



Consortio

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

SUMMER 2008

Medieval Castle Becomes Centerpiece of New ITI Campus

Starting in the academic year 2009/2010, the International Theological Institute (ITI) will move to Trumau near Vienna and will be housed in Castle Trumau, its surrounding buildings and newly constructed dormitories. The move will give the Institute space to educate more students in an area filled with cultural significance.

The geographical location will enable our students and faculty to make use of the wide-ranging academic and cultural facilities that Vienna offers, as well as allow visitors and friends of the ITI to conveniently visit the campus.

Trumau is closely associated with the famous Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz ("Holy Cross Monastery") and with the imperial dynasty of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and its rich history. In 1138, the town of Trumau was donated by Leopold IV, ruler of Austria and son of Saint Leopold III, to the Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. Members of the Austrian imperial family would visit the castle and surrounding hunting grounds.

In its 900 years of history, Trumau has risen again and again from the many natural disasters, wars and other political turbulences that have ravaged this part of Europe. Trumau has proven itself as a place of enormous vitality and perseverance.

Trumau is only 20 minutes south of Vienna by car. Located in one of Austria's beautiful wine regions with a remarkably mild climate, the landscape surrounding Trumau is mostly flat with agricultural fields, vineyards



Kupferstich von Vischer, 1672

and a view of the lower Austrian Alps. The backdrop of Trumau is truly spectacular with a 2000 meter peak, the Schneeberg, in the distance. The campus is easily accessible due to its close proximity to Vienna and Vienna International Airport. In addition, there are excellent public transportation connections and easy access to two main highways. This special geographical location will enable our students and faculty to make use of the wide-ranging academic and cultural facilities that Vienna offers, as well as allow visitors and friends of the ITI to conveniently visit the campus.

Main set-up of the campus

Castle Trumau, which will be the centerpiece of

continued on page 2

Inside

Graduation 2008
Trip to Lisieux
Msgr. Hogan's 40th
Papal Visit to Austria
ITI Formation Program
Alumni Reunion
Lectures
Spreading the News
Welcome and Farewell

Trumau and its surroundings

Trumau is only 20 minutes south of Vienna by car. Located in one of Austria's beautiful wine regions with a remarkably mild climate, the landscape surrounding Trumau is mostly flat with agricultural fields, vineyards



Fighting the Marriage Crisis – Success in Ukraine

ITI graduate, Rev. Yuriy Kolasa, a Byzantine Catholic priest from Ukraine, has spent the past several years fighting the marriage crisis in his archdiocese of Lviv. The fruits of this work are evident not only in his archdiocese, but also throughout the entire country.

After his graduation from the ITI in 2001, Father Yuriy was appointed

continued on page 3



the Institute's new campus, will be the location for classrooms, offices and events. The castle includes a beautiful baroque chapel where there will be daily Mass and adoration. With its peaceful inner courtyard, the castle is also an ideal gathering place for the ITI community. Across from the castle, there is another historical building called the "Hofrichterhaus" which will eventually serve as the ITI library and provide study facilities



Hofrichterhaus



It is not by chance that after a long and careful search the ITI has found its new campus here. Trumau's history of perseverance and vitality provides fertile soil for the mission of the ITI

for students and faculty.

Renovation work on this building will start as soon as the necessary funds have been raised.

A tree-lined alley leads from the main entrance of the castle to the plot of land where housing is being constructed for ITI students and some of the faculty. These buildings will be constructed with apartments for single

students as well as families. Construction work starts in September 2008, with completion scheduled for the start of the 2009/2010 academic year. The whole of the campus is situated at the edge of the town of Trumau, and within walking distance from the town's center with its newly restored baroque parish church, schools, shops, and a modern sports facility.



Schloss Trumau

tionship between faith and all aspects of family and civic life...Here (young people) will experience "in what" and "in whom" it is possible to hope, and be inspired to contribute to society in a way that engenders hope in others.

