

Spring
Board Meeting
Reminder

Thursday, April 14

St. Mary's Greek
Orthodox Church,
Terrace Room
(3450 Irving Avenue
South, Minneapolis)

Program Committee
10:00am

Lunch & Program
12:00 noon

Full Board Meeting
1:30 – 4:00pm

News to Note

- The scholars' studies have now moved to the House of Jonah, 2nd floor of the Quad. The move involved careful planning and execution by not only the Institute staff, but many other campus departments as well. Look for photos in this special edition.
- **Sean Pickthorn** and **Chuatong Thao**, two SJU students, have been hired as student workers to assist with the needs of the Institute and Jonah House studies.
- **Corein Brown** has been hired as Research Assistant with the Collegeville Institute Seminars. Corein obtained her Master of Divinity from Saint John's School of Theology in 2003.

INSIDE
THE

COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE



FOR ECUMENICAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH

Volume 5, Issue 1

February 15, 2011

Meet short-term resident, Chris Herlinger

In January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the small island nation of Haiti. With an epicenter only 16 miles out of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital, the damage, as the world knows, was massive.

Within weeks of that catastrophe, Chris Herlinger arrived in Haiti to record the early phases of the recovery process.

As a freelance journalist and a writer with Church World Service (CWS), traveling to countries in crisis has become a way of life for this inquisitive reporter. Given his master's degree in international relations and a long-time interest in the intersection of faith and social issues, it's not surprising that Chris has traveled to 51 countries around the globe. He is the author of two books, *Where Mercy Fails: Darfur's Struggle to Survive*, co-authored by Paul Jeffrey, about which Desmond Tutu said, "I recommend *Where Mercy Fails* as required reading." Chris also wrote *With Courage, In Hope: Five Years After the Tsunami* about the aftermath of the tsunami that struck Sumatra in 2004.

In search of a quiet place to begin writing his new book about Haiti, Chris came to the Institute last fall as a short-term scholar. In addition to making good progress on a first draft, Chris hiked in the woods, worshipped with the Monastic community, and utilized the many resources of Alcuin Library. He describes the Institute as a "real gem", and having had an enjoyable and fruitful residency, returned in February to continue work on his book.

Although the Institute was new to this Pennsylvania-native, Minnesota was not. As a graduate of Macalester College (St. Paul), a repeat program

participant of the Center for Global Education (Augsburg College, St. Paul), and a one-time newspaper reporter living in Fergus Falls, Chris was familiar



with the area. Crediting his classroom education and experiential opportunities as a big part of who he has become, Chris says, "I owe a lot to Minnesota and its educational institutions." And with a sense of gratitude and appreciation, he adds, "Now I can include Saint John's University and the Collegeville Institute on that list as well."

When asked to name one key insight from his travels, Chris quickly responds, "The issue of dignity is central. What we [humanitarian organizations] hope to do—need to do—is to help people find dignity among tragedy."

And, according to Chris, people do.

He testifies that whether in Haiti or Honduras, El Salvador or Sudan, Indonesia or India, "people are survivors; survivors have strength; and strength leads to hope." He stresses that "the survivors set the example for living a dignified life amid disaster. No matter where I am, that dynamic **never** fails."

For Chris, it is this unfailing example of hopefulness that keeps him centered, spiritually and otherwise, when witness to immense suffering. He notes, "Survivors are generous, strength-filled people who give me perspective and keep me going. They help me glimpse a better world in a bad situation."

And through his writing, Chris helps readers do the same.

Scholars' Studies move from Alcuin Library to Jonah House December 15 & 16, 2010

God of Endings and Beginnings,

You know our thoughts and feelings as we make this significant move from Alcuin Library, which has been our scholarly home since 1967, to our new place in the House of Jonah.

We Praise You...

for the hundreds of scholars who have graced the Alcuin Library studies through the years

for the monks of Saint John's Abbey who support our scholarly endeavors

for the Alcuin Library staff members who have answered our questions, unearthed needed resources, and helped us toward our scholarly goals

*for truth and knowledge, for peace and quiet,
for windows and light and beautiful views*

*for the discovery of new acquaintances, neighbors, and friends
as we settle into our new community in the House of Jonah*

**We give you thanks, God of our Transitions,
as new days take shape.**

(adapted from a common prayer offered following the last gathering in the Institute's Alcuin studies)



The last scholars' luncheon in the Alcuin Library lounge.

Before...and After



Boxes, boxes, everywhere!



Library Office #4



The almost-empty Library lounge.



The House of Jonah kitchen.



House of Jonah Office #242



House of Jonah Common Area.

A small history of the House of Jonah...

