After many months of planning and organizing ourselves for the 25th anniversary of the Sulpician Fathers’ presence in Zambia, the day we were waiting for was finally drawing nearer. It was preceded by the arrival of our American confreres—some of whom had served in Zambia. The first one to arrive was our Superior General, Father Ronald Witherup, p.s.s. He arrived in Zambia a week before the jubilee celebration to express his love and support for the Zambian mission. He also offered his personal congratulations for a job well done. He was followed by Father Michael Strange, S.S., who was one of the first Sulpicians to bring and plant the spirit of Father Olier in the Zambian Church. Our Provincial Superior, Father Thomas Ulshafer, S.S., arrived on the same day with Fathers Cale Crowley, S.S., our former regional superior, and John Kemper, S.S.

Two recent events have encouraged me to reflect on the place of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Sulpician tradition and in priestly spirituality today. The first was my receiving a gift from a brother Sulpician, an excellent book by art historian Father Timothy Verdon entitled Mary in Western Art. The second event was the recent return to St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore of the newly cleaned and preserved oil painting by the French Old Master Jean Restout (1692-1768) called “The Conception of the Virgin” (see the article on the rededication of Laubacher Hall on page 11.) Both of these events impressed me with the important role of imagery and imagination in the history of Marian devotion.

Mary, “Star of the New Evangelization”

Thomas R. Ulshafer, S.S.

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Silver Jubilee

Sulpician Ministry in Zambia

Cornelius Hankomone, S.S.

Archbishop Mpundu looks on as local bishops and clergy prepare to join the Jubilee Eucharistic procession.

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Update

The Sulpicians, Province of the US

Summer 2014
A recent Sulpician publication reminds us that fostering a “priestly Marian piety” is an essential feature in the Sulpician approach to priestly formation. This principle was established by our founder, Father Olier. He enhanced his writings on diocesan priestly spirituality with rich Marian imagery born of deep filial devotion.

Here there is space for me to comment on only one of the Marian images that was important to him, one that still speaks directly to priests today. During his lifetime, he commissioned a painting of Pentecost by Charles Le Brun (1608-1690), the favorite painter of King Louis XV. This painting now hangs above the altar in the Chapel of our Generalate in Paris. Our Superior General, Father Ronald Withrup, p.s.s., has called this painting “the guiding image for his community of diocesan priests founded specifically for priestly formation.”

In this painting based on Acts 1:14 ff., Mary sits in the middle of the Upper Room as “Queen of the Clergy” and “Queen of the Apostles.” She also fulfills the words of Jesus from the Cross, “There is your mother” - the birth of the Church implies a new motherhood for Mary.

In a recent commentary on this painting, Sr. Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M., points out that, on one level, Father Olier saw this canvas as relevant to his vision of the seminary. It is to be “a time like that between the Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit, when seminarians were educated to become through the Spirit ‘apostolic men,’ priests of Jesus Christ.” On another level, as Fr. Withrup has written, the painting signified Fr. Olier’s hope that the Church in France in his day would experience a New Pentecost through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This painting still speaks to us today, in the age of the New Evangelization. It resonates with recent papal teaching. For example, last winter Pope Francis wrote, “The close connection between Mary, the Church and each member of the faithful [is] based on the fact that each in his and her own way brings forth Christ... She is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life.”

I think that it is most appropriate that, as this issue of Update is being published, each of the delegates at the Sulpician General Assembly in Paris is receiving a small commemorative reproduction of the Le Brun painting. May we pray with Pope Francis:

Mary, Virgin and Mother, you joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit so that the evangelizing Church might be born. Obtain for us a new ardor born of the Resurrection that we may bring to all the Gospel of life.

Thomas R. Ulshafer, S.S., is Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.
As part of the celebrations surrounding the canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II, Theological College in Washington, DC, has loaned two recently completed portraits of the pontiffs to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The two portraits are the work of Fr. Peter Gray, S.S., a Sulpician priest and artist, completed during the autumn of 2013 in response to the news of the canonizations. The paintings serve as the central point of the Basilica’s exhibition commemorating the lives and pontificates of the two Popes. The portraits have been used on holy cards issued by Theological College commemorating the canonizations.

Steven Olds, S.S., is Director of Human and Spiritual Formation at Theological College.
The arrival of our American confreres brought us so much joy and encouragement. It was indeed a blessing and a confirmation of the US Province’s commitment to the Zambian mission.

On Thursday March 27th, the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Julio Murat, invited Fr. Witherup, Fr. Ulshafer and me to his residence for dinner. In his gesture of hospitality, the Nuncio expressed solidarity with the Society of St. Sulpice and gratitude for their presence and ministry in Zambia over the last 25 years.

