



# Consortio

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

WINTER 2011/2012

## Helping the Poor in Myanmar

An Interview with ITI student, Chan Thawng

*ITI student, Chan Thawng, from Myanmar (Burma) started a foundation in his homeland to make sure the poorest of the poor in the villages can receive an education. He and his staff spread the news of God's love in a country where being a Christian means you are subject to persecution. In this interview, Chan talks about his background, work and studies.*

*In the midst of the suffering in his country, he is creating a Garden of Eden, a place of hope.*

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**Why did you found the Shelter for Suffering People and New Eden Educational Help?**

I was born in a very poor family in a small village in Myanmar. My father died when I was ten years old. As the only son of a widow, I had to overcome many difficulties and problems in order to study and graduate. When I was seventeen years old, I heard God's call and followed Him. I could not go on living without sharing the Gospel with others. During the summer holidays, I journeyed from village to village and spoke about the Word of God as much as I could. In many villages, I saw that there were no Chris-



Chan has founded educational centers for poor children in Myanmar

tians, no school, and the children were poor and uneducated. Often there were no toilets and the villagers would take a bath once a week without soap. In some villages, there was a school, but children could not afford to attend. They were too poor to pay for the tuition, or pencils or other needs. When I saw the low standards of living and the poor lives of the people in these villages, I felt a great desire to help them, and from that time on, I started going to towns and cities to share the story of these children and the need

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## Unimagined Dimensions of Christ

*An editorial by Bernhard Dolna*

In his address to the Jewish community in Germany in September 2011, Pope Benedict XVI stressed the great connection that the Catholic Church feels with the Jewish people. He encouraged each of us to grow in mutual understanding, and emphasized that his own flock should cultivate an inner affinity to Judaism. "For Christians, there can be no rupture in salvation history.... The Sermon of

the Mount does not abolish the Mosaic Law. It reveals its hidden possibilities and allows more radical demands to emerge. It points towards the deepest source of human action, the heart, where faith, hope, and love blossom forth."

He particularly pointed to the message of hope which is contained in the books of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament which has been appropriated and continued by Jews and Christians in different ways. The

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# Helping the Poor in Myanmar continued from page 1

to help them. In 2005 I founded the Shelter for Suffering People and New Eden Education Help (SFSP & NEED). God has blessed this initiative and we now support the education of more than 100 children in different villages in Myanmar.

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Can you describe your project in more detail?

In many villages there is not even a primary school (even though the government says there is) and so we build a small school house, or we pay rent for a house and send teachers and provide educational resources such as pens, books and paper. In villages where a government school exists, we support poor children who cannot afford the school fee, uniform, books, and so on. Over 100 children are helped in this way.

When the children reach high school level, we see which students are best qualified to become teachers and arrange for them to go to school in the city of Yangon and support their education and livelihood. We rent houses or apartments and staff live there together with the students and help them in their studies. After they finish high school,



*The rainy season makes getting to school an additional challenge*

we help them to find a job so they can support themselves. We are helping about 50 high school students in Yangon.

**Why did you come to study at the ITI?**

In our country, there are a lot of divorces, and many families are broken because of the poverty level. This is even true for Christian families and I see the number

of suffering children increase day after day. It is not easy to find a happy family, especially in villages. I therefore believe that studying in the Master of Marriage and Family degree program at the ITI will help me to find a way to solve these problems in my country. Another strong reason is that my father was Catholic and my mother is protestant. I do not clearly know the doctrine of the Catholic faith, as I had grown up between two beliefs. Therefore I believe studying at the ITI will help me to know more about Catholic doctrine.

*Chan Thawng is currently in his homeland to renew his passport so he can come back to study. We recently received this shocking letter, this living witness of charity in the service of the Gospel. ✂*



*ITI student Chan (third from the left) and his coworkers.*

## ITI Scholarship Fund Please Help Students Like Chan Complete Their ITI Education!

The scholarship fund at the ITI helps those students from economically weaker countries (mainly Eastern and Central Europe, Asia and Africa), who cannot afford to study here. Many cannot even afford the food costs of 200 Euro per month. Your donation can help us to educate these wonderful students who wish to do God's work in their countries. Our students desire to have a good Catholic educational foundation at the ITI in order to launch and fulfill initiatives like Chan's foundation. You can help them to answer God's call. *See the back of the newsletter for donation information.* ✂



