



# TOWER NOTES



Vol. II, Issue 4, July 2006

**Bi-Yearly Student Reports** ☞ At the end of June, the Bi-Yearly Student Report was issued to all current Foundation students. The report serves as an overview of academic and financial status, containing information regarding remaining financial obligations as well as courses and credits completed. Any errors students find on the report may be communicated to the Foundation via phone or email. Included in this mailing is a listing of Foundation Institutes for the remainder of 2006. Early registration is encouraged as enrollment is limited. Students wishing to graduate in 2007 who are in need of a Non-Project Option (NPO) should register as soon as possible. (*Institutes are also listed below.*)

**New Director of Islamic Studies Appointed** ☞ Following a three-year tenure by Professor Khuthb Uddin, M.D., Ph.D., Imam Omar Ahmed Shahin, J.D., M.Th., Ph.D. (cand.) has been appointed Director of Islamic Studies and Professor of Islamic Law at the Foundation. He is the Executive Director of the North American Imam Federation and Chairman of the Islamic Center in East Valley, Arizona. He holds degrees in Islamic Studies from Omdurman Islamic University in Jordan and from Jordanian University and is licensed to practice Jurisprudence Law as an Islamic Attorney in the Courts of Amman, Jordan. Dr. Uddin served his three-year term with distinction and continues as the Jalaluddin Rumi Professor of Islamic Studies at the Foundation.

**VIIPS' 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary at Chancery in Los Angeles** ☞ In celebration of the first year of the founding of the Vietnamese International Institute for Pastoral Studies under the oversight of the Director, Rev. Father Peter Ngo, JCL, D.Min., Ph.D., and with the cooperation of the Assistant Director, Sister Thuy Nguyen, FSC, D.Min., the VIIPS students and faculty hosted a grand celebration in food and song in the Chancery Building of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with over one hundred and fifty guests in attendance. The evening was marked with celebratory song and traditional Vietnamese cuisine. Father Ngo and Sister Nguyen are major players in the development and oversight of the VIIPS program, one of the fastest growing educational initiatives of the Foundation. The program allows clergy, religious, and the laity to take all courses in the Vietnamese language for the Bachelor of Theology, the Master of Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry at the Foundation. See the website for full details.

**Major Gifts to Foundation's Reading Rooms** ☞ The Foundation recently received a grand donation of a bound set of the classic Arabic texts in Islamic literature consisting of 123 volumes. This donation was received from Imam Waleed Basyouni, a current student in Islamic studies. An anonymous donor contributed a new twenty-two volume set of the Babylonian Talmud edited by Rabbi Jacob Neusner which is a splendid complement to our collection of Judaica. We have also previously received a donation of several sets of research classics from Padre Ray Gonia, a current student in theological studies. Though the Foundation does not intend to create a research library since our students have easy access to our voluminous internet library, we do very much appreciate the contribution of major classic reference sets in the great religious traditions.

**Foundation Institutes** ☞ Students hoping to enroll in any of the Foundation's Institutes are reminded and encouraged to submit their applications early as the deadline for enrollment for the Institutes is six weeks before the start date. Detailed information is available on the website under "Residential Institutes" at [www.gtfeducation.org](http://www.gtfeducation.org).

*Marriage & Family Counseling* / September 11–15  
*Viktor Frankl and Logotherapy* / September 18–22  
\**Hispanic Ministries* / Sept. 18-22 (San Antonio, Texas)  
*Analytical Psychology & Pastoral Care* / Sept. 25-29  
*Institutional Chaplaincy* / October 2-6  
*Common Worship* / October 2-6  
*Grief & Bereavement, Care & Counseling* / Oct. 9-13  
*Mediation as a Pastoral Method* / October 9-13

*Transformative Spirituality* / October 16-20  
\*\**Islamic Studies* / October 16-20  
*Human Behavior & Moral Development* / October 23-27  
\*\**Islamic Studies* / October 23-27  
*Professional Counselors* / October 30-November 3  
\**Vietnamese Pastoral Studies* / Nov. 13-17 (Los Angeles)  
*Mediation & Pastoral Care* / Dec. 4-8 (Honolulu)  
*Ministry as Profession* / Dec. 4-8 (Honolulu)

\* *The Hispanic Ministries Institute is conducted in Spanish and the Vietnamese Pastoral Studies Institute is conducted in Vietnamese. Complete fluency in reading, writing, and speaking of the appropriate language is required.*

\*\**Reading proficiency in Arabic is recommended. Enrollment is limited to Imams.*

A more detailed printed listing of Institutes begins on page 6 of the current issue of *Foundation Footnotes* (Volume XLIV, Issue 2, Summer 2006).