Our jubilee celebration was divided into two parts. The first part of our celebration was held on Friday, March 28th. This was mainly a day of exhibitions. From the time the Society of St. Sulpice came to Zambia, many people had heard about Sulpicians but little explanation was given to help people understand who we were and the nature of our mission. Therefore, the jubilee became an opportune moment to explain to the Zambian Church who Sulpicians are, and how we are of service to the Church in Zambia. A variety of pictures were displayed on the history of Emmaus and the Sulpicians in Zambia. We also published a booklet that gave more information on the Society of St. Sulpice in general, as well as information on what Sulpicians have been trying to do for the Zambian Church in the last 25 years.

For the Friday afternoon presentations we had four main speakers. The first presenter was Archbishop Telephore Mpundu, the Archbishop of Lusaka. He gave a historical background on how the Emmaus program started and how the Sulpicians were invited to come and work in Zambia. At the time when the idea of the Emmaus program was conceived, he was the Secretary General for the Zambian Episcopal Conference. Therefore, he had information on why the Emmaus program was started in the Zambian seminary formation system. He was also the Bishop Director of Seminaries at the time when the Sulpicians were invited to come and work in Zambia.

The next presenter was Fr. Ulshafer. He gave a brief history of how the Society was founded in France and how it spread to other parts of the world. He described how the Sulpicians came to Zambia and explained who the Sulpicians are and our mission in the world. He also outlined what the Society has been able to contribute to the Zambian Church for the last 25 years. He also talked briefly about his vision for the future of the Zambian mission.

Fr. Patrick Simutowe, S.S., spoke on behalf of all the Zambian confreres. His role was simply to explain what it
means to be a Sulpician in the Zambian Church today. He talked about the blessings and challenges that we have faced as Zambian Sulpicians in our work of forming future priests. Lastly, Bishop Benjamin Phiri, the Bishop Director of Seminaries, expressed his admiration and gratitude to the Sulpicians for the great work that they have done for the Zambian Church in the formation of its diocesan priests.

This symposium was attended by bishops, priests, religious men and women, seminarians from our three seminaries, and some lay people. There were approximately 350 people in attendance. After the presentations all were invited for dinner. The most striking thing on this day was that all these presentations were conducted in the new beautiful hall that the Province had just built.

The second and principal part of our celebration was held on March 29th. On a bright Saturday morning, Emmaus became a hive of activities. So many guests started arriving on our seminary grounds. Among them were seven of the 11 bishops in Zambia, plus the Apostolic Nuncio for Zambia and Malawi, priests and sisters from different dioceses of Zambia, seminarians from our three seminaries, government representatives and other civic leaders, parishioners from our neighboring parishes and many other friends and relatives. In total we had slightly over 1,000 people who attended this celebration. A huge tent was pitched on the grounds of Emmaus where the liturgy would take place as our chapel was too small to accommodate this huge number of people.

The Mass started with a long procession from the main house to the tent pitched on the grounds of Emmaus. There was a lot of singing and dancing along the procession. The Mass was presided over by Archbishop Mpundu and the homily was given by Fr. Ulshafer. The singing was done by a combined effort of our three seminaries. We also had the supporting choir from the neighboring parish of St. Matthias Mulumba. The entire congregation participated in the singing and dancing—and the buffet luncheon that followed the Mass. This was indeed a wonderful celebration; it will remain in our memories for many years to come.

Cornelius Hankomoone, S.S.

Cornelius Hankomoone, S.S., Regional Superior of Sulpicians in Zambia.
The Sulpicians of the Province of the United States celebrated their silver jubilee of ministry in Zambia with festive ceremonies at Emmaus Spirituality Centre on March 29, 2014. Hundreds attended the festive Eucharist, resplendent in Zambian culture and liturgical custom. The day’s festivities brought together bishops, brother priests, alumni, diocesan representatives, religious brothers and sisters, the laity and seminarians; benefactors and recipients; enthusiasts and well-wishers.

Among the memorable moments of the celebrations were the blessing of the new wing at Emmaus and the subsequent planting of 25 jubilee trees. This new wing is both a symbol of achievement and a sign of progress and possibilities. Its dedication immediately followed the jubilee Eucharist. The new wing at Emmaus contains 20 spacious rooms for seminarians, four staff rooms, two ablution blocks and a recreation hall with a capacity of 150 people. We can now accommodate about 60 seminarians—without sharing rooms. Emmaus did not have a recreation hall before and now we have a spacious one with modern facilities.