## *Greetings to you from Myanmar!*

*Dear Friends,*

*I trust God you all are fine by His grace. We are fine too. After returning from my trip to the villages, my co-workers and I were about to visit the Children's Prison in Nahawsan, Kawh Hmuu Township. About 2000 children between 10 -18 years old are put in this prison. I have tried to visit this prison for more than a year, but the government did not allow me in. By the grace of God, a local authority allowed me to secretly visit them in October 2011, but we could only visit the boys, not the girls. About 2000 children are put in this prison and they are divided into four groups and 500 children are in each group. We were only allowed to see one group of 500 children. This is the wonderful thing God is doing for us. He opened the way wonderfully as never before, and we believe God will continue to do so.*

*Many children are put into prison because they are thieves, or because they killed their neighbors as their parents cannot give them enough food. They are hungry and they steal and become thieves and they are put into prison. I am so sad to see them. The government does not give them enough food in prison and they are thin and malnourished.*

*We went and gave them food; rice, meat and chicken, potato, breads,*

*and sweets. We donated books, pens and pencils (in prison children are taught basic education) and we preached the Gospel to them, encouraged them by singing the Gospel songs, etc.... We are now trying to see the other children in prison and also to visit and see the women's prison.*

*Many young girls and women are put into prison because of prostitution. Because of the poverty some are sold. They cannot get jobs and they do not have enough money for food and become prostitutes. Some young girls are asked by their parents to become prostitutes as that is the only way they can get money for food. We ask God, and our desire is to be able to help suffering children and suffering young girls more and more.*

*We need your prayers so much.*

*Sincerely, Chan Thawng*

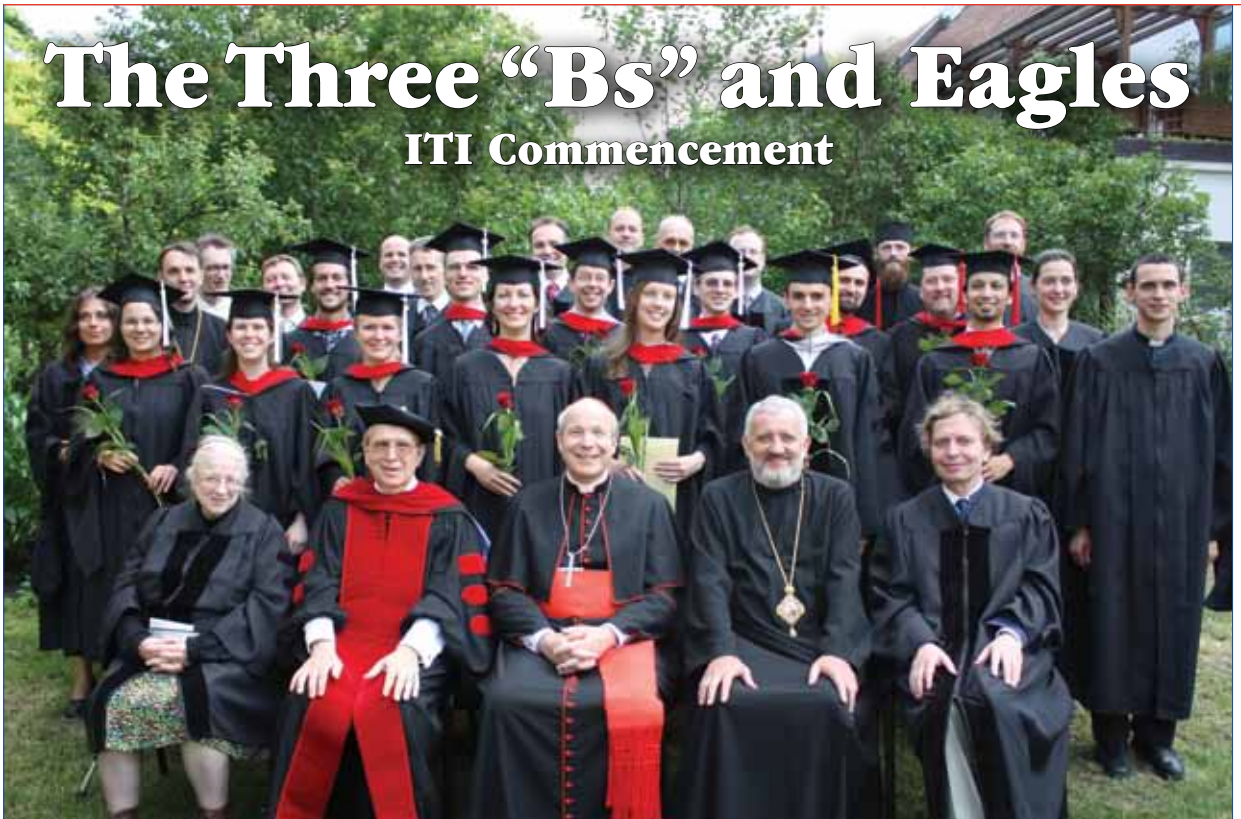
Chan and his coworkers spread the news of God's love in a country where being a Christian means you are subject to persecution.