It is not by chance that after a long and careful search, the ITI has found its new home here. Trumau's history of perseverance and vitality provides fertile soil for the mission of the ITI to form hearts and minds and thus to contribute to the new evangelization. At the Institute, young people are formed through their theological studies, a vibrant faith community, and through the living example of the Christian family



life given by the faculty and students – just as our Holy Father proposes. By moving to Trumau, the ITI will be better equipped to offer its unique formation to even more young men and women, and thus be a beacon of hope for the Church and society.

You can help us complete the new campus project. We still need many generous donations, and above all, your daily prayers. ✂

The Mind of the Church in the Heart of Europe

In April 2008, His Holiness Benedict XVI gave an address on Catholic education. He said, *Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth...in practice, "intellectual charity"...strives to articulate the rela-*

Fighting the Marriage Crisis – Success in Ukraine *continued*

as head of the Archdiocesan Commission of Marriage and Family. In three short years, the commission set up thirteen marriage-preparation centers, published a marriage-preparation manual and prepared more than 3000 couples for matrimony. The program itself is substantially based on the guiding documents for premarital preparation given by the Pontifical Commission on Marriage and the Family. A team of people leads the meetings: a priest, a medical doctor, a psychologist, a lawyer, and a married couple bearing personal witness. After beginning in Lviv, the program was also used as a model for other dioceses of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The Commission soon found that this work of the Church was also affecting the state statistics—with a remarkable result. In the year 2000, the divorce rate in the Lviv region was at 54%. From the moment the Church began to implement the marriage preparation program, the situation improved. In Ukraine, young couples are the most likely to get divorced, but in the four years after the program was implemented, the rate of divorce in the Lviv region declined to 40%. In the regions of Eastern and Southern

Ukraine, where the program was not implemented, the divorce rate rose to 80%.

In 2006, the program was brought to the attention of state officials as a way to overcome the family crisis in Ukraine. In January 2007, a team of lay people started a pilot program for the state in Kyjiv, the capital of

Ukraine, at one of the state offices for marriage registration. Since it is secular, the marriage preparation program developed for the state is different from the program used in the Church, yet it also aims to proclaim the truth about the human person, about genuine love, and about God.

In January 2008, after examining the program for a year and interviewing young couples who participated, state officials decided that the program should continue and be implemented in the whole city of Kyjiv. Now there are seven marriage-preparation centers in the capital of Ukraine that prepare

couples who have civil weddings. If this goes well, it could be approved for the whole country. Father Yuriy began a project for his archdiocese, and he is now helping to save his country. ✂



Father Yuriy celebrates Divine Liturgy

First Official Alumni Reunion

Over thirty ITI alumni from around the world joined in the graduation festivities to celebrate the first “official” alumni reunion. It was dubbed the “first official” reunion because it seems that every alumni wedding or priestly ordination has been the occasion for an ITI reunion. The alumni met, exchanged stories about former classes and professors, and spoke of what they are currently doing. Alumni also seized the opportunity to network and to see how they could help each other in their jobs. Michael Waldstein and Jay Thompson led a seminar on the Common Good, and everyone was pleased to find that they could still carry on a rational discussion. As a special part of the reunion weekend, all gathered at the pilgrimage shrine of Mariazell and ITI graduate, Rev. Gregory Arby, from India, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving. In looking at the faces of the alumni and hearing their stories, there is much to be thankful for. Many seeds were planted at the ITI and by the grace of God they have born fruit.



Professor Jay Thompson and alumni exchange laughs during the reunion.

Over and over, alumni said, “I could not be doing what I am doing now without the education that I received at the ITI. Thank you.” After the special weekend, everyone is hoping this will be the first of many “official” reunions. ✂



Scott Hefelfinger, 2008 Class Speaker

There is no other option for the one who knows and loves the Word—there is only one path to follow and it goes by the name of adventure or divine madness. This is the path we have found here in Gaming.