The new wing was blessed by the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Julio Murat, with appropriate ceremony and decorum. We concluded the dedication of the new wing with the planting of trees. All our guests, seminarians and confreres lent a hand in the planting of 25 jubilee trees. Deeply rooted and firmly placed, these jubilee trees symbolize the stability and vitality of the Sulpician presence in and among the Church in Zambia.
Archbishop Julio Murat blesses the interior of the new recreation hall.

This wonderful, colorful and joyous ceremony witnessed to the presence of Sulpician ministry in Zambia and our collaborative contribution to the Church in Zambia. The hallmark of that presence is not merely bricks and mortar, but moreover, the presence of the Zambian Sulpician priests. Having entered the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, with the permission of their Ordinaries, the Zambian confreres abide and minister in various seminars throughout the region and within the wider Church in Zambia—pastorally, spiritually and collegially.

Without the generous financial support of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, and the strategic planning among its administrators—both in the United States and Zambia—along with enthusiastic benefactors and philanthropic groups, regional and international, this new wing would not have been possible. With heartfelt gratitude for your guidance and encouragement—and prayers, we look forward to the near 25 years.

Shoba Njambe, S.S. is Rector of the Emmaus Spirituality Centre.

Archbishop Julio Munat blesses the interior of the new recreation hall.

Catholic League of Men attending the Mass and dedication of the new buildings.

Ms. Edith Nawakwi, president of the F.D.D., and Mr. Given Lubinda, a member of parliament, planting one of the jubilee trees on the Emmaus property.
I left San Francisco in mid-November 1989 for Lusaka, Zambia via New York, Frankfurt and Nairobi. Father Paul Brassil, the Jesuit rector of Emmaus, introduced me to the students. I saw a sea of faces and wondered how I would ever distinguish among them and learn their names. A few weeks later they left for their month-long Christmas break when they would help their families with the weeding of the newly planted maize. Before the Blessed Sacrament in our small prayer-room chapel, I asked Jesus, more than once, “What am I doing here?”

When the seminarians returned in January, I took over the Scripture class, quickly realized that each student had his own distinct features and personality, and soon fell in love with Emmaus. Besides Father Ed Frazer, S.S., as a strong support, I was blessed with the presence, encouragement, and wisdom of Fr. Brassil, S.J., and Sr. Sinead O’Sullivan, Irish missionaries at Emmaus.

Collaboration marked the working of the staff while the seminarians, recently graduated from secondary school, were dedicated and cooperative as they entered into Mass, prayer, study, manual labor, small Christian communities, spiritual direction and sports.

I went to Zambia without expectations, but with the understanding that if I felt I was contributing to the program, I would stay. Otherwise, I would return to the US without any regrets. That first year was a marvelous experience, and I ended up spending 13 years teaching at Emmaus, Mpima and St. Dominic’s. I received well over a hundred calls for whatever I gave, and at this 25 year mark, I am most grateful for the manifold blessings God showered on me during those years.

Michael Strange, S.S. is Senior Priest in Residence, St. Stephen’s Church, San Francisco, CA.

Sulpician Reflection on Zambia
Fr. Michael Strange, S.S.

In April, 1998 I arrived in Zambia to begin a new assignment at St. Dominic’s. A week earlier I had celebrated my twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. At my own request, I had just been assigned by the Sulpician Provincial Council to teach at St. Dominic’s. I hoped to join my brother Sulpicians in Zambia and to use my knowledge of Scripture and two decades of teaching and formation experience to contribute to the formation of future priests in Zambia. I spent the next three years teaching, serving as the academic dean at the seminary and the regional superior for the Sulpician Fathers. More importantly, during those three years I underwent a superb formation experience for me. I learned about a young, growing Church and the gifts it possessed and challenges it faced. I experienced the faith and zeal of people, priests, religious women and bishops; at the same time, I saw the difficulties of poverty and corruption. When I left to return to Theological College in Washington as the Rector in early 2002, I brought with me new learnings that would last me a lifetime and a spirit of gratitude to the Church and people of Zambia.

Now as the President-Rector of St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore—the oldest Roman Catholic seminary in the United States—I am part of a cooperative venture of the seminary with the United States Province of the Sulpician Fathers to assist the continuing education and formation of young Zambian priests. As the Society of St. Sulpice celebrates 25 years in Zambia, it is contributing to a path towards the future of the faith-filled Zambian Church through a unique scholarship program at St. Mary’s Seminary and University.

Father Gerald L. Brown, S.S. Provincial Superior, 1985-1997
“Come to Africa!” –Update 1995

A Path Towards the Future
Fr. Thomas R. Hurst, S.S.