Chan visits a children's prison giving food for the body and for the soul.

# The Three “Bs” and Eagles

## ITI Commencement



On June 15, 2011, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn presided over the ITI Commencement in Tru-  
mau and handed out Masters, Licentiate and Doctoral degrees to students from Austria, Denmark, Lithuania, Romania, Wales, the USA and Ukraine. Bishop Peter Rusnák, the Eparch of Bratislava, began the ceremonies by celebrating Divine Liturgy, the Byzantine Rite Mass. Thirteen students happily accepted their hard earned degrees and listened to the encourag-

ing speech of their classmate and class speaker, Deacon Mike Lee, who spoke of three “Bs” to remember – 1)Be Courageous, 2)Be Grateful, and 3)Be a Saint.

Of the thirteen graduates, three have since entered religious life. Two other graduates are priests and one is a deacon. Another graduate was accepted into Notre Dame’s highly competitive theology doctoral program in the USA. Another graduate is working on retreats in Lithuania to heal the wounds

left by abortion.

There was a special surprise for Reverend Juraj Terek, the ITI Byzantine Rite Chaplain, who was presented with the Golden Priest’s Cross. This honor was presented to Fr. Terek by His Eminence in recognition for his wonderful and selfless service at the ITI. This year marks his tenth anniversary as a priest.

President Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan gave the commencement address which was a moving meditation on Deuteronomy 32:11, “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions”. The full text is included below.

Msgr. Hogan also received a Golden Priest’s Cross a few days later in Vienna. It was bestowed on him by Bishop Virgil Bercea of the eparchy of Oradea Mare in Romania. The honor was given to Msgr. Hogan in recognition of the preparation he has given to the many Romanian students – clergy and lay – at the ITI.

A Christian, like an eagle, waits for the wind, waits for the Holy Spirit. He is always ready to follow the Lord, but he waits for the Holy Spirit to give him the energy to fulfill God’s plans for his life.

## The Eagle - President’s Address

The primary audience of a commencement address are the individuals who are receiving their degrees. That is also my goal although what I have to say will in fact apply to everyone here today although the topic is an unusual one. Let me explain. Almost 20 years ago I held a retreat for seminarians in the Archdiocesan Seminary in Vienna, Austria. The topic and

the images used made such an impression that years later priests came up to tell me that they remember what I said then. In the course of time, I have held variations of those talks on a number of occasions. But I have always hesitated to translate the material into English because I know how a turn of a phrase in one language comes across differently in another.





*ITI President and Rector Msgr. Prof. Dr. Larry Hogan (upper left) delivers the graduation speech for the ceremony in the beautiful ITI Schloss Trumau courtyard. After the ceremony everyone was invited to a festive dinner at a nearby Heuriger – including, as always, the ITI children.*

Nonetheless, in this adventure I will take as my motto a line from a poem of Alexander Pope which has been often set to music: *Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.*

As most of you know, I have been Professor of Old Testament for many years even though I often teach New Testament Courses as well. Therefore it should come as no surprise when I talk about a biblical theme: namely birds in the Bible. Now I am not going to talk about the owl, a biblical bird that has been pestering many of us here for weeks. No, I am going to speak about some characteristics of another of the 20 unclean birds of the bible, namely the eagle.

To begin, I want to tell you about where the eagle makes his nest and how the eagle raises its eaglets or fledglings as they are called. We read in Job 39:27-28: “ Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high? On the rock he dwells and makes his home in the fastness of the rocky crag”. An eagle never builds its nest in a tree or on a roof. He builds it very high on a rock or cliff. He wants to be left in peace and not be disturbed by other animals or birds. In German one speaks of *Adlersruhe*.

