

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

St. Mary's Seminary & University welcomed twenty-two new seminarians to its seminary community. Student leadership and seminarian volunteers helped the new seminarians move in and feel welcomed and at home at St. Mary's during its 2009 Introduction to Seminary Life Program, August 27-31. The new seminarians come from nine dioceses, and were born from Colombia to the Philippines to throughout the United States. The Welcome to Seminary Life Program includes introductory conferences on Sulpician formational community, the four pillars of formation and pastoral formation as outlined by Pope John Paul II in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, the Liturgy of the Hours and the Sulpician method of meditation, and the philosophical and theological course of studies; testing of basic academic skills; and a tour of Sulpician and Catholic Baltimore heritage.

The average age of the new seminarians is twenty-six. Half of the new seminarians have already been in some form of priestly formation—high school, college, or major seminary. Their academic background includes undergraduate degrees from a number of institutions, including Christendom College, Franciscan University, Gannon University, Loyola College of Baltimore, St. Peter's College (Camden), Rider University, Seton Hall University, SUNY, Syracuse University, and William & Mary. Their previous careers included the US Armed Forces, Catholic high-school teaching, music, information technology, food and restaurant service, defense analysis, hospital chaplaincy, and farming. They bring the gifts and talents given them by God, and offer them for service to God's People.

With the arrival of returning seminarians on August 31, the community reassembles for a traditional Baltimore Crab Feast. The following day the emphasis shifts to quiet and reflection, with the annual retreat preached by the seminary's new Director of Spiritual Formation Programs Fr. Lawrence Terrien, S.S., former Superior General of the Society of the Priests of St. Sulpice, entitled "The Way of Discipleship".