



# Consortio

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

SPRING 2005

## Carrying Forward the Vision of John Paul II

The surprising attention surrounding the death and funeral of John Paul II are an indication, at least externally, of the profound effect he has had on the world as a witness to Jesus Christ. A river of several millions of pilgrims from all over the world came rushing into Rome. They endured 15 to 20 hours of waiting in a line several kilometers long to pass by his body. Almost all the students and faculty of the ITI were among them. On the day of the funeral itself, St. Peter's square could not hold all the pilgrims. Those who had to be excluded followed the Mass on more than twenty huge screens that had been set up in the squares of Rome. Two hundred heads of state, hundreds of millions watching the funeral on TV – the superlatives seem to pile one on top of the



*"Thank you, John Paul II, for all the blessings you have given us."*

other. It is no wonder that one hears more and more, from many different sides, the new name: John Paul the Great, or even, St. John Paul the Great.

Yet, it is the inner drama attested by these superlatives that is the real story of the event. There was an unheard-of outpouring of love for

this man, or rather, not for this man simply in himself, but for him as a credible witness to Jesus Christ.

In his first encyclical, which sets the program for his whole pontificate, he asks in what direction his pontificate should continue the heritage of Vatican II. "How, in what manner should we continue?... Our response must be: Our spirit is set in one direction, the only direction for our intellect, will and heart is—towards Christ our Redeemer, towards Christ, the Redeemer of man. We wish to look towards him—because there is salvation in no one else but him,

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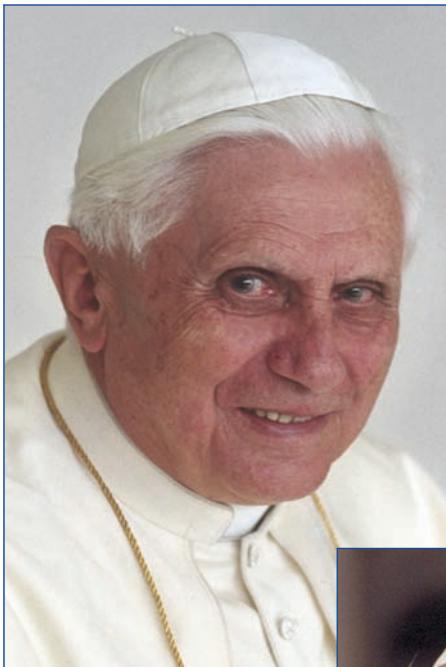
## Pope John Paul II *continued*

the Son of God—repeating what Peter said: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (*Redemptor Hominis* 7). Without doubt, the heart of John Paul’s life as the universal shepherd lies here. The reason for his radiance as a man of faith lies here.

He comes back to this program several times in the same encyclical. “Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it. . . . The man who wishes to understand himself thoroughly . . . must with his unrest, uncertainty and even his weakness and sinfulness, with his life and death, draw near to Christ. He must, so to speak, enter into him with all his own self, he must appropriate and assimilate the whole of the reality of the Incarnation and Redemption in order to find himself” (*Redemptor Hominis* 10). Of this entry into the mystery of Christ, as a mystery of love, John Paul has been a witness of unique greatness, power and attractiveness.

“How, in what manner should we continue?... Our response must be: Our spirit is set in one direction, the only direction for our intellect, will and heart is—towards Christ our Redeemer, towards Christ, the Redeemer of man. We wish to look towards him—because there is salvation in no one else but him, the Son of God—repeating what Peter said: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life”

ity passes by way of marriage and the family. “God is love and in Himself He lives out of a mystery of personal loving communion. Creating the human race in His own image and continually keeping it in being,

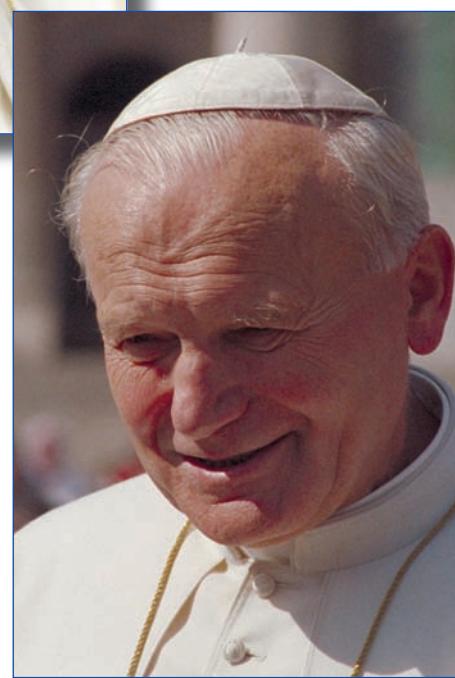


God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation, and thus the capacity and responsibility, joined with the consciousness of love and communion.

Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. . . . Consequently, sexuality, by means of which man and woman give themselves to one another . . . is realized in a truly human way only if it is an integral part of the love by which a man and a woman commit themselves totally to one another until death. The total physical self-giving would be a lie if it were not the sign and fruit of a total personal self-giving.” (*Familiaris Consortio* 11).

In these statements we grasp the core of John Paul’s vision. It is a vision of great simplicity and at the same time grandeur and splendor.

Already early in his Pontificate he founded the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, which is now present not



only in Europe, but also in Africa, Australia, North America and South America. On the very afternoon on which he was to sign the papers of the founding of this Institute, which was so dear to him, he was shot during the regular Wednesday audience. The founding was sealed by his blood. The

subject of those Wednesday audiences was the Theology of the Body, a profound work of reflection on the foundations of marriage and the family.

The ITI in Gaming is an extension of John Paul’s original founding of a theological institute that would develop and teach his theological vision. We received the added charge of bringing together students from east and west, to help the Church to “breathe with both lungs.”

We are happy and proud to be carrying forward the heritage of John Paul the Great and we look forward to working with Pope Benedict XVI. ☩

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Waldstein".

Michael Waldstein  
President, ITI Gaming



# Divine Mercy Sunday Mission an Apostolic Success

**“G**ruß Gott! Wir sind Studenten aus der Kartause.

Pfarrer Burmettler sendet uns. Wir haben eine Einladung und eine Rose für Sie. [Grüß Gott!] We are students from the Kartause. Father Burmettler is sending us. We have an invitation and a rose for you.]

These simple words greeted the people of Gaming on the morning of April 2nd, the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday and the day when the Lord called the Holy Father to Himself.

It is an annual tradition for the Kartause community to participate in an evangelization mission in the little village of Gaming. ITI students contacted Father Burmettler, the parish priest, set up the details and after attending an early Mass and praying the Divine Mercy

Chaplet, twelve pairs of students, a Franciscan sister and some ITI professors' children set out.

The mission invites the local people to attend Holy Mass the next day, Divine Mercy Sunday and spreads the Divine Mercy message. Every pair had a map of the territory to cover, a bunch of white roses, the invitation, little brochures or icons with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and information about Sister Faustina. Most of the "apostles" were well received. The few who would not receive them only made this experience a more precious sacrifice to offer up for souls.

Of course, it was with mixed feelings – the joy of any missionary, yet concerned with the Holy Father's health – that the "apostles" went out

to speak about the Lord's mercy. But the Holy Father's example, which never allowed age or sickness to limit his apostolic zeal, was an inspiration.

The next day, the parish church was full as never before. Was it the mission, or love for the recently deceased pontiff, or the presentation of the parish children who received first Holy Communion? Probably all three. How better to honor the Holy Father in his last hours than to be the apostles of the new evangelization? ☩



A rose and Divine Mercy invitation

## ITI-US Gala Features Cardinal Schönborn and William Clark

**F**riends from all over the United States, and from Europe as well, came to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Pasadena, California, for ITI-US's October 2004 benefit dinner. More than 300 Board members, benefactors and guests attended the dinner honoring the Institute's Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, with special guests Judge William Clark and William E. Simon, Jr. These speakers commanded the full attention of the audience with their call for the protection of the family and the dignity of human life.

Institute alumna Wendy-Irene Grimm offered listeners a sublime musical rendition of Schubert's *Ave Maria*, and the vice president for development, Christian Alting von Geusau, led guests on a virtual tour of life at the ITI in Gaming.

Guests remained to talk and meet His Eminence until late in the evening. Many remarked on how inspiring the entire evening had been. We hope to welcome many of them for a real visit to Gaming soon.

### Christianity and Islam

Earlier that day, Cardinal Schönborn gave a profoundly moving talk on the challenge facing the Church in the rise of Islam in the Middle East, Europe and around the globe. St. Andrew's church in Pasadena generously provided a venue for this event, which was attended by around 500 people. His Eminence emphasized the spiritual as well as political and social implications of this very timely subject. Both a transcript of this talk and a CD are available upon request. ☩



The ITI-US Gala from the top, left to right – Cardinal Schönborn, Judge Clark, William E. Simon, Jr., Kathleen Leavey McCarthy and Bea Bennett, and at bottom, guests enjoying the evening.