The nest is not built out of thin twigs but out of strong branches which the eagle weaves into a nest so that it can withstand even a very strong wind. Then the eagle lines the nest with feathers and leaves. The mother bird lays the eggs and when the eaglets come out of their shells, she begins the arduous task of feeding them. She flies again and

again to bring food back to the hungry birds and she always knows which one has not been fed.

But then one day she flies back without food. She does not land on the edge of the nest as usual but she flutters her wings about a meter over the nest much in the way a hummingbird does or a helicopter if you will. Most birds cannot do that by the way. Then she begins to slowly move her enormous wings. You can even imagine the little birds looking up and saying to one another, “what strong wings Mama has but why is she doing that? We’re hungry”.

You see eagles will never learn on their own to fly like most other birds. They have to be taught. The mother bird flies away and repeats several times this hovering over the nest and flapping of wings. Then there comes a time when she enters the nest itself. She leans her head against an eaglet. You might think if you saw that that it is a sign of motherly affection. But watch what she does. Slowly she pushes the eaglet to the edge of the nest. You can imagine the little bird looking down – way down - for the first time and maybe sensing what is going to happen. You guessed it. She pushes the eaglet out of the nest and the poor bird falls like dead weight. But don’t worry, this is a mother bird and she swoops and catches the eaglet on her back. The bird is reassured but the mother bird does it again and again. One day the

*She pushes the eaglet out of the nest and the poor bird falls like dead weight. But don’t worry, this is a mother bird and she swoops and catches the eaglet on her back. The bird is reassured but the mother bird does it again and again.*



## The Eagle - President's Address continued from page 5

mother bird returns and tears the lining out of the nest, the feathers and leaves. Now the rough branches that hold the nest to the cliff are what the little birds feel. It is no longer very cosy in the nest.

The Bible knows all about this. In a passage describing the way God treats his people, Deuteronomy 32:11 tells us "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions".

These are the ways God treats his children to bring them to spiritual maturity. He handles us the way the mother eagle raises her eaglets. No one wants to hear this truth.

We want things to go our way. Every day should be happy and without problems and suffering.

Dear Graduates you are leaving a fairly secure nest behind when you leave the ITI. We wish you well. We wish you happiness and good health. But realistically you will be confronted with many challenges and difficulties, especially if you seriously try to live a Christian life. There may even be situations where you will cry out as Jesus did on the cross, *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me*. You won't be the first saint or sinner to have those thoughts or to have repeated those words of our Lord from Psalm 22. But it is precisely in confronting the difficulties that will come your way that will strengthen your character and, if you respond to them in the right way, they will help you grow in holiness. You will, going back to our image of the eagle, learn to fly. But you will only learn to fly as a Christian if you place your absolute trust in God. No friend, no spouse, no insurance policy can take His place. God does not abandon us when we have trials and temptations, he is training us to fly.

Life is not a rose garden and even when it is, we find that the most beautiful roses also have thorns. And as one who had a rose garden as a parish priest, let me tell you roses have a lot of enemies in the insect and mildew world. No, life is not a rose



*A Golden Eagle* by Archibald Thornburn

garden. It is often a struggle accompanied by suffering.

I cite here St. Paul in Philippians 1:29-30: "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict which you saw and now hear to be mine." In this struggle, God encourages us to learn to depend on him so that we can fly as an eagle. I quote a wonderful passage from Isaiah 40:28-31: "Have you not known. Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is

unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. "

What does it mean to fly high with wings like eagles? Unlike most birds, eagles do not usually fly by flapping their wings. They wait on the rock or cliff for the right wind current. They open their wings and let the wind carry them away. It is interesting to note that the same word means both wind and spirit in Hebrew (*ruah*), Greek (*pneuma*), and Latin (*spiritus*). A Christian, like an eagle, waits for the wind, waits for the Holy Spirit. He is always ready to follow the Lord, but he waits for the Holy Spirit to give him the energy to fulfill God's plans for his life. Notice I did not say "his plans", but "God's plans". The number of good and very good things we can do is astounding but we need to set priorities and God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us set them. Otherwise you are like the chicken running around endlessly in a barnyard. They make a lot of noise but with their wings they can't fly anywhere. If we don't "wait on the Lord" as it is usually called, we will become like those chickens and we run the risk of a burn out.