This year's graduation in May was another beautiful occasion. The graduates represented a varied mix of cultures and countries - from California, USA, to the far eastern corner of Russia, in Vladivostok. The Abbot of Lilienfeld, the Right Reverend Mag. Matthäus Nimmervoll, O. Cist., granted the degrees and brought a smile to faces as he "helped" to move the tassels or put on the hood. ITI president, Msgr. Larry Hogan, reflected on his forty years of priesthood and the difficulties facing the world in 1968. He encouraged the graduates in their future of continuing to bring hope to the world that had seen so many great changes in a short time. Scott Hefelfinger, voted to be class speaker, gave his reflections, in both English and in German, on the graduates' time at the ITI. Here is an excerpt from his speech in English:

"I think all of us graduating today have discovered something here, and when people ask me what exactly that is, I would explain it in this way. What if I were to tell you that somewhere, in a quiet little valley, in a very quiet, very little town, in a contemplatively quiet little Kartause, a few graduates over the

a divine madness. This seems to be indicated by the word adventure itself—we cannot, properly speaking, set out on an adventure; we can set out on a journey perhaps, but adventure is what happens when something beyond us and unforeseen strikes us. It comes not from within us, but it comes from the outside toward us—ad-venture. And what higher form of "coming from above" is there than that offered by our common Faith? "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." This is the surprising encounter that begins the truest and most radical form of adventure. It is no mere coincidence that there is found a striking similarity between the words *ad-venture* and *Advent: Adventure*, in the Christian-liturgical understanding, is epitomized in the season of Advent, where God comes towards us, where the Son dwells among us, where divine madness, or as St Paul might prefer to put it, "the foolishness of God," becomes evident. God, coming into the world, is the ultimate reason for *en-thusiasm*, God-in-us. The Spirit being sent among us is the ultimate reason for *in-spiration*. The encounter with the foolishness of God leads us to live foolish lives characterized by the words "divine madness." There is no other option for the one who knows and loves the Word—there is only one path to follow and it goes by the name of *adventure* or *divine*

Introducing the

course of a few years had discovered adventure. They had in fact discovered the truest sort of adventure, which, as Plato so powerfully indicates, always comes "from above" and strikes like

Master of Theological Studies on Marriage and the Family



Dmitry Kamil
Russia
Thesis: *Communicative Nature of the Human Being in the Light of Revelation*. Dmitry

will work with youth and teach catechism instructors at his parish in Vladivostok. He also plans to continue studying theology.



Vita Kuliaviene
Lithuania
Vita, who welcomed her first child this year, plans to be in Gaming next year while

her husband finishes his studies. The couple will then return to Vilnius, Lithuania where they have the approval of their Bishop and parish priest to begin marriage preparation courses for couples in their parish.

madness. This is the path we have found here in Gaming.

We have many people to thank for introducing us to this adventure and for guiding us along the way. To our professors—thank you for showing us the path; thank you for teaching us to open our eyes. To the families—thank you, especially you mothers looking after a large number of children, thank you for living the adventure, sometimes in the form of running after little divine gifts who run away in the courtyard after Mass. To our priests and religious—thank you for providing, in a supreme way, a special, sacramental encounter with Christ, the source and cause of our adventure. Thank you to those friends and loved ones who have become wayfarers with us, who have become part of the adventure *continued on page 6*

ITI Graduates of 2008

Master of Sacred Theology



Scott Gerard Hefelfinger

USA

Thesis: *The Metaphysics of Creation: on the role of negation and*

relation. Scott will teach philosophy in Gaming while preparing for his doctorate and upcoming marriage.



Marija Magdič

Slovenia

Thesis: *A Return to the Lived Body*

Marija will attend the licentiate program at the JP II

institute in Rome and prepare for her upcoming marriage. After graduating in Rome, she plans to teach, promoting Theology of the Body. During this time, she will also give talks, translate, and work for "Europe for Christ."



Br. Benedict Jeremy Adam Nivakoff, OSB

USA/Italy

Recently ordained a deacon in Norcia, Italy, Br. Benedict,

will return to normal monastic life with his brothers and prepare for his ordination to the priesthood.



Dragos Pascalau

Romania

Thesis: *The History and the Resistance of the Greek-Catholic Church from Valacau de Jos,*

Romania, before and during the Communist Ruling of the Country

Dragos would like to teach history and religion in high school and is making plans to do volunteer work in Africa.