# The ITI Goes to Rome to Offer Be

Rome was flooded with 4 million pilgrims recently, and we were among them.

We had been expecting word of the Holy Father's death since Friday morning, April 1st. Everyone was so struck that the Vatican was saying that John Paul II was "gravely ill". They had never said anything like that before. Although only one word, "gravely", was different, it was quite a departure from the scoffing tone his spokesmen usually have in discussions of his failing health. When we realized that Sunday would be Divine Mercy Sunday—the feast that he established, initiated by the Polish sister who predicted a Slavic Pope from the East—we knew that the Holy Father would pass away soon. He died Saturday night, just a few hours after the start of Divine Mercy Sunday. The following morning our chaplain, Father Dennis, preached his homily by reading from JP II's second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy).

By then my husband, John Mortensen, an ITI Professor and Director of Finance, was already trying

to get our family down to Rome. If someone in our family died, we would do everything possible to attend the funeral, he said. We felt that since we were in Europe, we would be crazy to miss such a chance for things that pass - like classes, work, and weekly appointments. I preferred to brave the crowds to venerate the Holy Father's body rather than attending the Pope's funeral Mass. What I love about Mass in St. Peter's is the possibility of seeing him, even from a distance on the massive TV screens that line Via della Conciliazione, the huge boulevard that leads up to the basilica. But at the funeral mass those screens would be filled with a lot of cardinals whom I did not know.

...the first thing that my eyes could pick out in the dimness was the alabaster Holy Spirit window at the back of the Church over the main altar. It was shining in the dark Church – God knew that we needed reassurance during this time without a shepherd.

Our first thought on Sunday morning was to take a night train to Rome, stay one day and take a night train back. But then John felt badly about our seizing such a chance and leaving behind our students. The Director of Studies said that classes might be cancelled for two days and John authorized renting buses to drive the students to Rome. When we went to tea with some of the students on Sunday afternoon, they were excited at the possibility of actually going. They preferred the idea of riding in a bus all night, spending all day at St. Peter's and riding the bus back to Germany the following night. The headache of trying to find lodging for them all on such short notice made this hair-raising itinerary seem better. At first it looked as though it would cost 100 Euros per seat (and even newborn babies take

up a seat). But it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so even student families with small children were signing up. Then some student called up a bus driver he knew about and the ITI was able to rent buses for half that price.

We arrived early by plane and met our friends and ITI graduates, Tim and Auguste Kelly who are studying in Rome. Auguste made us a lovely meal and we headed back into Rome to attend Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation, and to find out when the Holy Father would be lying in state.

Originally the reports had said that visitors could come at 6pm Monday, but by the time we arrived they were saying with typical Italian confusion that it would start at 8pm, and then at 9. The piazza and Via Conciliazione were already full of people waiting to be allowed in and more people were arriving by the minute. We went to Mass at one of the churches there and then decided to come back the following morning.

We came back into Rome Tuesday morning, April 5<sup>th</sup>, just as the ITI buses were arriving. Using text messages on our cell phones, one of our friends told us about a shorter line for families with small children. We asked every guard we saw as we wended our way around the Vatican and most of them said that no such line existed. Finally one guard said, "No, there is absolutely no line for families or babies or children. But if you want to go up to the colonnade and ask ..." So we went to the colonnade and asked, and after a few shakes of the head, the guards there allowed us into the piazza. We were on the steps of St. Peter's within one hour of arriving at the Vatican.

The screens that line the boulevard had been showing scenes from the Holy Father's life and excerpts from his encyclicals in various languages. As we entered the basilica that narration had changed to the praying of the Rosary in Italian. The crowd was hushed and respectful.



# loved John Paul II Final Respects



It was so strange to enter St. Peter's with certainty for the first time that the Holy Father was not there and would not appear. But the first thing that my eyes could pick out in the dimness was the alabaster Holy Spirit window at the back of the Church over the main altar. It was shining in the dark Church—God knew that we needed that reassurance during this time without a shepherd. There were no metal detectors, no sophisticated security. The Holy Father was lying on a raised dais surrounded by four Swiss guards. There was no glass around him. We walked up to the barrier and were quickly hurried past. I've never seen him without it making me cry, and this time was no exception. I felt like blowing him a kiss, but I saw that other people were crossing themselves and that seemed more appropriate.