By waiting on the Lord, we learn to discern his plans and receive the strength for the challenges of life. Just as the reading and discussing of the great

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masters helps us to acquire a sense of judging and separating the wheat from the dross, so too does waiting on the Lord in prayer and adoration help us to see what God wants of us. We acquire eagle eyes. Eagles are famous for their sharp vision. We read in Job 39:28-29: "On the rock he dwells and makes his home in the fastness of the rocky crag. Thence he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it afar off." Faith is not only a theological virtue. It is a way of seeing. Faith helps us to see things that others without faith do not see. Faith helps us to see God's hand in the circumstances of life, whereas others see only accident or luck.

These are some, but not all of the characteristics of an eagle from which we can draw lessons for our lives. I want to conclude by speaking about the unusual way that an eagle dies. An eagle senses that it is about to die and prepares for it by flying high up on cliff and perches there very firmly. It casts its sharp eyes directly in the sun for a period of time and dies.

My dear graduates, at the end of our lives we will all encounter the Son of God, the Light of the World, a light much brighter than the sun. The best preparation for this encounter is the way we live our lives right now. We can look down at the problems and difficulties we encounter and be discouraged by them or like the eagle we can fix our eyes on the sun, on the son of God and receive from Him the strength to go forward.

A couple of months ago the church beatified an "Eagle" Christian, someone who taught us not to be afraid, someone who taught us how to fly like an eagle and how to die like one: Blessed John Paul II. Let us learn from this Pope who exemplified the words of Isaiah: "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." ✂

If we don't "wait on the Lord" as it is usually called, we will become like those chickens and we run the risk of a burn out.

# Record Enrollment for 2011-2012

## Opening Seminar: Why Study the Great Masters of Theology and Philosophy?

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire that feeds you," says Plutarch. This was the theme for the opening day of the academic year on September 10, 2011. President Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan began the day with a talk about the Mission of the ITI and its Seven Principles. He also spoke about why we use the seminar method and study the great masters of philosophy and theology. Students, faculty, and staff then broke into groups to discuss the principles and pillars, as well as two articles written by our Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn: one on St. Thomas Aquinas as Holy Theologian, and the other on the study of theology – its pitfalls



and promises.

His Eminence celebrated Mass in the local parish church of Tru-mau. He emphasized in his homily that Christian self-giving was central to the ITI. He went on to say that, "It is always a challenge to form a community - a



true community, a Christian community - since the world has such a different view. But the ITI is truly blessed." After Mass, everyone enjoyed a festive meal together at a nearby Heuriger, where Cardinal Schönborn was able to meet the new students. This year we have a record enrollment of 80 students – a sign that the demand for the unique ITI education is greater than ever. ✂



*ITI Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, greets the new students, the children and their families at the semester opening ceremony. A full auditorium of students listen to the introductory words of President and Rector Msgr. Prof. Dr. Larry Hogan.*

# Study the Way St. Thomas Did

ITI Students Found a Summer Program: St. Albert the Great Center for Scholastic Studies *by John P. Joy*

John Joy and Louis Bolin, ITI theology licentiate students, love the study of theology so much that they used their free time after the academic year and, with other ITI alumni, founded the Saint Albert the Great Center for Scholastic Studies. Their 2011 Summer Program took place in Norcia, Italy, at the monastery of St. Benedict and was entitled “Christ:

Source and Summit of All Things.” Participants were invited to a two-week course of studies in sacramental theology presented in the form of the great Catholic universities of the high Middle Ages.

Unique to the programs of the Albertus Magnus CSS is the combination of scholastic form and content, namely the study of St. Thomas Aquinas *in the way that St. Thomas himself would have studied*. Hence their dedica-

tion of the Center to his own teacher, St. Albert the Great. Their programs thus take as their central focus the three tasks of the Medieval masters of theology (*praedicatio, lectio, disputatio*) together with the course of studies undertaken by medieval students of theology, which involved commenting on the theological textbook of the day, e.g. the *Sentences* of Peter Lombard.

*Praedicatio* – the participants arrived in Norcia on Trinity Sunday and attended a late Mass offered by ITI graduate, Fr. Thomas Bolin. His preaching on the doctrine of the Trinity was superb, although it is a difficult topic to take in even when one hasn’t been traveling all night and day! Holy Mass was available every day both at the Sisters’ convent (*Novus Ordo*) and at the Brothers’ monastery (*Usus Antiquior*).