Iris Reinmiedl

Germany

Thesis: *Hunger or Human Seeking for Fulfillment and Completion in Relationships*

Iris has been hired to work for the World Youth Alliance as the Director of Operations for Europe. At WYA she will be promoting the dignity of the person and promoting solidarity among youth from developed and developing nations.



John Reves

USA/Austria

Thesis: *In thy Kingdom: The Church's Participation and Experience of the*

Kingdom in the Liturgy of the Byzantine Rite according to Alexander Schmemmann

John and his wife, Mirella, will be helping to found the Spiritual Center of Saint Nicholas of Myra and Saint Maria of Egypt which will be opening soon in Salzburg. The Center will work to share the treasures of the Eastern Rite with the people of Salzburg. John would also like to pursue ordination to the diaconate and eventually study for a doctorate in either Byzantine Liturgy or iconography.



Stephen Duenas Ronnow

USA

Stephen plans on working for a year and then continuing his graduate studies.



Dionisie-Raul Silvasan

Romania

Thesis: *The Necessity of Law for Man: Love as the Source of Man's*

Creation, Vocation and Salvation, - In the Light of Saint Thomas Aquinas' Teachings

Raul said that having learned from the ITI how to allow the Light of Christ to make a way into his life, he hopes the Light of Christ will shine both through his life and through the lives of those who encounter him in the future. He hopes to continue studies in communication or philosophy and will offer his help to his Bishop in Romania.

Licentiate in Sacred Theology



Petra Porubcová

Slovakia

Thesis: *Remote Preparation for Marriage*

Petra plans to work with young people

at a high school level, teaching and concentrating on special activities focused on faith and religious issues. She also wants to get involved with the marriage and family preparation and counseling programs in her Eparchy.



Rev. Francis Lyubomyr Shydelko, OSBM

Ukraine

Thesis: *Spiritual Direction in the Christian Family Life*

Father Francis is going to teach for his order at the Basilian seminary in Ukraine.

Graduation *continued from page 4*

itself. I must thank my classmates, for the uniquely adventurous experiences we had in the classroom;...we might have been a little confused sometimes in class, "asking questions...I mean...trying to figure out what...that is...in other words...do you know what I mean?" We might have wandered a bit here and there, but we never strayed from the path of adventure. And, my dear classmates, if we continue to be true to divine madness, we are certain to meet the Giver of this precious gift. Thank you to so many here at the ITI—thank you for not only putting

up with our craziness, but for encouraging it in the best way—encouraging us to grow wings, as Plato would say, or to grow into the form of Christ, as Saint Paul would say. Thank you above all to our heavenly Father, the giver of all good and divine gifts, the fountain and origin, the destination and goal of this adventure.

We, the graduates of 2008 came here a little bit crazy, and in search of adventure; we have found it; we have been changed by it; and we will continue to live it. Thank you." ✂

Trip to Lisieux



“All is grace.” These words hung on the wall in the classroom we used for our retreat in Lisieux. The words represent the story of the ITI. In her short history, the ITI has been the recipient of many graces – her founding, formation, professors, students and the fruit that is now reaching to the far corners of the

earth in the work of her graduates. Many times, the ITI was on the point of closing due to lack of funds, but Saint Thérèse always found a way to help us, her little way.

The long-overdue pilgrimage and retreat of thanks at the Shrine of our beloved patroness was also due to the generosity of a donor. At the end of November, the ITI community crammed into two buses and drove all night to Lisieux. We were blessed to have eight priests with us from among the students and faculty.

For the two days we were there, new ITI professor, Père Denis Borel, csj, preached an inspiring retreat on the hidden life of Saint Thérèse becoming a gift of vocation for the whole Church. We were also able to have two



Masses in the crypt of the Shrine. A special moment for all of us came when we knelt in front of the relics of Saint Thérèse and prayed.

We brought all of our intentions before her and gave thanks for all those that Saint Thérèse has inspired to help the ITI in so many ways. It was a very solemn and joyful moment, a moment of completion.