We lingered in St. Peter's for a while, watching the crowd come in and hoping to catch sight of our group. We sent sms messages to them and realized that they were scattered throughout the crowd and at every corner of the Vatican. So John and I went out and met a few families who had found "the short line". One student family, from England, had come on the all-night bus with their five children, ages 2-10. The mother is six months pregnant and they had already stood for four hours before they were finally allowed up to the front. The husband spoke Italian and the wife said that he had asked many people but no one would let them get any closer. I fear that, with British courtesy, he took the "no" of the guards at face value rather than realizing that an Italian "no" is an invitation to negotiate.

A reporter from the New York Times came by and asked us why we had come. My husband, told him, "For most Catholics, this is like the funeral of your father. You make the greatest effort to come." My sister-in-law, Ginger, told him that it was only fitting for everyone to pour into Rome to see the Holy Father, who

had worn himself out traveling the world to see us.

After leaving St. Peter's, we bought some pizza at a stand. I was surprised at how many shops were closed in the area around the Vatican, when they could have been doing the biggest business of their lives. But Italy had called for 3 days of mourning, and it was clear that many business owners took that seriously. Most impressively, the Italians had called off a series of sports tournaments as soon as it was announced that the Holy Father was ill. It's hard to imagine any greater sign of love or devotion from Italians. All over Rome were billboards produced by various organizations: "Grazie, Holy Father—Your diocese"; "Rome weeps and bids farewell to her Holy Father". We saw one little old man arriving by train; he was wearing a straw hat that was covered with silk flowers, and in the center, like a shrine, was a framed photo of the Holy Father.

The Italian rail system increased the number of trains to Rome, and various stadiums and the Circus Maximus were opened up to pilgrims for camping. We learned as we arrived back in Austria that they had cut off the line to see the Holy Father, for fear they wouldn't be able to prepare for his funeral on Friday.

From the time we heard of his death, people have been praying for the repose of his soul at Mass and grace before meals. I haven't been able to bring myself to pray for his soul, because he seems so far beyond needing our prayers. But I have been praying for his intercession ever since we heard the news, and although he has already been praying for us for many years, now he knows our specific personal petitions. He got us flights to Rome (and affordable), a free place to stay with wonderful friends, the quickest route in to see him that I've yet to hear of, fair weather in Rome, and safe travel. . He founded the ITI, where I discovered my faith, met my husband and gained another family. He blessed our marriage; he patted my cheek and made a cross on my forehead! He kissed my oldest daughter. I feel sure that he is already happy in heaven, gearing up to do even more for us now that he is united to Christ. The Vatican secretary of state nearly called him "John Paul the Great" in his homily last Sunday; he didn't say it, in the end, but somehow word leaked out and people were selling "John Paul the Great" hats near the Vatican. We live in great times and we have seen the beginning of a new springtime happen under the light and warmth of this saintly Pope.

As our friend and ITI graduate, Josipa Gasparic, from Croatia told us when she started for Rome upon learning that the Pope was ill, "I take you all to St. Peter's with me in my heart."

*Beth Mortensen, ITI Graduate, Class of 2001*

"For most Catholics, this is like the funeral of your father. You make the greatest effort to come."



# New Lecture Series – Catholics in Business and Politics

This year the International Theological Institute started an exciting new lecture series featuring Catholics who are prominent in politics and business. Since the ITI is forming theologians to work all over the world, and especially in areas that concern marriage and the family, the administration thought it was important to invite Catholic businessmen and politicians to share their experiences with our students as active Catholics in the world.

Distinguished guests that have already come to the ITI are Prince Nikolaus von Liechtenstein, the Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Holy See and the European Union, Dr. Onno Ruding, former Finance Minister of the Netherlands and former Vice Chairman of Citicorp, and François Michelin, the honorary President of the worldwide Michelin group. All three spoke from their personal experience about living the life of a Catholic while standing at the helm of an important political or business operation.

In addition to this special lecture series, we have had a wonderful line-up of speakers for our regular academic lectures.

**September 16** – “Values in the European Union — Spiritual and Geographical Borders” by Prince Nikolaus von und zu Liechtenstein; Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Holy See and the European Union

**October 8** – “The Doctrine of the Mystical Body in the High Middle Ages” by Aaron Canty, University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

**November 8** – Montessori Good Shepherd catechesis by Linda Kael, long-time student of Sofia Cavaletti,



Prince Nikolaus von Liechtenstein



Dr. Onno Ruding



François Michelin



Bishop Küng

founder of Good Shepherd catechesis.

