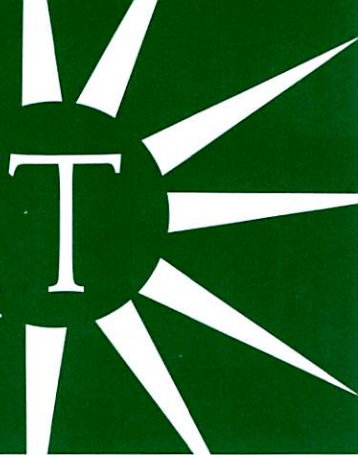


JOYFUL LIGHT



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Seminary to Begin ATS Self-Study



Seated (left to right): Br. Jerome Wolbert, ofm, Anthony Sedun, Deacon Michael O'Loughlin; standing: Richard Plishka, Christian Tran, Adam Lowe, Stephen Williams, Frank Hanincik. Absent from the photo: Andrew Nagrant.

The seminarians pictured above will one day be proud to say that their school is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

On September 23 and 24, 2004 Fr. Jack Custer, dean at the seminary, and Dr. Betty Radvak Shovlin, chair of the advisory board, attended The Association of Theological Schools Self-Study Workshop, discovering what it means to be accredited and what the seminary faculty and staff,

the Metropolitan and Board of Directors, and the Advisory Board must do to reach accreditation.

According to Betty Radvak Shovlin of Pittsburgh, who has agreed to coordinate this activity, "Through a very demanding, multi-year process, the seminary will undergo close scrutiny of its life in order to identify the qualities of excellence that already exist, those that need to be achieved, the high standards it must adhere to for institutional

strength and educational effectiveness. As ATS says, this is not a 'Trivial Pursuit.' It is not just a bureaucratic effort but also an intellectual one." Self-study will involve examining and planning for such areas as: purposes of the institution, planning and evaluation of programs, activities of theological scholarship, curriculum and degree programs, library collections, faculty qualifications, teaching expertise and research, student services, authority and governance, and resources—human, financial, physical, data and environmental.

Fr. John G. Petro, seminary rector, said, "I can't think of a person more qualified to lead us through the ATS self-study than Betty Shovlin, who has agreed to coordinate the entire process. She is an experienced and talented educator; she is unquestionably thorough, and she has the seminary's best interests at heart. Together with the faculty and staff, and especially with Fr. Jack, she can lead us to meet the rigorous standards of ATS and become an even better seminary and a true center of learning."

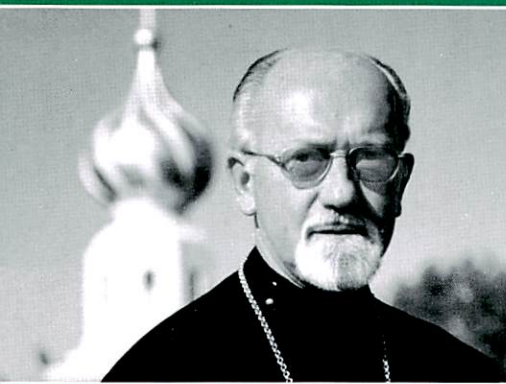
Seminary Makes Needed Repairs

Over the summer, the seminary completed several renovation projects. Some activity was not planned and cut deeply into the budget. For instance, the roof of the main building needed to be replaced, as well as

the garage roof. New steps were installed at the entrance to the Annex, and the sewer line was replaced in that same building. With the aid of a Koch Foundation grant, we began the renovation of several student rooms: removing wall coverings, patching the plaster, painting the walls, laminating floors, and installing new sinks, vanities and lighting fixtures. The

furniture will be replaced in the coming weeks. Heating in the chapel was also upgraded. Heat exchangers are currently being installed and this will allow the chapel to be air conditioned, as well, which the deacon candidates will greatly appreciate during the summer program. Costs for these renovations exceeded \$150,000.

Rector's Message



Glory to Jesus Christ!

Greetings! I am pleased to share this news with you. On 27 June 2004, by a unanimous vote, we were granted associate membership

for three to five years in The Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada with extensions possible, if necessary. We now begin the next phase toward accreditation, the self-study process.