In April 1998 I arrived in Zambia to begin a new assignment at St. Dominic’s Major Seminary. A week earlier I had celebrated my twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. At my own request, I had just been assigned by the Sulpician Provincial Council to teach at St. Dominic’s. I hoped to join my brother Sulpicians in Zambia and to use my knowledge of Scripture and two decades of teaching and formation experience to contribute to the formation of future priests in Zambia. I spent the next three years teaching, serving as the academic dean at the seminary and the regional superior for the Sulpician Fathers. More importantly, during those three years I underwent a superb formation experience for me. I learned about a young, growing Church and the gifts it possessed and challenges it faced. I experienced the faith and zeal of people, priests, religious women and bishops; at the same time, I saw the difficulties of poverty and corruption. When I left to return to Theological College in Washington as the Rector in early 2002, I brought with me new learnings that would last me a lifetime and a spirit of gratitude to the Church and people of Zambia.

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Thomas R. Hurst, S.S. is President-Rector of St. Mary’s Seminary & University.
The Difference 25 Years Makes
Fr. Ronald D. Witherup, p.s.s.

As a consequence of strategic planning led by the then Provincial Superior, Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S., the first Sulpicians, Fathers Edward Frazer and Michael Strange, went to Zambia in 1989 to work at Emmaus Spirituality Centre, at the invitation of the Zambian Episcopal Conference and the urging of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

What a difference 25 years makes! Numerous US Sulpicians took up the challenge and ministered for a time in Zambia. But the key to long-term success was always seen to be in fostering local Sulpician vocations among young, qualified Zambian priests who had both the talent and desire for a lifelong ministry of priestly formation. Fortunately, numerous Zambian priests, with the support of their bishops, entered the Society. This reality, in fact, changed the landscape of Zambian priestly formation. It was always recognized that the US Province had limited American personnel for the missions. Zambian formators, thus, were absolutely necessary. Thanks be to God, and the generosity of the Zambian bishops, these specialized vocations have been forthcoming.

Now, 25 years into this special mission, we see the fruits of this labor. Not only has the presence of Sulpicians made a lasting impact on the priestly formation program in Zambia, but there is now an established team of committed, full-time, Zambian Sulpicians to engage in this ministry. They have obtained advanced degrees in a variety of fields, and they bring to their ministry experience on an international level. Most important is their engagement in the Sulpician missionary spirit that originated with our founder, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, who exclaimed: “I feel such a great desire to save the whole world, to spread the zeal of the love and glory of God in the hearts of all people.” This apostolic missionary spirit is alive and well in the heart of Central Africa! Having followed Fr. Brown as Provincial, I am proud to have shared in the success of this endeavor. I extend to the US Province and to the Zambian Sulpicians warmest congratulations and best wishes on this milestone. Ad multos annos!

Ronald D. Witherup is Superior General, Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice and former Provincial Superior, 1997-2008.

By His Grace
Fr. Cale Crowley, S.S.

I look back on the Sulpicians’ first 25 years in Zambia with great gratitude to God. By His grace, we were able to participate in His work of raising up a body of good, strong, lively priests for His people in Zambia. For my part, I thank God for my 20 years in Zambia. I have so many happy memories. The Zambians are a very welcoming people, and we were very much welcomed by the bishops, priests, brothers, sisters, seminarians, laymen and laywomen with whom we worked. I became friends with many of them.

We came to Zambia to work in the national seminaries. That was what we did. We taught, did formation work with the seminarians, and participated in the administration of the seminaries. We had done all that in the U.S. But, our work in Zambia had a Zambian twist to it.

A good deal of the formation work in Zambia was done in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) of eight to 12 seminarians. The members of the SCC would pray and reflect together twice a week. That would include the celebration of SCC Mass. They would also do manual labor together, including working together on a SCC vegetable garden. They also would socialize together on occasion, including playing as a team in interseminary sports competitions.

I was always a facilitator of a SCC. I remember working with the seminarians on our vegetable garden. They taught me how to grow maize (corn) Zambian style. I remember going on shopping expeditions with them to the outdoor markets. My job was to drive. When we got to the market, the seminarians would do the bargaining.

The seminarians were fun to teach. They wanted to learn, and they were willing to work. Most of them had an aural approach to learning. So, classroom time was usually time for many questions and discussions and much noise and laughter. They also had good memories and loved catching their philosophy teacher in inconsistency. Of course, I was not just their philosophy teacher. I followed an old Sulpician tradition of teaching what needed to be taught, because there was no one else around to do it. So, at various times, I was their English, Latin, Psychology, Anthropology and Church History teacher.