*Lectio* – Fr. Cassian Folsom, the prior of the monastery, delivered the inaugural seminar / lecture on the Holy Eucharist, drawing his insights from Papa Ratzinger’s book *Jesus of Nazareth*. Fr. Thomas fol-

lowed with an excellent series of lectures on the Eucharist in relation to the other sacraments which we were studying: principally baptism and matrimony, and then holy orders as well. These were highly enjoyable thanks to Fr. Thomas’s excellent insights and inimitable good humour.

*Disputatio* – intended as the culmination of the program, the scholastic disputation did not disappoint! Participants argued the pros and cons of various questions pertaining to baptism and matrimony that had arisen in the course of daily readings and discussions – had a chance to argue against each other’s positions and objections – and then listened to Fr. Thomas give the *respondere* (‘I answer that’) of the Master. He did a tremendous job, taking notes furiously and then, after giving his own answer, responding individually to each objection pro and con.

*Commentaria* – the academic portion of the program was rounded out by daily seminars on theological texts of the great masters, principally St. Thomas’s *Summa Theologiae*, which has long since replaced Peter Lombard’s *Sentences* as the textbook for ‘beginners’ in theology. Commentary on the texts was verbal rather than written, of course, and thus carried out in a seminar style classroom setting. Additional readings were taken not from the scholastics themselves, but from those whom the scholastics themselves would have read, namely the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, as well as the documents of the magisterium.

This year’s location in Norcia, Italy, was in itself one of the highlights of the 2011 Summer program. It gave everyone the chance to spend a few days in Rome, including being there for the Feast of Corpus Christi, as well as to make a couple of day-trips to nearby Assisi and Cascia. Find news of their next summer course at [www.albertusmagnuscsc.org](http://www.albertusmagnuscsc.org) ✂



Top: Fr. Cassian Folsom, OSB., lecturing on the Holy Eucharist. Middle: John Joy looking over a text of Chrysostom. Bottom: The scholastic disputation.





# Discovering the Foundations of Leadership

## Second Annual Leadership Forum Summer 2011

In August, the second *Leadership and Faith Forum* took place at the ITI. It was an enriching week where Christian leaders met in the search for virtue and wisdom, in order to more positively influence their own environment. The participants felt strengthened and encouraged not only by meeting other international leaders who shared the same ideals, but also by the opportunity to reflect together on the transcendence of the human person.

The uniqueness of the *Leadership and Faith Forum* is this: rather than one more management training course for Catholic leaders, it gives participants the chance to explore the very sources which serve as the foundations for today's theories about man, his behavior, and his relationship with others. Instead of analyzing ready-made theories about behavior management, the group discusses the fundamental principles of theology, philosophy and psychology, deepening their awareness of what it means to be man. This is the key for a true understanding of the attitudes a person has in the many different situations in which he finds himself.

This approach, which was enriched with practi-



*"I have grown so much over the past year. Deep seeds have been planted and my heart is full of joy. God bless you all." 2011 participant attending the Forum a second time.*

cal examples in class and with shared meals, became a powerful tool for self-examination. Participants were able to analyze their particular field of action from a Catholic point of view and to develop their own understanding and creative responses in order to better serve in their areas of expertise. The Church invites Christians, who are part of the world, to develop their capacity to be active transformers of social relationships and to guide history in accordance with the desires of the Kingdom of God. *We invite you to join us for the next Leadership and Faith Forum next summer from June 24 to 30, 2012: Come and benefit from a great opportunity to go back to the sources!* ✂

The top benefit was "A deeper understanding of one's faith and a greater motivation to seek to put it into practice."

## Unimagined Dimensions of Christ continued from page 1

Holy Father sees that the hour has come that, "after centuries of antagonism, we now see it as our task to bring these two ways of re-reading the biblical texts – the Christian way and the Jewish way – into dialogue with one another, if we are to understand God's will and His word aright." This dialogue should help to again light up the radiance of the Holy Bible in the hearts and minds of man and to strengthen our hope in God in the midst of

a secularized society which is becoming pagan and inhuman.