Meanwhile, life continues to be rich and exciting at the seminary. We welcome nine students into the seminary formation program, and another nine students participate in the M.A program and other educational offerings that take place both during the day and in the evenings.

The Deacon Formation Program continued this June with nineteen candidates from across the country. Also, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute will continue with five

sessions this year and about fifty people participating. The seminary faculty and staff have been very actively involved in academic and professional conferences, retreats, days of prayer and seminars here and abroad. A variety of programs and workshops were offered at the seminary this summer bringing many people here, thus furthering our goal to become a true Center of Learning.

I trust this review will help you to be in touch with the life of our seminary, and I invite you to visit our seminary when you are in the Pittsburgh area.

*Father John G. Petro,
Rector*

Brother Jerome Blends the Franciscan Life and the Byzantine Church

"I wasn't called to the religious life until later in life," Brother Jerome Wolbert, 35, a second year student at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, said.

"I was teaching math at the University of Michigan and wanted to deepen my spiritual life. I had met some Secular Franciscans, learned more about St. Francis of Assisi, and explored the Franciscan way of life. After that, I felt called to live in religious community."

Brother Jerome, who was born in Flint, Michigan and attended St. Michael's Byzantine Church (now in Flushing, Michigan), was living in Ann Arbor and eventually spoke with his then-bishop Basil (now Metropolitan Basil), who told him of the community of Franciscans at Sybertsville, PA.

"I visited there," Brother Jerome said, "and felt this was God's calling; so, I signed on. I felt that I had feelings and attitudes parallel to St. Francis. He understood the love of God. Also, his stories resonated with me." Brother Jerome came to the Byzantine

Catholic Seminary in the fall of 2003 at the start of his second year of temporary vows.

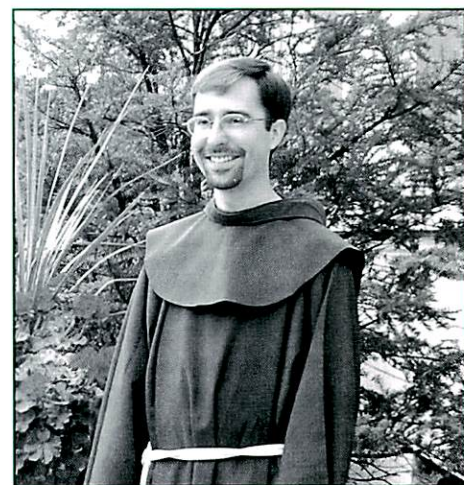
"My province is committed to Byzantine Catholics having a Byzantine expression of their Franciscan life," Brother Jerome said. "The General Minister wrote that this is not to be suppressed."

The son of Jerome and Judy Wolbert, Brother Jerome has adapted well to the Pittsburgh Seminary.

"We have a community life," he said of his experience. "We are all committed to a life of prayer and our enthusiasm keeps me going. In addition, we cook dinner for each other and look out for each other in various ways. There is a genuine kindness and caring. It's a great environment for a Friar who wants to deepen his understanding of the Byzantine Catholic faith."

Brother Jerome credits the seminary with encouraging an enthusiastic learning environment and for providing opportunities for pastoral development.

"This summer," he said, "I was a chaplain intern at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. I was assigned to the



Brother Jerome Wolbert

in-patient rehabilitation and outpatient dialysis units, so I saw many of my patients for more than the usual short hospital stay. I was blessed to be able to pray with so many people at such intense times, facing surgery or death, and also times of joy or promise with hope for rehabilitation."

Brother Jerome, who has a Ph. D in mathematics from the University of Chicago, is the oldest of five children whose siblings include Ruth, George, Marc, and Sarah. After profession of his solemn vows, he may teach or do retreat work.

"I will go wherever I'm most needed and my talents can help," Brother Jerome said.

John Danovich Gets Involved



John Danovich

Some people go to church on Sunday and their parish involvement ends there.

For people like John Danovich, member of the Advisory Board of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, involvement means more.

"I have attended St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Catholic Church in Indianapolis since 1981," John said recently. "Currently I'm one of four cantors, the Parish Advisory Council president, one of the primary bakers (we have many different baking projects

throughout the year), a fund raising marketer (I sell our baked goods at a local farmers' market throughout the summer and mail out order forms during the Easter and Christmas sales), and I teach how to write pysanky (Easter eggs) and weave palms on Palm Sunday."