**November 26** – “The Jesus Prayer and Eastern Spirituality” by Sister Mihaela Josefa Hutt, a teacher of Byzantine spiritual theology.

**January 26** – “European Values: What to Do with Solidarity and Tolerance?” by Dr. Onno Ruding; Former Minister of Finance of the Netherlands; Former Vice-President of CitiBank worldwide; Member of the Pontifical Council «*Justitia et Pax*».

**February 12** – “Christian Ethics and the Call of the Christian Businessman” by François Michelin, honorary President of the world-wide Michelin group.

**February 16** – “Marriage and Family Pastoral Care in the Renewal of the Church.” Bishop DDr. Klaus Küng; our Diocesan Bishop and the Austrian Marriage and Family Bishop

**March 11** – “The Instrumental Causality of the Sacraments: St. Thomas and Post-Modern Theology” by Bernhard Blankenhorn, O.P., Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, Berkeley, California.

**April 1** – “The Heart of Nicolaus Cusanus”, Daniel O’Connell, The Catholic University of America, Fulbright Scholar in Trier, Germany.

**April 15** – “Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi” by Cassian Folsom, OSB, Prior of the Monastery of Saint Benedict, Norcia, Italy; Lecturer at San Anselmo in Rome.

**April 25** – “The Christian Origins of Natural Science” by Peter Hodgson, Professor of Physics, Oxford University.

See the calendar section for a list of our future lectures and events. ☺

## Mariazell Pilgrimage Starts the Year On the Right Foot



Each school year at ITI begins with a special custom - a pilgrimage to Mariazell. Mariazell is a renowned pilgrimage site for Central Europe and Austria, where pilgrims have been coming since the twelfth century to lay their prayers and petitions at

the feet of Our Lady. In May of 2004, when many Central European countries entered the European Union, more than 100,000 pilgrims came to Mariazell to celebrate a spiritual union which the Iron Curtain could not sever.

Our students and faculty start each school year with this eight hour pilgrimage from our campus to dedicate the year and its studies to Our Lady. At the end of the hike, we are treated to

Mass at the shrine of Our Lady of Mariazell.

This year, we were blessed to have three of our alumni priests to celebrate Mass for us: Fr. Juraj Terek, Slovakia; Fr. Yuriy Kolasa, Ukraine and Fr. Johannes Schwarz, Austria. Each of these priests came to ITI and received part of their seminary training here. With this Mass,



they shared the blessings that they had received. ☺



## First International Seminar



Cardinal Schönborn greets the Merdaru family during the International Seminar – Claudio is a current ITI doctoral student

We had our first International Seminar in October of 2004. Friends from several different countries came to enjoy a weekend at the Kartause and to take part in seminars led by Dr. Michael Waldstein. The seminars focused on sections of the Gospel of St. John and were conducted in German and English. After discussing “The Prayer of Jesus to the Father” (Gospel of St. John; 17) and “The Wedding Feast at Cana” (Gospel of St. John; 2), Archbishop Francis B. Schulte, Archbishop Emeritus of New Orleans, celebrated Mass for the ITI and our guests. Everyone was then treated to an international dinner and entertainment prepared by the students. The diners felt as if they were traveling through different countries as they tasted dishes from India, Slovenia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Georgia and Ukraine – to mention only a few! The final day of the seminar brought a special treat – Divine Liturgy, the Byzantine Mass, celebrated by His Eminence Christoph Cardinal Schönborn. Guests left with a small taste of what life is like at the International Theological Institute. ☩

## A Mission from Pope John Paul II – “Be a bridge between East and West.”

Part of the mission entrusted to us by the late Pope John Paul II is to act as a bridge between East and West for the unity of Christians. We carry out this mission in several ways:

First, our very location, Austria, is a natural bridge between the East and West.