Rev. Joseph Veresh, an ITI graduate and current professor from Ukraine, wept as he gave thanks for the life of his grandfather and for the gift of his priesthood. His grandfather, a Byzantine priest, had spent eight years running and hiding from priestly persecution and was saved many times through the intercession of Saint Thérèse, to whom he prayed every day. One day, in a

dream, a woman told him the year, month and day when he could go home. That was the day of Stalin's death. Father Joseph's grandfather

passed away before he could visit the Shrine of Saint Thérèse to give thanks, but his grandson, Father Joseph, remembered and carried his thanks to the feet of the saint. Yes, we can truly see that “all is grace,” for so much has been given that is greater than our little efforts. Saint

Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of the ITI, pray for us! ✂



ITI priests celebrate Mass in Lisieux

Yes, we can truly see that “all is grace,” for so much has been given that is greater than our little efforts. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of the ITI, pray for us!

From Religion and Philosophy to Science and Politics

During the past academic year, there was an interesting and varied lineup of lectures for the ITI Lecture Series. Lecturers covered subjects from religion and philosophy to science and politics. Each lecture was followed by a question and answer period, which sometimes grew quite lively.

The ITI's Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, came to campus and spoke to students in a lecture entitled, "*Fides, Ratio, Scientia: On the Debate Over Evolution.*" His Eminence has been creating quite a stir in the public arena with his



Dr. Christoph Suttner

lectures and writings on the debate over evolution. Rabbi Shimon Naf-talis, from Jerusalem, whom many of our professors and students have come



Students listen to a lecture



Rabbi Shimon Naf-talis ex-pounds on Jewish themes in the classroom

to know during their visits and studies in Jerusalem, gave a lecture on the Jewish feasts. Univ. Prof. Dr. Ludwig Adamovich, the former president of the Constitutional Court of Austria,

gave a talk about how state and religion are handled in Austria. Touching a subject that closely affects over half of our students, two professors from the University of Vienna, Dr. Rudolf Prokschi and Dr. Christoph Suttner, spoke about the current debates and work being done to solve the centuries-old split between the Orthodox and Catholics.

A full list of the lectures can be found on the ITI website. Visitors are welcome to attend any lectures, but please call the office before attending, as the schedule may change. 📞



Univ. Prof. Dr. Ludwig Adamovich

Snapshots from the Year



Photos - clockwise from the top right – Newly ordained priest, Father Ioan-Iulian Hotico, from Romania, gives his first blessing; Rob McNamara (Ireland) enjoys a ball game after class; One of the many special Sunday meals of the year; Simone Ebner (Austria) studies; Deacon Br. Benedict Nivakoff serves his first Mass as deacon at the ITI after his ordination at his Benedictine monastery in Norcia, Italy; A little rain won't stop the after-class Frisbee game.

A Papal Visit to Austria



Our Lady's birthday, September 8th, came with a drizzle although students had prayed for clear weather during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Marian shrine of Mariazell. Maybe the rain was a sign of the graces this special day

was bringing. Despite the rain, ITI students, faculty, staff and their children walked an hour to the pilgrimage site and stood with hopeful hearts and weary feet, waiting for the Papal Mass to begin. ITI President, Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan, Byzantine Chaplain, Rev. Juraj Terek, and two ITI students, Rev. Yuriy Kolasa and Rev. Tomas Labanic were all able to concelebrate with His Holiness. Rev. Juraj Terek, a priest from a former communist country, said, "I never dreamed I would be able to concelebrate with the Pope."

His Holiness addressed Our Lady and asked her to show Jesus – the Truth and the Life – to us. He said the attitude that considers man incapable of truth is at the root of the current crisis in the West and in Europe.

In his homily, His Holiness addressed Our Lady and asked her to show Jesus – the Truth and the Life – to us. He said the attitude that considers man incapable of truth is at the root of the current crisis in the West and in Europe. With this attitude, good and evil are no longer distinguishable, and science with its good possibilities also becomes a threat. Man is afraid that truth will lead to intolerance, but His Holiness asked us to look at Christ as he is shown at the shrine – in Mary's arms and on the cross. These images show that the truth is humble, not handed on

through external force, but proven in love and handed on as a gift.

