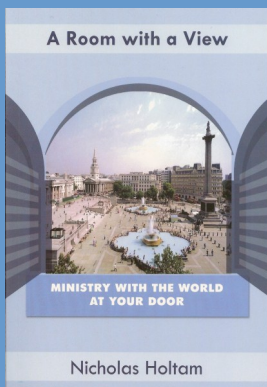


Short-term Residency Update



Nick Holtam, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, joined us for one month early this fall. St. Martin's has been engaged in a \$72-million renewal project for the past 11 years, and Nick has stood faithfully in the center of that effort. Now that the venture is drawing to a close, Nick was able to place priority on his own renewal – both physical and mental. Not only did he leave the Institute regenerated and refreshed, he also devoted time to thinking about governance in the Church of England in relation to the Rule of St. Benedict. Learn more about Nick's work in his book that focuses on "ministry with the world at your door."



INSIDE
THE

COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE



FOR ECUMENICAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH

Volume II, Issue IV

November 25, 2008

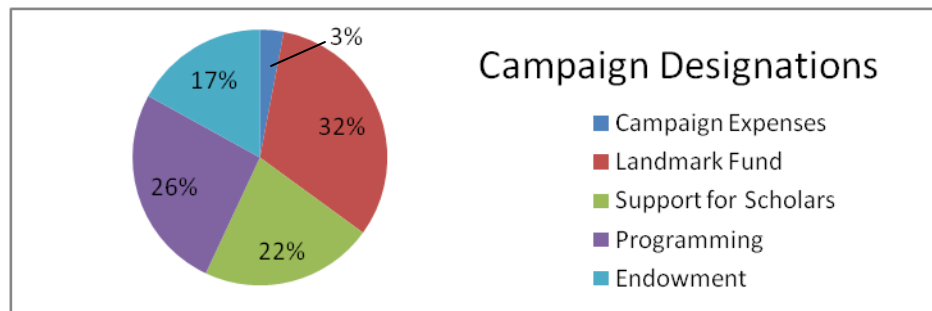
CAMPAIGN RAISES OVER \$2 MILLION

The Board of Directors of Collegeville Institute is pleased to announce that its ambitious capital campaign, *Faith Leadership for an Ecumenical Future*, has concluded, raising almost 1/2 million over its \$2 million goal. This comprehensive campaign, launched in June of 2007, came to a successful close 16 months later, raising \$2,430,976.

The Collegeville Institute has faithfully served the church, theological education, and the ecumenical world since

1967. This most recent fund raising effort strengthens the Institute's financial base by surpassing the campaign's original goals for programming (\$630,000), scholar assistance (\$540,000), and capital improvements (\$775,000).

The Collegeville Institute community is profoundly grateful to all who contributed to the success of this campaign. This achievement boldly underscores the loyalty and generosity of our Board, alumni,



\$1.5 MILLION GRANT

A four-year \$1.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. will further the work of the Institute's Ecclesial Literature Project. This new grant follows a three-year \$994,000 Lilly Endowment grant made in 2005. The Ecclesial Literature Project is designed to build on the Collegeville Institute's tradition of encouraging writing that serves the spiritual needs of a broad reading audience. Kathleen Norris, Henri Nouwen, Joan Chittister, OSB, and Parker Palmer are the names of only a few past Institute Resident Scholars

who have contributed to the growth of substantive writing on behalf of the church and society. The Ecclesial Literature Project provides resources for writers interested in reaching a broad audience; helps generate a body of literature that engages the Christian community's imagination and strengthens its faith and witness; and offers assistance and resources for members of congregations who strive to deepen their reading of religiously serious literature.



Meet a Scholar

Natalia Pecherskaya

is a scientist and a scholar—a scholar who yearns to connect her scientific work with authenticity and a sense of being human. Natalia is also a woman of intense drive and spirit.

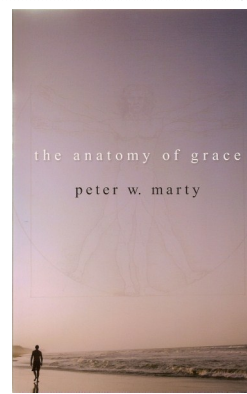
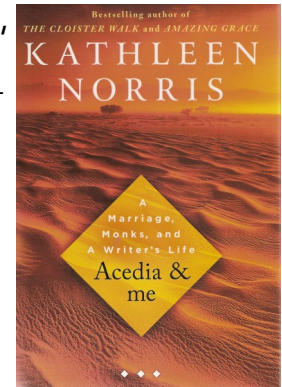
Natalia describes her faith as budding out of *cultural* curiosity, rather than out of a religious upbringing. Under Communism, religious resources, books, and information were unavailable, and the Bible was deemed incompatible with Marxism. Exposure to ancient music, icons, and other visual arts in Russian museums sent her in search of something more. This search led her to smuggle an English translated-Bible into Russia from Germany, hoping that it would not be discovered among her belongings. It wasn't, and this became her first experience with Scripture.

During what Natalia describes as the transition years of her country (1986-1996), she surrounded herself with like-minded professionals—believers who desired to cultivate an inner life, and wanted to help others do the same. This group of pioneers envisioned a "Laboratory of Mind and Consciousness," which, through the years, evolved into the St. Petersburg School of Religion and Philosophy. Founded in 1990 as one of the first non-state, non-church educational institutions in Russia, the School now prepares about 60 students per year for work in church and the broader society.

Natalia was introduced to Collegeville Institute by way of Patrick Henry, former Executive Director, who at an American Academy of Religion meeting 15 years ago, invited Natalia to be part of the summer conference "Ecumenism Among Us." Since that time, Natalia has made seven separate visits to the Institute.

THE BOOK NOOK

Kathleen Norris (1991-92, 1993-94), Dakota Plains poet and author, recently released *Acedia & me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life*—a personal memoir that revisits her husband's death and her own "acedia". Drawing heavily on biblical fathers and philosophers, Norris opens up this ancient term—which refers to spiritual listlessness or suffocating gloom—and superbly connects it to modern-day life and



Employing 52 reflections in his book, *The Anatomy of Grace*, **Peter Marty** (Spring 2008) explores daily life's complexities and invites readers to reconsider their faith afresh. Combining stimulating prose and insight, the book reflects on how to live the Christian life well from the perspective of one who cherishes life, gives thanks, believes in other people, and grounds his heart in God.

LECTURE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS



Almost 70 students, faculty, monks and sisters attended Mary van Balen's lecture about her work with the transgendered.

- In a music-filled Emmaus Chapel, **Don Saliers** led a grand Hymn Festival, "**Sounding Earth and Heaven.**" The Festival featured the poetry and music of seven remarkable women, including Delores Dufner, OSB. The evening also featured scholar **Paul Philibert, OP** on flute and psaltery.
- **Ane Kvale Fitzgerald** led three conversations focused on "**The Stories of Depression.**" The gatherings unearthed: What happens to faith in depression? Do you feel comfortable approaching your pastor/spiritual director with your experiences? How do you see the Church responding?
- **Natalia Pecherskaya** will deliver the final lecture of the semester—"Russian Orthodox Church and Society Today"—early in December.