for Catholics in Florida to recognize and appreciate the gift we have at St. Vincent," said Father Boddie. "There is a continuing need for diocesan priests in our Province and region and that need is growing. Additionally, St. Vincent has long recognized and continues to address the multi-cultural needs of Catholics. As both a diocesan pastor and member of the seminary board I have the twin perspectives that give me a special insight."

The journey that began in the 3rd Grade continues.



# St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary Ordination Class of 2004



*Left to right: Eduardo Medina, Robert Cadrecha, Henryk Pawelec, Robert Reagan, Marek Maczynski, James Cogan, Krzysztof Gazdowicz, Yamil A. Velazquez, Charnel Jeanty, Juan Torres, Michel H. Garcia, Fabio A. Alvarez-Posada.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Annual Friends of the Seminary Evening February 4

Please mark your calendars for the evening of February 4, 2005 to meet the Bishops of Florida, our Board of Trustees, our faculty, staff and the seminarians at the Annual Friends of the Seminary gathering at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

"The gathering will begin at 7 P.M. with evening prayer services in St. Vincent's Chapel followed by a reception and entertainment," said Mr. Larry Dahman, event chair and member of the Rector's Development Council.

"Invitations will be mailed soon, but I urge all Friends of the Seminary to make note of this upcoming date," said Dahman. "This is a special opportunity to meet all of the members of our Seminary family, especially those men who will be meeting the spiritual needs of future generations."

Monsignor Stephen C. Bosso  
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