



## Fourth Annual Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities Rome Seminar 2008



2008 ACCU Rome Seminar participants from Neumann College in Aston, Pennsylvania: (left to right) Mr. Anthony Miranda, Dr. Rosalie Miranda, President, and Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, gathered overlooking St Peter's Basilica.

From 15 June through 19 June, The Lay Centre coordinated this fourth annual seminar for presidents, administrators and senior faculty from member institutions of the ACCU, with the collaboration of Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle, the Vice President of the ACCU. The seminar offered five intensive days of meetings with Vatican officials, including Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès, OP, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice, John Patrick Cardinal Foley, Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, and

Bishop Brian Farrell, LC, the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The participants from across the U.S. were invited to reflect and dialogue on the mission of their institutions in the light of the international concerns of the Church in the world. The days were also marked by various conversations with theologians and administrators of pontifical universities in Rome, journalists, ambassadors who represent their countries to the Holy See, and other Vatican officials, in order to help promote dialogue and the bonds of communion between participants and the Holy See. A highlight of the seminar was when Pope Benedict XVI greeted the group in English during the Weekly General Audience in St. Peter's Square on 18 June.

## Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: Called to Communion, Called to Mission

A group of lay ecclesial ministers from across the USA gathered from 24 June through 29 June for a seminar organized by The Lay Centre in association with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, to consider the 2005 document of the U.S. Bishops on lay ecclesial ministry in the light of the international experience of lay collaboration in the Church. A highlight of the seminar was a morning spent at the Passionist Monastery, which began with a Celebration of the Eucharist at which His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley presided. The morning continued with a conference that featured a panel of presenters from Europe, Asia and Africa to draw out some of the implications of the 2005 document. Dr. H. Rick McCord, Executive Director of the USCCB's Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth (one of the co-authors of the document) gave a keynote address. The program also featured lectures

and site visits in Rome enriching the participants' understanding of the theme by exploring Church history and the theological tradition of the Church. The week culminated with the Celebration of Sung Vespers at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls with Pope Benedict XVI to mark the opening of the Pauline Year on the Vigil of the Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul. The Celebration of the Eucharist with Pope Benedict XVI at St Peter's Basilica on the day of the solemnity provided an appropriate conclusion to the days dedicated to considering the lay vocation to build the communion of the Church and to live the Church's mission in the world.



Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord Rome Seminar 2008 Participants during a breakout session following a presentation at The Lay Centre (clockwise): Mary Ann Collett, a Lay Pastoral Associate in the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey; Fr. William Henn, OFM Cap, Professor of Ecclesiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University; Mary Neary, Director of Parish Ministries in Cinnaminson, New Jersey; Julie Richards, Pastoral Musician in Davis, Michigan; Cynthia Craft, Youth Minister in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey; Teresa Quirino, Graduate Student in Theology at the Santa Clara University in San Jose, California; and Veronica Patlan Murphy, also a Graduate Student at Santa Clara University.

## Rome Seminar on the Call to Holiness

From Monday 26 May through Saturday 31 May, a group of persons from the Holy Trinity Parish (Georgetown) in Washington, DC, joined us for a week-long study program based on Donna Orsuto's book *Holiness*. The week featured presentations, group discussions, and guided visits to significant sites in Rome and Subiaco (where St. Benedict first embraced the religious life in the fifth century). The week focused on the call to holiness in the world today. Fr. Pat Earl, SJ, who is on the staff of the parish was not able to join the group as chaplain, because of the death of his sister.

**This newsletter is dedicated in loving memory to**



**Sr. Joan Bland, SND**

Sr. Joan was the foundress of EPS (Education+Parish+Service) in Washington, DC. The Vincent Pallotti Institute was founded as the Rome Branch of EPS at The Lay Centre in 1986. For 30 years EPS has helped prepare thousands of lay persons to be educated and formed for parish and diocesan lay ecclesial ministries in the US and abroad. Sr. Joan returned to the Lord on 29 June.

**Lay Centre Student Meets Pope Benedict XVI**



*Radwa Thabet is received by Pope Benedict XVI after a Weekly General Audience on 28 May 2008. A Muslim student from Egypt, Radwa works with The Dialogue Forum at the Library of Alexandria in Egypt (an institute that promotes cultural dialogue). She was a member of the resident student community during the second semester while she pursued studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.*

**Living the Dialogue of Life**

Dr. Susan Shapiro is the Associate Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts. During the spring semester, she was the 2008 Richard and Susan Master Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University. On 16 April, Dr. Shapiro came

to The Lay Centre for one of our Wednesday formation evenings to give a presentation on "Jewish Approaches to Theology After the Holocaust." She was a frequent guest during the semester, joined in several of the programs and spent the last few weeks of her stay in Rome living at The Lay Centre.



*Dr. Donna Orsuto (left) responds after Dr. Susan Shapiro gave a presentation at The Lay Centre during the formation evening on Wednesday 16 April.*

**Pauline Year Fall 2008 VPI Program**

Beginning on Thursday, 16 October, the new year of the Vincent Pallotti Institute will begin at The Lay Centre with a six week program focused on the Apostle Saint Paul. The program will include lectures by Abbot Edmund Power, OSB, Rev. Stephen Rehauer, CSsR and Robert White. Each morning session will include two 45 minute conferences with discussions, a coffee break and the Celebration of the Eucharist. Thursdays: 16, 23, 30 October and 6, 13 and 20 November from 9:30 am to 12 noon. For registration and more: [info@laycentre.org](mailto:info@laycentre.org).

**Rome Fundraiser at the Canadian Embassy**



*(Left photo - left to right) Peggy Brennan Hassett was one of the sponsors of the May 2008 Lay Centre Rome Fundraiser. Lynn Terry, Chuck Duffy and Marilyn Kaiser are pictured with her. (Right photo) His Excellency Donald Smith, Ambassador of Canada to the Holy See, and his wife, Betty-Ann, hosted the fundraiser at their residence.*

Thanks to the generosity of His Excellency, Ambassador Donald Smith, his wife Betty-Ann Smith and Peggy Brennan Hassett, The Lay Centre held a successful second annual fundraiser in Rome. Over 50 persons participated in a gala dinner at the Residence of the Canadian Ambassador to the Holy See on the Coelian Hill on Tuesday, 27 May 2008. The evening brought together a number of friends of The Lay Centre, new and old alike, and featured a presentation about the future plans for the expansion of the residential student community, study programs for the laity in Rome, and outreach through international study programs in the coming academic year.

**Arrivederci, Roma!**

Our dear friends, His Excellency Donald Smith, Ambassador of Canada to the Holy See, and Betty-Ann Smith are concluding their posting this summer. They have been very supportive over the past few years in so many ways and we will miss them very much. Our prayers are with you!