The House of Jonah is located on the 2nd floor of the Saint John's campus Quadrangle Building, commonly known as "The Quad." The Quadrangle refers to the traditional monastic arrangement of buildings around a central courtyard with buildings on four sides. The Quadrangle Building has been the heart of Saint John's since the 1880's, and was completed using lumber from St. John's woods and brick made by monks. Construction occurred over a 17-year period (1869-1886), as the north, south, east, and west wings were built. The Quad is listed on the U.S.'s National Register of Historic Places. Through the years, the red brick building has been home to Saint John's monastery's choir, chapter, refectory, administration and monastic cells. At one time it also housed Saint John's library and facilities for Saint

John's Preparatory School, as well as a common dining hall for all students. Now most of the quad is devoted to faculty and administrative offices, classrooms, and the refectory. In the 1960's, part of the south side of the Quad, known as the House of Jonah, served as the residence of a small monastic group within the larger monastic community. More recently, it served as individual monastic rooms and offices. The House of Jonah was renovated during fall 2010, in order to serve as office space for the recently founded Benedictine Institute, and the scholar studies' for the Collegeville Institute. Each has a 14 foot ceiling, refinished maple floors, and a large window which overlooks either the Monastic courtyard (inside wall), or the Monastic gardens and Lake Sagatagan (outside wall).

Collegeville Institute “on-the-road”

We are pleased to report that the two inaugural off-site writing workshops that took place last fall were extremely successful!

The first workshop, held in October at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, Massachusetts, hosted 13 participants. It was led by **Mary Nilsen**.

The second workshop, led by **Lillian Daniel** and **Martin Copenhaver**, occurred one month later in Woodstock, Vermont. 12 writers participated.

One participant wrote, “*Perhaps the highlight of the week for me was when a staff member articulated that the church needs us—that pastors who write help shape and grow the church. This notion still brings tears to my eyes, as I reflect on that responsibility.*”

Laura Fanucci, Research Associate for the Collegeville Institute Seminars, presented a number of regional workshops last fall on the topic of young adults and the church.

The workshops reflected on changes in the development of the notion of young adulthood and explored defining characteristics of Generation X (those born roughly between 1961 and 1981) and Millennials (born 1981-2000).

After hearing the presentations, several participants stated that an analysis of young adulthood is critically

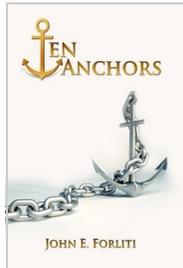
important to our churches, and asked how congregations can engage

young adults around the topic of vocation as it relates to both work and relationships.

Laura’s work on young adulthood and vocation represents one of a broad range of issues under examination by the Collegeville Institute Seminar on faith, vocation, and the professions.



The Book Nook

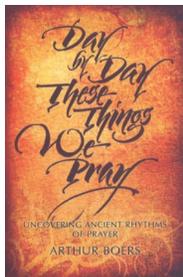
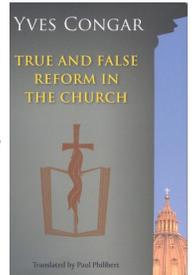


John Forliti, former Institute board member, recently wrote and published *Ten Anchors*, a book written with adolescents primarily in mind. Each chapter explores one of ten values, notions, and elements of the Roman Catholic experience that, according to John, are key “for navigating the sea of life.” Among the topics included are: compassion, social justice, moral tradition, Jesus, The Eucharist, and Reverence for Life.

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During his time as a resident scholar, **Paul Philibert, OP** (1993/94, 2008/09) completed the major portion of his translation of Roman Catholic theologian Yves Congar’s (1904-1955) *True and False Reform in the Church* (Liturgical Press, 2011). Although the book was first published in 1950, many observers consider it even more relevant for the life of the church today than when it was written. Paul’s exacting translation makes this important work widely accessible.

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Recently released by Herald Press, *Day by Day These Things We Pray* offers practical insight for today’s busy pace of life. **Arthur Boers** (Summer 2007 and 2010) invites readers to slow down by uncovering the ancient rhythm of morning and evening prayer, recognizing the wisdom in daily observance. He writes, “We can only know God’s presence at all times if we set aside certain times for prayer.”

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Sharon Chmielarz’s (Summer 2006 and 2008) latest collection of poetry, *The Sky is Great, the Sky is Blue* (Whistling Shade Press, 2010), is both dark and hopeful. The poems capture real life energy, ranging from unhappy moments to everyday pleasures. Mary Kay Rummell (Summer 2006) writes, “These are jewel hard short poems shining with an eloquence that comes from a steady precision of language and observation.”