Secondly, more than half of our students are from Central and Eastern Europe, which provides a natural mix and sharing of cultures. Thirdly, both the Byzantine and the Roman Rites are celebrated on our campus and the students are privileged to see both Rites unfold together throughout the school year. Fourthly, our theological studies delve into the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, both East and West. Finally, as a further outreach, our Byzantine Rite priests visit different Austrian parishes to celebrate Divine Liturgy and to explain more about the Eastern Rites in the Church. ☩



Visit to the pilgrimage site, Maria Dreieichen, February 2005

## Looking at the Diverse Student Body of ITI: People from Different Walks of Life United in the Quest for Truth.

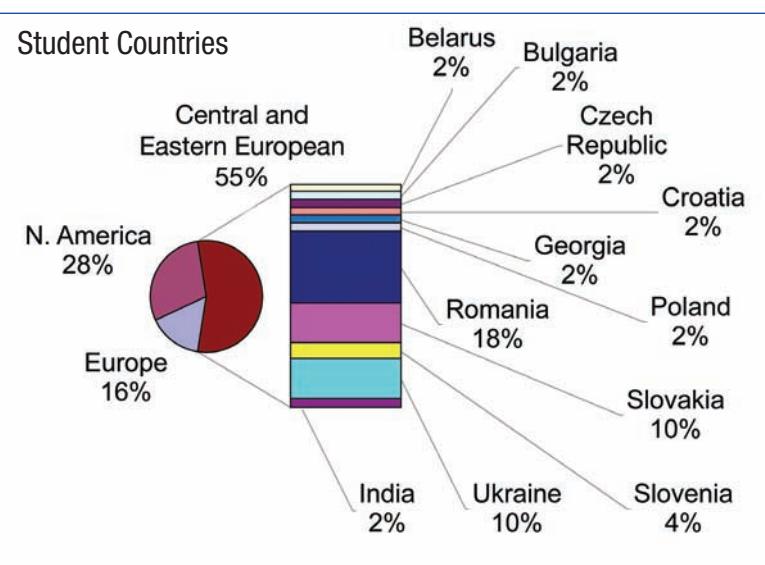
We are very excited that this year 30% of our students are priests or seminarians who are sent by their bishop for theological training. Here are some other fast facts to give you a picture of our unique campus culture:

55% of our students come from Central and Eastern Europe.

37% of our students are Eastern Rite and help to enrich our knowledge of the life of the Church.

31% of our students are married and study here with their families.

Our students are from 16 different countries. What gives us Unity? Our Faith. ☩



# Providing Critical Support – ITI's Development Team

*ITI's Development Team is dedicated to advancing the mission and vision of the ITI by giving others the opportunity to support the ITI.*



Scott Daily



Betty Hartmann



C. Alting von Geusau



Ginger Mortensen



Dan Grimm

Over the past few years, Dan Grimm has stood at the helm of ITI-US, the public benefit corporation in the United States that supports projects of the International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family (ITI) in Gaming, Austria. After three years as president and chief fundraiser for ITI-US, Dan Grimm decided to pursue full-time his dream of working with individuals, couples and families as a psychologist. We are very happy that Dan still remains with ITI-US as an active member of the Board of Trustees. We are grateful that Scott Daily, another member of the ITI-US Board, has taken on the voluntary position of ITI-US president with great enthusiasm and dedication. Scott is assisted by Betty Hartmann, who serves as part-time office director and CFO. With her efficiency and inventiveness, Betty is a blessing for all of us.

To give our benefactors more direct contact with the Institute in Gaming, ITI-US sent Ginger

Mortensen to work in Gaming as a liaison officer. Ginger has been one of the driving forces in helping the Institute to establish a professional development operation. She has brought along her valuable experience from her work at Thomas Aquinas College in California.

In March 2004, the Institute in Gaming appointed Mr. Christiaan Alting von Geusau as the vice president for development. He has been working hard developing contacts with benefactors in Europe and will widen his scope of activities to include ITI friends in North America. Christiaan is from the Netherlands and before coming to the ITI, he practiced as an attorney in Brussels, specializing in European Union law and advising government institutions. Christiaan looks forward to meeting you on his upcoming visits to the United States and in Europe. Please contact him if you are thinking about visiting the Institute in Austria. ☺

## Calendar of Events

May 17	Graduation and Divine Liturgy celebrated by Christoph Cardinal Schönborn and Monsignor R. George Sarauskas.
May 20-25	Good Shepherd Catechesis Training for Catechists – part I of Level I
June 2 – 26	Phoenix Institute Summer Course for high school students (English)
July 16 – August 6	Phoenix Institute Summer Course “Study of Western Institutions” (English)
August 30	Beginning of Fall 2005 Semester
October	ITI International Seminar Weekend (German/English) date to be determined
November 3 – 6	Conference on Childhood (English)

*For more information, please contact:*



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