John, who was born in Latrobe, PA, which he says is "known for Arnold Palmer, Mister Rogers and Rolling Rock Beer," has always been involved in his church. He grew up in Philadelphia, PA where he attended Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in South Philadelphia.

"I was an altar boy, and many of the litanies were recited between the priest and the altar boy to the left of the altar," he said of his early church experiences. "I couldn't understand the Slavonic language, especially the sermon, but usually opted to attend the Slavonic liturgy instead of the English. Our parish had plenty of altar boys so the first six that showed up (with their personal cassock in hand) were able to serve. I stopped serving at the altar when I was in my middle teens to give other boys a chance."

"The seminary... facilities are being utilized for many worthwhile activities involving church members and the local community."

—John Danovich

John, who is single, earned a BS degree in Computer Science from Millersville State College (now called Millersville University) just west of Lancaster, PA. He worked at Sperry Univac, now Unisys Corporation, for 21 years. After Sperry Univac, he worked as a computer consultant for two years with kforce.com and is currently the controller of The Handwork Corporation, a general contractor firm.

When asked what he does when not in church or working, John said, "I enjoy vegetable gardening, camping, hiking and spelunking (caving). I'm the publisher of a quarterly newsletter for the Indiana Cave Survey, which maintains a catalog of the cave features in the state of Indiana."

As a member of the seminary board, John, who serves on the finance and development committee, has a chance to see the seminary up close.

Continued on page 4

Seminary Names New Librarian



Cynthia L. Schwartz

Cynthia L. Schwartz of Ross Township near Pittsburgh was hired as librarian at the seminary in June 2004.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a BA degree in English Literature/Philosophy and a Master of Library and Information Science, Mrs. Schwartz comes to the seminary from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. She has also served at Shaler North Hills Library, Andrew Bayne Memorial Library and is a member of the American Library Association and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

A member of St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church in West View, PA, Mrs. Schwartz is the wife of Jeffrey F. Schwartz, education technology application administrator at the Learning Technology Center at Duquesne University, and is the mother of twin daughters, Jessica and Sarah, aged 10.

About her new position, Cynthia said, "I enjoy working here at the seminary and being able to provide the valuable and unique information resources and services that are important to both the faculty and the students."

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Noted Syriac Scholar to Lecture in Pittsburgh

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary will welcome noted Syriac scholar Dr. Sebastian Brock, who has served on the faculty of Oxford University in England, as featured speaker at the 5th Annual SS Cyril and Methodius Lecture on Monday evening, May 9, 2005, in the auditorium of St. Paul's Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA.

According to Fr. Jack Custer, dean at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, "It is no exaggeration to call Sebastian Brock the father of a renaissance in Syriac studies. Combining scholarly acumen with spiritual sensitivity, he has reintroduced the vast and varied literature of Syriac-speaking Christianity to Christians whose horizons previously extended only as far as the Latin or Greek world. To him is due credit for

the rediscovery of St. Ephrem the Syrian, St. Isaac of Nineveh and other important writers. Professor Brock's editions, translations and studies of Syriac authors have enriched theology by revealing new images, new genres, and new models of approach to God, often refreshingly innocent of the dry

*"It is no exaggeration to
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in Syriac studies."*

—Fr. Jack Custer

categories of Greek philosophers and Latin scholastics. Professor Brock's work has also demonstrated how deep are the roots and how enduring the points of contact that bind the Church to the Synagogue."

Danovich from page 3

"The training of qualified men to serve as priests is essential to our Church," he said. "The seminary staff is continually improving the quality of formation and education and the facilities are being utilized for many worthwhile activities involving church members and the local community. I find gratification in helping the seminary fill these roles. The fellow board members are a joy to work with, and we always look forward to our semi-annual meetings. The ultimate result of our work is to serve and give glory to God."

When asked what message he would share with readers of this publication, John said, "I'd like to encourage everyone to make personal prayer a focus of their life. Prayer is powerful, heals and is sorely needed. Pray for your family, your church, your community, your nation and your world. Take ownership of things you can change, choose to have a positive attitude and become involved in helping others."