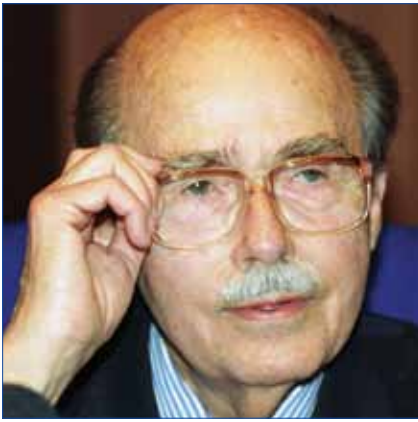
The ITI breathes with both lungs of the Eastern and the Western Church and within its heart there dwells a deep love for the spiritual and intellectual inheritance of Judaism. This is also visible in our curriculum. Could it not be, that when God leads us in a lively conversation with Israel, we will see unimagined dimensions of Christ come to light? ✂

## The ITI Receives a Major Donation

"I would like the ITI to remain independent." With these words, an anonymous donor presented a magnificent gift to the ITI. We want to express our deep gratitude, as this donation has helped us tremendously in these difficult economic times. This gift is very encouraging and helps us to remain independent, allowing us to offer a uncompromisingly Catholic education to those entrusted to our

care. Many might not understand our business plan, which relies primarily on donations, but it is the only way we can remain free of secular ideologies and form truly Catholic leaders. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all our donors and to God for this great blessing! ✂





Otto von Habsburg (1912 – 2011)

# Undoubtedly One of the Great Europeans

## The ITI remembers Archduke Dr. Otto von Habsburg

*“I am very pleased with the progress of the Institute, because we need schools like yours now more than ever.”*

“Facing the pessimism of our time in politics and in the economy let us remember: A wound in the wallet is never mortal! Defeats in the life of each one of us and in the world are to be overcome.” Otto von Habsburg wrote these encouraging words in a letter to the ITI in January 2009. This encouragement was very real, as it was backed by the testimony of his life. He worked for a Christian Europe and fought tirelessly for the freedom of people in Central and Eastern Europe. He wrote to the ITI in 2005, “I am very pleased with the progress of the Institute, because we need schools like yours now more than ever.”

Otto von Habsburg was born in 1912 as the eldest son of the last Austrian Emperor Karl I and his wife, Zita. After it was declared a Republic, the family went into exile in 1919, moving from Switzerland, and then to Madeira, where Karl I died. Kaiser Karl has since

been declared Blessed. The family continued moving in Spain, then to Belgium and then to the United States. From 1944, Otto von Habsburg, then lived in France until 1951, then again in Spain and then moved to Bavaria. In 1951 he married Princess Regina of Saxe-Meiningen. Throughout his life he was involved in European policy and the growth of the European Union. When the first Catholic Days were held in Austria at Mariazell in 2004, uniting Central Europeans in pilgrimage once again after the fall of the Iron Curtain Otto von Habsburg said, “Now I have lived”. In 1973, Otto von Habsburg was elected as President of the International Pan-European Union. He was patron of the Pan-European Picnic on 19 August 1989 at the Austrian-Hungarian border

that initiated the collapse of the Iron Curtain. The Emperor’s son was a member of the European Parliament since its first direct elections in 1979 and served there until 1999. As Cardinal Schönborn said in speaking of Archduke Dr. Otto von Habsburg, he was, “undoubtedly one of the great Europeans.” ✂



Otto von Habsburg and his wife Regina

## Baby Food and Business Ethics from a Christian Perspective:

# Visiting Lecturer Dr. Claus Hipp



Marika, a student from the country of Georgia, is pleased to learn that Dr. Hipp’s business is also active in her country.

The owner of the popular baby food producer HiPP Organic, Dr. Claus Hipp, gave a lecture about his philosophy of business to students and faculty in October at ITI’s Trumau Schloss. Often seen assisting at morning mass at a local parish in Munich, Dr. Hipp has been growing the company successfully for more than forty years. Starting in 1956, HiPP concentrated on organic products much earlier than its competitors and HiPP Organic is now one of the leading organic baby food producers in Europe. In Germany, Dr. Hipp is often invited on talk shows to give a Christian businessman’s perspective. For Dr. Hipp, it is im-

portant to apply Christian principles to practical issues. In the company’s ethical charter Christian values are enshrined without labeling them as such. For example, Sunday as a day of rest. He knows that mothers are the primary care givers for their children, and he keeps their challenges in mind when developing products. Dr. Hipp said he gives a lot of attention to hiring new employees, and has instituted a cafeteria so all employees can eat together and share ideas. His father, the founder of the company had this motto: “Fear God, do what is right, fear no man.”

Dr. Hipp’s lecture was followed by eager questions from the students and faculty, and the ensuing discussion delved into how the Christian principles studied at the ITI can be practiced in the world. ✂



# Professor Invited to Lecture at Scott Hahn's Summer Institute

by Vincent DeMeo

This past June, I was a participant and lecturer at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology's Summer Institute which is an annual conference intended to promote integrated theological inquiry, scholarly discussion, and collegiality among doctoral students from schools across the country.