After Mass, the Pope gave his blessing and the Mariazell statue of Our Lady was carried in procession through the crowds. Despite the rain and the long hours of waiting and standing and listening, our weariness left us halfway through the Mass and it was with joyful hearts and light feet that we made the hour long hike back to the buses and home.

The next day, the faculty and staff of the ITI had a special invitation to attend the Pope's visit to Heiligenkreuz Abbey. While there, the Pope greeted several members of the ITI faculty and blessed their children. His Holiness then venerated the relic of the Holy Cross for which the Abbey is named, and addressed the crowd that had come to pray with him. He drew our attention to the importance of having Papal Theological Institutes where God is not merely the "object" studied in theology but also the "subject"; where lived devotion and scientific rationality are complementary and interdependent. This was a great confirmation from Pope Benedict XVI that the ITI should continue to be a place "where theology is practised 'on bent knee'... it will prove fruitful for the Church..."



Pope Benedict XVI blesses the Waldstein Family



It was a very blessed weekend for the ITI and for Austria. Pope Benedict XVI, you are in our prayers as you shepherd the Church. ✂

“Thou Art a Priest Forever ...”

Relatives, friends and former students traveled from the USA, Israel and countries in between to congratulate ITI president, Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan, who celebrated forty years of priesthood in May. Ordained in the USA, Msgr. Hogan began his service as a priest in Connecticut. In the eighties, he served as a chaplain to the Sisters of Zion while pursuing doctoral studies in Jerusalem, Israel. After finishing his studies in Jerusalem in 1986, he came to the archdiocese of Vienna, Austria, where he is incardinated. Msgr. Hogan has been a professor at the ITI since its founding. He served in the



Guests celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Msgr. Hogan's Priesthood

capacity of Vice President from 2000 to 2006 and is currently President and Professor of Old Testament. He is also the rector of the ITI formation program for seminarians, religious men and priests.

To commemorate the occasion, Msgr. Hogan celebrated Mass at the beautiful Vienna parish of Neusimmering on Saturday, May 3rd. The day ended with a lovely dinner and music at Saint Johannis Club. Since he has bi-ritual faculties, the ITI community gave Msgr. Hogan a gift of Byzantine vestments and on Sunday, May 4th, Msgr. Hogan used them for the first time while celebrating Divine Liturgy at the ITI. This was followed by a beautiful outdoor buffet with roasted lamb. ✂



Knighthood Bestowed on Horst Laimer

On June 13, 2008, Horst Laimer received knighthood in the Papal Order of Saint Sylvester for his years of service at the International Theological Institute. The Order of



Horst Laimer and his wife, Hilde.

Saint Sylvester is conferred on those who exhibit exemplary service to the Church through their professional duties. Horst Laimer worked for the ITI for ten years, serving as the Finance Director and as a member of the Board of Trustees. In addition to the experience he brought from his commercial background, he was most valued for his prudence and charity. He forged deep friendships with each of his co-workers, always encouraging those around him to set their sights on Christ and His Kingdom. His love for the vision and

mission of the ITI was matched by his concern for each and every student. Thank you, lieber Horst, for the love and dedication you give to the International Theological Institute. ✂



Horst Laimer receives the Papal Order of Saint Sylvester from Cardinal Schönborn

“So That You Can Act in His Name”



Besides the work of education, there are many things that happen in the life of the ITI. Initiatives grow as the need arises. Msgr. George Sarauskas, who was on the ITI Board as a representative of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops,

recommended several years ago that the ITI should take particular care of the priests, religious

Each member enrolled in the program actively participates in the liturgies and devotions of both the Roman and Byzantine rites. This participation supplements classroom knowledge of the universality of the Church with personal experience of Her rich spiritual life.

men, and seminarians who are entrusted to us by their superiors for their theological education. Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan, rector, and Rev. Juraj Terek, Byzantine Rite Chaplain, acted on this advice and with the approval of Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal

Schönborn, began a full seminary program, named the ITI Formation Program for Seminarians, Religious



Priests, Seminarians and Religious Men in the ITI's Formation Program

Men and Priests (IFP).

