

Minutes of the Annual Alumni Association Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Fr. Hampton Davis began the meeting stating that he was the outgoing president and their would be an election of new officers.

Fr. Mark Spruill led the Alumni Association in prayer.

Fr. Davis stated in the beginning of the meeting that the Alumni minutes would be made available on the Website.

Please note that at the end of the minutes the name of the distinguished alumnus of the year from the previous year will be mentioned since this is not announced until after the meeting at the luncheon.

A motion was made to dispense with the minutes.

Election of Officers

Proposed slate of officers with nominations. Fr. Michael Deering as vice president will move the president, Walter Austin - vice president, Fr. Tony Fontenot who was secretary has asked to be removed from the board and Fr. Mike Mitchell will become secretary, and Fr. Jason Palermo has been asked to serve as treasurer. The floor was then opened for nominations. Fr. Willie Todd asked that nominations be closed and their was a unanimous vote in favor of the proposed slate of officers.

Fr. Michael Deering as the new president then presided over the meeting. He then stated that it was an honor to be elected as president.

Fr. Lavastida then introduced the newest members of the Alumni Association, the Class of 2009.

Student Association Report

Mr. Vincent Bresowar, the Student Association President from the Diocese of Birmingham, then gave the Student Association report.

Mr. Bresowar began by stating that the school year began with having to leave due to Hurricane Gustave and after being out for a week, that things are going well. It seems as though the new students are fitting in well in seminary life. He also stated that there was a new weekend schedule put in place and that the students seem to be adapting to it well.

Mr. Bresowar mentioned some events happening around the seminary. On October 4th NDS celebrated the 85th anniversary with a Gala that was a huge success. Also in October, Bishop Muench celebrated the Institution of Readers and Acolytes. There was also a Day of Caring to help

clean the seminary, and stock the supply closets. In November we hosted a seminary open house to the public with tours and Fr. Raphael helped by preparing a brief history of the seminary.

Since this is the Year of St. Paul, the seminary hosted a Pauline conference under the direction of Dr. Basil Davis and the seminary has done a wonderful job of incorporating the Pauline theme into the academic year. In January, a group of students traveled to Washington for the annual March for Life. A community night was held for the TET New Year. Most recently we celebrated Black Heritage day at St. Leo's Church beginning with Sunday morning Mass and we then enjoyed a meal with the parishioners in February.

In conclusion, Mr. Bresowar apprized the Alumni Association of the Biblicum and gym areas and - noted that the seminarians have made good use of these areas. He then thanked the Alumni Association for their support and their prayers. Mr. Bresowar then made a request to the Alumni Association for a donation to purchase some items such as a water cooler for the gym, a change machine for the wash room or a sound system for the gym and the student kitchen. Also, a possible idea for the donation was to fix up the storage room to store bicycles and some athletic equipment. He noted that last year the Alumni Association gave the Student Association \$2,000. Vincent stated that any gift would be appreciated.

Fr. Deering reiterated the requests of the Student Association and a motion was made to give them a donation of \$2,500. The Alumni Association voted in favor of giving the Student Association a \$2,500 donation.

President-Rector's Report

Fr. Jose Lavastida welcomed the Alumni Association and thanked Fr. Deering and Fr. Davis for their roles in the Alumni Association. Fr. Lavastida mentioned that Fr. Geoffrey Graystone had come from England to join in this celebration and asked him to say a few words.

Fr. Lavastida then thanked the Alumni for the donations for the new vestments. He also mentioned the great staff that he works with at NDS. He mentioned that there is a section on the website devoted to the Alumni.

Fr. Lavastida stated that we have a healthy student body of 81 seminarians and 24 lay students. Fr. Lavastida also stated that Human Formation with Fr. Joe Krafft as director has been formally added to the formation program. The element of spiritual direction has been added to the formation program also, with Fr. Joe Palermo as house spiritual director. Dr. David Liberto is in his second year as Academic Dean and he is doing a great job of developing the academic formation in the seminary with talks, presentations, etc. The Alumni should get the information about these events via mail or e-mail. He mentioned that there will be an Aquinas Lecture in April and a second talk in October in conjunction with our 2nd Continuing Formation Alumni Day.

Fr. Lavastida mentioned the addition of the English Language Program and Spanish Immersion Program in Puerto Rico which will take place during the summer.

He noted that there has been many renovations to the building and stated that a video would be

shown with a lot of the renovations and that there would be students available to take anyone interested on a tour of the seminary. By the summer the re-building of areas affected by Katrina should be complete. The last two areas to be remodeled will be the Pastoral Center and the Library Study Hall in the basement of the library

Fr. Lavastida then concluded his talk by thanking the Alumni for their attendance at the Alumni celebration and for their support of Notre Dame Seminary.

Fr. Davis asked Fr. Lavastida to explain the new Weekend Schedule. Fr. Lavastida explained that after the Apostolic Visitation there was a move to consolidate the weekends in the U.S. seminaries. The schedule is flexible in many ways while encouraging seminarians to participate in parish life on the one open weekend a month. For the most part the students remain in the seminary. There is also a Liturgical Diversity Weekend where the students are encouraged to participate in a culturally diverse Mass. On Friday there is community evening prayer and then Saturday there is morning prayer together with Mass and then evening prayer, all in community. On Sundays there is also morning prayer, Mass and evening prayer in community. We do try to keep the weekends free so the students have time to study and join in community events.

Fr. Lavastida noted that the 40 year jubilarians were not mentioned in the list of jubilarians, but there were two 40th jubilarians - Fr. Bernard Francis who was in attendance, and Fr. Denver Pentecost, who was not able to attend. Congratulations to all of the jubilarians. Also, a standing ovation was given to Fr. Geoffrey Graystone for his being present at the Alumni celebration and for being a priest for 63 years.

Fr. Deering then thanked Fr. Lavastida for his report.

New Business

Fr. Davis promoted the 2nd Alumni gathering in the Fall with the Msgr. Terry Tekippe lecture.

Fr. Lavastida acknowledged some new members to the seminary staff.

Fr. David Kelly - Pastoral Formation Director

Fr. Mark Raphael - New Professor

Mr. Angelo Lupinetti - Music Director

Fr. Lavastida also noted that the Distinguished Alumnus of 2009 was Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux.

Fr. Deering closed the Alumni Meeting with a prayer.