Early on, I learned that humor helped them keep their attention focused. So, while I was teaching, I would imitate every funny Sulpician teacher that had taught me and some that had not. After a particularly good class, they would imitate me, and every one would collapse in laughter. I don’t know whether they ever realized that what they could remember they had learned.

Continued on p.15
International Treasurers Meeting
Fr. Phillip J. Brown, S.S.

Provincial Treasurers and the General Treasurer (Économe Général) of the Society gathered in their biennial meeting for the purpose of sharing information regarding the financial status of each of the Provinces and the Generalate and collaborating as the financial officers of the Society for the wellbeing of the entire Society. It also promotes transparency and accountability in the financial administration of the Society as a whole, the Generalate and the Provinces.

The most recent meeting was held in Baltimore on March 3 and 4, 2014. The location of the meetings rotates between the Provinces. The last meeting was held in Montreal in 2012, and the next meeting will be in Paris in 2016. The 2014 meeting was especially important as one of the agenda items was to prepare for the upcoming General Assembly of the Society in July 2014. During the meeting each Province and the Generalate present a comprehensive summary report of their financial status to the other participants at the meeting.

Attending the March 2014 meeting were:
Father Michael Barré, S.S., Provincial Treasurer, Province of the United States; Madame Suzie Amyot, Directrice des services administratifs, Province of Canada and Assistant to Father Carlos Ballén, p.s.s., Treasurer, Province of Canada (Fr. Ballén was unable to be present for the meeting); M. Michel Marguet, Économe Provincial Adjoint, Province of France; Father Ulshafer, Provincial, US Province, S.S.; Mrs. Ann Lesini, newly-appointed Director of Finance, Province of the United States; and Mr. Keith Vallerani, Accounting Manager, Province of the United States.

The participants, as is the custom, enjoyed two nights “out on the town” during the meeting and were treated to a Sulpician historical tour and concluding Mass at St. Mary’s Spiritual Center and Historic Site on Paca Street in Baltimore.

Father Michael Barré, S.S. is Économe Général, Society of St. Sulpice.
Welcome to you all. It is a pleasure to have Board Members, former Board members and friends of St. Mary’s as well as faculty, administrators, and seminarians all together as we celebrate the renovation and refreshment of this wonderful space with the Jean Restout oil painting of the Immaculate Conception. This is the space where community is built up and where friends and new friends are welcomed.

As many of you know, this room was originally the chapel of the seminary from its opening in 1929 until 1954. It then became the Prayer Hall where faculty and seminarians gathered for prayer and conferences on an almost daily basis. In 1990 Father Robert F. Leavitt, S.S., then President-Rector, did a substantial renovation of the space. He dedicated it to Father James A. Laubacher, S.S., who was rector of SMSU from 1944 to 1958. Father Laubacher was a great priest with an in-depth understanding of theology and its place in the life of a priest as well as a powerful communicator and a rector who displayed great wisdom and vision. Laubacher Hall served the seminary program and the Ecumenical Institute very well for a quarter of a century. It is a place for community building as the seminary gathers here on a regular basis for conferences, rector’s talks, days of recollection, workshops, and small group socializing. It also is a place where friends are welcomed for major lectures, especially our endowed lectures, the Dunning and Carroll, as well as talks by faculty members of the Ecumenical Institute and events sponsored by the Archdiocese.

With the generosity of lead gifts and a group of major donors we have been able to update the room after 25 years of regular usage with new carpeting, lighting, painting as well as the air conditioning. We are grateful to Ms. Ruth Pfiefer whose bequest in her estate gave us the foundation to begin this project and to the 14 dioceses that supported this project. We are especially grateful to Archbishop Lori and the Archdiocese of Baltimore for their leadership gift. Through the generosity of the US Province of the Society of St. Sulpice we were also able to conserve the great Jean Restout 18th century oil painting depicting the Immaculate Conception. We are very grateful to Father Thomas Ulshafer, S.S., and the Provincial Council for underwriting the conservation of this work of art that continues to inspire our faith.

We look forward to the continued use of this elegant space to gather as a seminary community and to welcome friends to our community.
Garth Phiri was born on November 20, 1970 in Kabwe, Zambia. He is the second born in a family of six, three males and three females. He grew up in Kabwe where he went to Lukanga Primary School from 1977 to 1980. From 1980 to 1983 he went to Neem Tree Primary School. His educational background includes five years of study in a minor seminary in Choma called Mukasa Minor Seminary. There he was able to explore his potential and excelled in academics. He was admitted to Emmaus Spirituality Center in 1989. In 1993 he moved to St Augustine’s Major Seminary, Mpema, Kabwe for his philosophical studies. Philosophy brought out in him an ardent love for academics. In 1993 he moved to St Dominic’s Major Seminary until 1996, the year of his ordination.