Inspired by John Paul II's encyclical letter *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, the program was given a two-fold mission: to prepare well-educated clergy and other leaders to serve the Church in their countries; and to provide spiritual formation for seminarians, religious, and priests as the foundation of their future service. Each member enrolled in the program actively participates in the liturgies and devotions of both the Roman and Byzantine rites. This participation supplements classroom knowledge of the universality of the Church with personal experience of Her rich spiritual life.

The IFP is under the direction of Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan, and Rev. Yuriy Kolasa, as prefect.

Since its beginning, this program for our Religious students has flourished. This year the program had fifteen participants with priests, monks and seminarians representing both the Roman and Byzantine rites and seven different countries – from the US to Russia. As an added blessing, through the example of those in the IFP, several students who were not admitted to the ITI as seminarians decided to enter the seminary program, with the approval of their bishops. ✂



Prof. Jay Thompson (top center) and Dr. Michael Waldstein, (below and left of Jay), with ITI alumni.

A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell

Warm welcomes were extended to new ITI professors, Rev. Dr. Denis Borel, csj and Dr. habil. Markus Riedenauer, who joined the faculty this past year and are enriching the ITI family with their presence. As the academic year closed, fond farewells were said to Dr. Michael Waldstein and Prof. Jay Thompson, founding fathers of the ITI, and

to their families who have given a great example, by word and deed, to all who have known them here.

Michael and Susie Waldstein will be teaching at Ave Maria University in Florida, and Jay Thompson will be teaching at Thomas More College in New Hampshire.

Rev. Dr. Denis Borel joined the ITI in the fall and is now Assistant Professor

continued on page 12



Spreading the Good News – Vienna, California, London

ITI Board members hosted a series of events in three different countries to spread the word about the great work that the Institute is accomplishing. The first event was held in December in the festive rooms of the Palais of the Archdiocese of Vienna. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, the ITI's Grand Chancellor, spoke about the importance of the Institute's mission. Christiaan Alting von Geusau pointed out that working for the ITI is truly a vocation, not just a job.

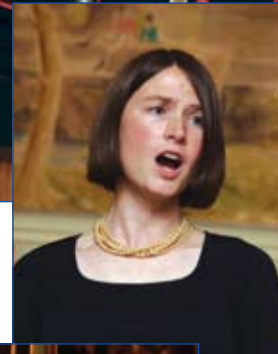
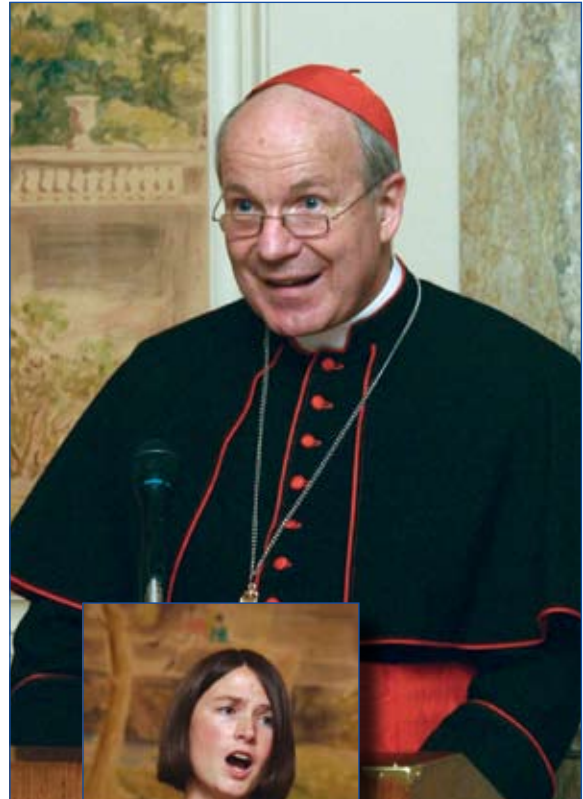
In February, a small team of ITI representatives traveled to California to attend several events, and present a visible presence of the Institute's accomplishments. In addition to Cardinal Schönborn, two ITI graduates, Rev. Juraj Terek (Slovakia) and Rev. Yuriy Kolasa (Ukraine), spoke about how their lives had been influenced by their theological studies and formation within the vibrant community of various cultures. Both priests gave examples of how their experiences now help provide significant changes in the lives of others.