**Faculty News** ☞ The Rev. Fr. Bernie O'Connor, J.D., S.T.D., D.H.L., contributed several themes to the "Homiletic Reflections Series" for Vatican Radio, Africa Service, between January and May of this year, including "Coping with Grief Due to Loss," "Life Experience as Education," and "Our Role in a Global Society." He conducted an interview entitled "Perfecting the Art of Diplomacy" published in *The Catholic Times* (March 12) as well as made a presentation to the Mar Thoma Yogam Syro-Malabar Association, Rome, on April 30. This was for the festivities in honor of the beatification of Blessed Kunjachan and was televised on Telepace, the first and longest-running full-time Catholic channel. Fr. Bernie O'Connor is John Henry Cardinal Newman Professor of Theology and Ecclesial Mediation at the Foundation and serves as Director of the Office for the Syro-Malabar Church at the Congregation for Eastern Churches, Vatican Curia.

**Projection Room Added** ☞ All incoming students of the Foundation are required to attend an on-site Orientation Session at the Foundation with the option of attendance in Oxford or Honolulu. In an effort to heighten the quality of this learning experience, the Foundation has secured a Projection Room on the sixth floor of the Tower Building. This facility is internet equipped with a projection screen for online instruction and training for all new students. The time spent in the Projection Room with a senior member of the Foundation administration is meant to fully acquaint the student with the Foundation's website, our major source of information and communication, as well as to familiarize the new student with the range of Foundation affiliations and educational services provided to all of our students. Any current student who would like to attend an Orientation Session with a website introduction component is welcome to do so at no cost.

**Church Secretary Study** ☞ Under sponsorship of Cloverdale College, a national study has just been completed by Dr. John Morgan, President of the Foundation, and Dr. Russell Neitzke, Dean of the College. This is the first-of-its-kind database study of one thousand randomly selected church secretaries from across the country in mainline denominations. The findings may be viewed as an Adobe Acrobat document through a link on the homepage of Cloverdale College at [www.cloverdalecollege.org](http://www.cloverdalecollege.org).

The Bachelor of Business Administration program of Cloverdale College, the undergraduate division of the Graduate Theological Foundation, has been approved by the State of Indiana. The BBA degree is designed for church administrative staff with special attention to church and parish secretaries and meets the prerequisite for admission to the Foundation's Master of Business Administration program.

**Foundation Theology 2006** ☞ Foundation Theology 2006 is currently in production and will be available for order by August. This year the Foundation celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Foundation Theology, an annual monograph series alternating years between work produced by Foundation students and faculty. The 2006 edition is edited by The Rev. Dr. Joseph Baunoch, Academic Dean, and contains essays produced by members of the Foundation's faculty.

**Learning Opportunities** ☞ *The Maryknoll Mission Institute*, an educational ministry of the Maryknoll Sisters offers programs for peoples of all religions and cultures. Each program may earn Foundation students one Unit of Study toward their degree.

Comedy, Tragedy and the Cross: Viewing Films Through the Eyes of Faith / July 16-21

Nature and God: Spirituality in an Age of Science / July 23-28

Leading from Inside Out: An Exploration of Spirituality & Leadership / July 30-August 4

*Courses in September & October are listed on the site. Information: [www.maryknoll.org/mmi.htm](http://www.maryknoll.org/mmi.htm).*

**The Anglican Centre in Rome**, recognized and endorsed by the Foundation, offers courses throughout the year. This course may earn Foundation students one Unit of Study toward their degree.

ARCIC II Mary, Grace and Hope in Christ / October 3 (Tues.)-October 10 (Tues.)

*Information: [www.anglicancentreinrome.org](http://www.anglicancentreinrome.org).*

**Tower Building News** ☞ The Tower Building, home to the Foundation, has also been home for several years to a family of peregrine falcons. In 1972, peregrine falcons in North America were listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Indiana reintroduction program began in 1991 with the release of 15 birds; over the next few years birds were released in South Bend, Indiana, as well as in several other cities. Now is the time of year when the falcons can be seen soaring and heard screeching in the sky as they train their chicks. Recently, the Department of Natural Resources banded the peregrine chicks for identification purposes. Further information on the Indiana peregrine falcon is available on the website of the Department of Natural Resources at [www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/endangered/peregrine.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/endangered/peregrine.htm). Also, a local news broadcast video of the leg banding of the falcon chicks in South Bend, Indiana, may be viewed online at [www.wsbt.com/video/2849206.html](http://www.wsbt.com/video/2849206.html).