After ordination he was appointed to work in Kabwe, first as assistant parish priest, and then later as parish priest of Ngwale and Mukobeko parishes. In 1998 he moved to Lusaka as Communications Secretary, and also to establish and run the first diocesan radio station. In that same year he was appointed parish priest of Kanyama parish as an added responsibility.

His major personal project was studying for his license in Sacred Scriptures at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. With it came all the other benefits of studying foreign languages to a level of proficiency. He speaks Italian and German fluently, and has a smattering of French and Spanish. He is able to read Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Aramaic and Arabic, although over the years his Arabic has suffered due to lack of use.

Upon his return from studies, and after working in the Seminary for three years, he enrolled in the Zambia Open University to study for a Bachelor of Law degree. He has since completed his course successfully.

During his free time he likes playing football, basketball, swimming and going to the gym; he also likes reading novels and listening to documentaries. He enjoys travelling.

Cornelius Hankomoone, S.S. is Regional Superior of Sulpicians in Zambia.
In January 2014, Pope Francis named Monsignor J. Stephen Berg, 62, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas—and recently its diocesan administrator—as the new bishop of Pueblo, Colorado. He succeeds Bishop Fernando Isern, who resigned last June for health reasons.

Bishop Berg was born March 3, 1951, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth, May 15, 1999, by his uncle, Bishop Joseph Charron. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master of Music degree from Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico. He pursued seminary studies at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

Bishop Berg was ordained and installed as Bishop of Pueblo on February 27, 2014 by Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila in Pueblo, Colorado.

Fr. Gerry McBrearity, S.S., the first Sulpician assigned to Assumption Seminary, served as the seminary’s spiritual director from 1996 to 1999. Fr. John Kemper, S.S., followed a year later teaching at the Oblate School of Theology where he also served as Vice President for Administrative Affairs. Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S., came the following year and eventually served as the rector for a brief period. All three shared in the formation of the then seminarian Steve Berg.

Fr. McBrearity recently recalled the new bishop’s formative years: “Steve would represent the best combination of characteristics of a second career seminarian: mature, articulate, possessing a sense of humor, very patient with the dynamics of seminary life especially in a largely Hispanic community at a time of significant challenges facing the seminary (small enrollment, older facilities, financial problems, seminarians struggling with language and cultural challenges, etc.). Steve, although somewhat quiet and reserved (low key), was a natural leader in the seminary: gentle, open to new ideas, calm and hospitable and perceived by both faculty and seminarians as a wise and thoughtful presence in the community. I had [have] nothing but the greatest respect for him. As you know, no matter how hard a seminary faculty works to create a wholesome and creative seminary community—a lot depends on people like Steve to make the process work and Steve made such a contribution.”

The Sulpician Fathers extend to Bishop Berg hearty congratulations and the promise of prayers. Ad multos annos!

Alumni News

Alumni news items were compiled by Daniel F. Moore, S.S.

Bishop Stephen Berg
Alumnus, Assumption Seminary & Oblate School of Theology

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Fr. Gerry McBrearity, S.S., the first Sulpician assigned to Assumption Seminary, served as the seminary’s spiritual director from 1996 to 1999. Fr. John Kemper, S.S., followed a year later teaching at the Oblate School of Theology where he also served as Vice President for Administrative Affairs. Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S., came the following year and eventually served as the rector for a brief period. All three shared in the formation of the then seminarian Steve Berg.

Fr. McBrearity recently recalled the new bishop’s formative years: “Steve would represent the best combination of characteristics of a second career seminarian: mature, articulate, possessing a sense of humor, very patient with the dynamics of seminary life especially in a largely Hispanic community at a time of significant challenges facing the seminary (small enrollment, older facilities, financial problems, seminarians struggling with language and cultural challenges, etc.). Steve, although somewhat quiet and reserved (low key), was a natural leader in the seminary: gentle, open to new ideas, calm and hospitable and perceived by both faculty and seminarians as a wise and thoughtful presence in the community. I had [have] nothing but the greatest respect for him. As you know, no matter how hard a seminary faculty works to create a wholesome and creative seminary community—a lot depends on people like Steve to make the process work and Steve made such a contribution.”

The Sulpician Fathers extend to Bishop Berg hearty congratulations and the promise of prayers. Ad multos annos!

Fr. Phillip J. Brown, S.S.
Named President of Canon Law Society of America

Father Phillip J. Brown, S.S., the Rector of Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., is currently serving a one-year term as President of the prestigious Canon Law Society of America (CLSA).