ITI Board Chairman Jim Holman and his wife Claudia hosted an intimate dinner in San Diego. ITI-USA board members also provided a dinner in Los Angeles, hosted by Paul and Gloria Griffin.

Bea Bennett coordinated the flowers, and Institute graduate Wendy-Irene Zepeda, née Grimm, delighted the guests with her singing. In San Francisco, Ignatius Press and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lambert hosted a dinner in rooms with a great view of the Golden Gate Bridge. Rev. Joseph Fessio, S.J. spoke about

his work assisting the start of the ITI, and his happiness with its success. In March, the ITI held its first event in London, which was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Hutton, with the venue provided by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Coulson.

In each place the ITI representatives greeted old friends, forged new friendships, and spread the good news of hope for our troubled world. ✂



ITI Graduate, Wendy Irene Zepeda charms dinner guests with her singing.



Friends in Vienna, London and California enjoy visiting and hearing about the ITI.

A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell continued from page 10



New ITI Professor, Dr. habil. Markus Riedenauer

Warm welcomes were extended to new ITI professors, Rev. Dr. Denis Borel, csj and Dr. Markus Riedenauer.

Vienna and his habilitation from the University of Frankfurt. Dr. Riedenauer, who speaks six modern languages apart from his native German and who has published extensively in German and Italian, also has a masters degree in theology. He and his wife welcomed their first child this year. ✂

of Philosophy. Father, who is a member of the Community of Saint John, which was begun in France, received his Ph.D. *summa cum laude* from the Sorbonne in Paris. He became a member of the faculty just in time to show the ITI community around his native country of France and to preach a retreat on our patroness, Saint Thérèse.

Dr. Markus Riedenauer, who began by teaching one course at the ITI in the spring semester, will be joining the faculty on a full-time basis in the fall as Assistant Professor of Philosophy. He received his Ph.D. from the University of



Dmitry Kamil (Russia) and Iris Reinmiedl (Germany) converse with ITI professor, Rev. Dr. Denis Borel, csj after class.

ITI Academic Calendar 2008-2009

Fall Semester 2008:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Sept 1 | Registration |
| Sept 3 | Classes Begin |
| Oct 25-Nov 3 | Semester Break |
| Dec 19 | Last Day of Exams |

Spring Semester 2009:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Jan 19 | Registration |
| Jan 20 | Classes Begin |
| Mar 4-6 | Symposium: "The Mission of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the Life of the Universal Church and for the Modern World." Based on the experience of the Eastern Catholic Churches of Byzantine Rite in Eastern and Central Europe. |
| Mar 7-16 | Semester Break |
| May 16 | Commencement Ceremony |



International Theological Institute
for Studies on Marriage and the Family

Kartause Maria Thron
A-3292 Gaming
www.iti.ac.at

Bank Information:

Raiffeisenbank Eisenwurzen NÖ, Im Markt 39, 3292 Gaming
Konto: 115.717
BLZ: 32800
IBAN: AT79 3280 0000 0011 5717
BIC: RLNW ATWW SGP

ITI-USA

www.itiusa.org
Betty Hartmann – (805) 649-2346
betty_itius@msn.com or
info@itiusa.org

Consortio is published by the International Theological Institute

Editor-in-Chief: Christiaan W. J. M. Alting von Geusau

Managing Editor: Ginger Mortensen

Art Director: Ron Lawson

Photo Credits: ITI Staff and Students

DVR-0029874(040)