The conference is organized and hosted in Ohio by Dr. Scott Hahn who is currently a professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology, and holds the Pope

Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The topic of this year's conference was "Theological Exegesis of the Fourth Gospel: Integrating Patristic and Critical Approaches."

I have never been to a conference like this before. The first unique feature is that for approximately five full days, over twenty doctoral theology students from around the world intensely studied the Gospel of John. Such a concentration of peers all focusing their energies to understand the gospel text was a remarkable experience. The diversity was striking.

Another unique feature was that our study incorporated various theological sub-disciplines (historical, exegetical, systematic, liturgical, moral etc.). Attending to these various perspectives enabled us to penetrate the Gospel with great depth.

The format for our study was also distinctive. We utilized several different pedagogical methods such as presentations, seminars, group discussions, and lectures. However, it could be that the most



Top: ITI Professor Vincent DeMeo (Center) speaks during the conference. Bottom: Over twenty doctoral students from around the world intensely studied the Gospel of St. John.

effective 'method' employed was the penetrating discussions we had with each other during our breaks. Our theological discussions were endless—from morning to evening—what a joy!

The most exceptional feature of this conference was that it not only required its participants to engage in a theological inquiry with rigor, but it also fostered integrating this inquiry within the context of faith. In other words, it fosters the integration of faith and theological study. Such integration was concretely realized through the incorporation of common prayer, daily

Holy Mass, and praying the Divine Office together. Among the participants were three CFR friars, a diocesan priest from Cleveland, and a Benedictine seminarian. The priests not only studied with us, but they provided a dimension to this conference that I never experienced before at such an event—they help unite 'the Spirit' with 'the letter' (see 2 Corinthians 3:6). Looking back, in many ways the spiritual dimension which they fostered was the heart of our time together.

I consider myself blessed to be able to participate in such a rare conference which integrated theological inquiry, scholarly discussion, collegiality among doctoral students, and living faith. I even had the privilege to present a lecture on one of the days entitled, "Covenantal Kinship in John 13-14." My experience of such integration was similar to the intellectual faith life I live at the International Theological Institute. Thus, I felt very much at home at this conference for we were doing "theology on our knees." ✠

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## ITI Graduate Installed as New Vicar General

In September 2011, Reverend Lic. Yuriy Kolasa was installed by Christoph Cardinal Schönborn as the new Vicar General for the faithful of the Byzantine rite in Austria. During the ceremony, Fr. Kolasa said, “I see this calling as an opportunity to serve the faithful of the Byzantine rite in Austria in order to give each access to the sacraments of the Church and to guide them on the way to holiness... The diversity of rites at the ITI has given me the chance to know and come to love the traditions of others, and to delve into the beauty and richness of the living and universal Church... I see this position as an occasion to deepen the understanding of the role and spirituality of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the universal Church.”

Fr. Kolasa is one of the early ITI graduates and presently serves as Adjunct Professor of Patrology and as the Prefect of the ITI Formation Program for seminarians, religious men, deacon candidates, and priests. One of Fr. Kolasa’s greatest achievements was serving as Head of the Commission on Marriage and the Family for the Lviv



*New Vicar General, Fr. Yuriy Kolasa, celebrates Divine Liturgy in Stephansdom.*



Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC). Under his leadership, the commission developed a marriage preparation program and put it into practice, resulting in a significant drop in the divorce rate and a rise in the birth rate in Lviv. This impressed the State so much that they asked the UGCC to set up a similar program for those who do not participate in a Church program, but only marry civilly.

The ITI wishes God’s abundant blessings on the new protosincellus for his new task! ✠

## Use Our New Online Donation System

**W**ant to help educate students like Chan Thawng from Myanmar? They are answering the call to study theology in order to make a difference in the world. Can you help? 200€ per month would pay for room at the ITI. Another 200€ per month would pay for food and necessities. A donation of 50€ a month would pay for insurance. More is needed for tuition. We don’t want to turn these students away. You can help them.

The ITI website can now accept world-wide online donations. Go to [www.iti.ac.at](http://www.iti.ac.at) and click on “Support the ITI.” Follow the directions and your donation will help to educate a

student in need. If you are donating from the United States, follow the link to make a donation that is tax-deductible in the United States. ✠

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