Both a civil and canon lawyer by training, Fr. Brown began his term as President of CLSA in October 2013. It will conclude in October 2014. As is customary, he had previously served a year as President-Elect. He has also served as a professor of canon law at the Catholic University of America and currently holds the part-time position General Treasurer of the Society of Saint Sulpice.

Father Brown has been a member of the CLSA since 1989. Prior to becoming President he served on its Board of Governors, as chair of the Professional Responsibility Committee, and as chair of the Canon and Civil Law Committee. He obtained his doctorate in canon law summa cum laude from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1999.

The CLSA is one of the most prestigious canon law societies in the world. Under their auspices several important studies of complex canonical issues have been published, as well as the most prominent commentary on the new canon law (promulgated in 1983) in the English-speaking world.

The Society of Saint Sulpice, Province of the US, congratulates Father Brown on this distinction as President of CLSA!
The days of our life are 70 years, or perhaps 80, if we are strong" laments the psalmist and those of us who will miss Father William Flynn's lively spirit, camaraderie and good humor. He made it to his eightieth year strong and vibrant and then died on March 6, 2014.

Fr. Flynn was born on August 27, 1933 to William and Margaret Flynn in Scranton, PA. He is survived by his brother, Martin, and was preceded in death by a twin brother, Robert, who died in infancy.

After completing his parochial secondary education at Holy Rosary School in Scranton, PA, Fr. Flynn entered the seminary at St. Charles College, Catonsville, MD. He graduated with an A.B. in philosophy from St. Mary's Seminary, Paca Street, Baltimore, MD in 1955 and went on to earn his S.T.B. (1957) and S.T.L. (1959) from St. Mary's Seminary and University. He was ordained for the Diocese of Scranton on May 23, 1959 and became a definitive member of the Society of St. Sulpice in 1962. He did further graduate studies in biology at Fordham University earning the M.S. in 1965 and then a D.Min. from The Catholic University of America in 1982.

Fr. Flynn began his Sulpician ministry on the faculty of St. Stephen's Seminary in Hawaii (1959-1961) then returned to Baltimore to begin his long association with St. Mary's Seminary. He taught biology, natural science and music at Paca St. (1962-1963 and 1965-1969) as well as serving as Master of Ceremonies and Treasurer. Upon the closure of Paca St., he moved to St. Mary's Seminary College in Catonsville, MD (1969-1974) where he was the Assistant Treasurer while teaching biology and music as well as directing the choir. He served as Rector there from 1972-1974. He joined the faculty of Theological College in Washington, DC (1974-1979) to serve as Assistant to the Rector for Auxiliary Enterprises. He returned to Baltimore to join the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary and University at Roland Park from 1979-1987 to teach liturgy and sacraments while also serving as Vice President for Finances and Coordinator of the Liturgy. In 1987, Fr. Flynn began his full-time pastoral ministry in his home diocese of Scranton serving as chaplain of St. Joseph's Center, Danmore, PA, (1987-1989) until his appointment as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Susquehanna, PA, (1989-1996) and then as Pastor of Corpus Christi Church (now St. John Vianney Parish), Montdale, PA (1996-2008) where he remained until his retirement. He then moved to Villa St. Joseph, the retirement community for the Diocese of Scranton, where he resided until his death.

For the diocese, he held positions of Dean of Abingtons (2001-2006) and served on the Liturgical Commission, the Presbyteral Council, the Liturgy Certificate Board and as Regional Liturgy Coordinator for Susquehanna County Deanery. While in the diocese, he remained connected to our Sulpician community through his service on the finance committee and by his regular attendance at our Retreats and Convocations.

Fr. Flynn will be remembered for his many years of service in the classroom, and for his vibrant community spirit. He loved people, individually and as a community, and he loved to talk. As Father Thomas Hurst, S.S., Rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University emphasized in the homily of his funeral Mass, Fr. Flynn was a catalyst of community. He loved social gatherings and every opportunity that would be an occasion to bring people together. He worked to make the faculty a team of leaders and to make the whole seminary a true Christian community. Fr. Flynn inspired a love for fellowship and taught us to sit lightly on life.

On March 10, 2014, the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Vianney Parish, Montdale, where Fr. Flynn had been pastor. Provincial Father Thomas Ulshafer, S.S., concelebrated the Mass, and Fr. Hurst gave the homily. Fr. Ulshafer presided over Fr. Flynn’s interment the next day at the Sulpician cemetery in Catonsville, MD.

Priest, educator, choir director, liturgist, pastor—he was all of these things. To those who knew him, however, Fr. Flynn will be remembered for his good humor, hearty laughter and generous spirit of community.

Richard M. Gula, S.S. is Director of Personnel and Supervision of Properties for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.
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Zambia has its own tradition of liturgical celebration. It involves singing, dancing, processions, drumming and much community participation. I greatly enjoyed participating in such Eucharists inside the seminary and outside. To tell the truth, I miss them.

Of administration, I do not have much to say. I did it, because it needed to be done. But, the high point for me of my time as rector of Mpima [St. Augustine’s Major Seminary, Kabwe, Zambia] was the day I got out of the job. I did and do very much appreciate the people with whom I worked as an administrator. They were fun to work with.

As I have already said, I spent 20 years working in the Sulpician mission in Zambia. I went and I stayed to assist the Zambian Church in their work of forming good diocesan priests. But I have known for a long time that I received much more than I gave.

I take pride in the young priests of Zambia. I see great work being done, and I remember them as they were. I take special pride in the Zambian Sulpicians that now form our Sulpician Zambian region. They are a remarkable group of men. I feel privileged to know so many fine Zambian priests.

Furthermore, while I was helping to form priests, those very seminarians plus the bishops, priests, sisters, and key people with whom I worked were forming me. I learned from them a deeper sense of the presence of God in people, communities and nature. I learned to value patience and balance in life. I learned to laugh while working. The list goes on and on.

I also appreciate the chance to have seen people and places I would not ever have seen if I had not gone to Zambia. One place, in particular, means much to me— Mosi-oa-Tunya, The Smoke That Thunders, otherwise known as Victoria Falls. The Falls itself is a spiritual experience.

Finally, our first 25 years in Zambia is just a prelude to our next 25 years. I look forward to those years with eager anticipation.

Cale Crowley, S.S. is Director and Superior of St. Charles Villa

“The General Assembly represents the whole Society. It exercises therein the highest authority. To it belongs the power to elect the Superior General and the General Consultants, to discuss the important matters of interest to the Society and to make the necessary decisions.” – Article 73, Constitutions of the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice, 2003.

The General Assembly is held every six years. The next General Assembly took place in the autumn prior to the Assembly. The fall election of delegates and alternates for the July 2014 General Assembly went smoothly in all three areas outside of the three main centers (France, Canada, and USA).

In addition to follow-up on all propositions from the last General Assembly (2008), this Assembly will also consider topics that have been proposed by the General Council, the Provincials and a few confreres. The delegates will also doubtlessly have topics to consider, once all the required reports are finished in the course of the Assembly. The General Council is grateful for the suggestions for topics that have come from confreres already. We pray for the success of the Assembly through the intercession of Father Olier and the Blessed Sulpician martyrs.

Ronald D. Witherup, p.s.s., is Superior General, Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice.
The Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice Province of the United States has appointed Father Gladstone (Bud) H. Stevens, S.S., M.S., S.T.L., Ph.D., as President-Rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University in Menlo Park, California, effective June 1, 2014. This appointment was made by the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, with the approval of the Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, J.C.D., Archbishop of San Francisco and Chancellor of St. Patrick’s.

The Sulpician Provincial Father Thomas R. Ulshafer praised the appointment saying, “Father Stevens is deeply dedicated to the priesthood and to priestly formation. His fine education in theology and his pastoral sensibility will serve him well as leader of St. Patrick’s.”

Fr. Stevens, 48, was born in Bridgeport, CT, and lived most of his youth in Nashville, TN. Focused on Systematic Theology, he received an S.T.L. from St. Mary’s Seminary & University and a Ph.D. from Marquette University. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2000, Father Stevens became a Sulpician in 2004. As a candidate and member of the Society of St. Sulpice, he served St. Mary’s Seminary & University, Baltimore, MD from 2002 – 2008 as a faculty member and Vice Rector. In 2008, Father Stevens joined the faculty of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University, Menlo Park, CA. Along with his teaching responsibilities, Fr. Stevens served as Dean of Students and assumed the role of Vice Rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University in 2009.

St. Patrick’s Seminary & University, under the auspices of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, has been staffed by the Sulpicians for more than a century and maintains as its primary purpose the initial and ongoing formation of Roman Catholic priests in a contemporary multicultural world, especially for dioceses within the Western United States and the Pacific Rim.

Asked about his many activities in the Bay Area, Fr. Stevens says, “I have enjoyed working with the seminarians, but with many other groups as well. I am gratified that others find my presentations helpful. For my part, associations with communities such as the Poor Clares, the Order of Malta and Legatus stimulate my faith.”

Daniel F. Moore, S.S. is the First Consultor and Provincial Secretary for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

Father Gladstone H. Stevens, S.S. Named President-Rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University

Fr. Daniel Moore, S.S.