

## Remarks – Assumption Seminary Gala

August 24, 2016

In its 101th year we are proud of, and grateful for, the more than 800 priests who have prepared for priestly ministry at our Seminary. They have touched and continue to impact the lives of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people, serving the Church with great dedication and generosity. We are very grateful to all of them.

Speaking with priests, religious, and seminarians recently during the celebration of World Youth Day in Poland, Pope Francis pointed out that, like the first disciples, Jesus'

followers are sent forth in every age. . . Whereas the disciples had closed the doors out of fear, Jesus sends them out on mission. He wants them to open the doors and go out to spread God's pardon and peace, with the power of the Holy Spirit. . . Jesus directs us to a one-way street: that of going forth from ourselves. It is a one-way trip, with no return ticket. It involves making an exodus from ourselves, losing our lives for his sake.

We are sent out to proclaim the Lord Jesus and his gospel of love, compassion and mercy. The Holy Father added that

It might be said that the gospel, the living book of God's mercy, which must be read and reread, still has many blank pages left. It remains an open book that we are called to write in the same style by the works of mercy we practice.

It has been our custom to honor a priest at each annual gala with a Leadership in Faith and Service award. Our recipient this evening was born on a farm between Selma and New Braunfels. He entered the seminary at age thirteen in 1939. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1950, he has served at parishes in Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Selma, Weimar, El Campo, and San Antonio before taking up residence sixteen years ago in Casa de Padres.

However, he is not truly retired. He is still writing on his blank pages in the style of the gospel. He regularly helps at St. Anthony Parish in Harper, celebrates Mass every Thursday for the Benedictine Sisters in Boerne, a monthly Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery and another at Our Lady of the Lake Convent. He takes Tuesdays off at his ranch in Leesville where he tends his garden, fishes in the pond, hits a few golf balls, fires his gun, uses his bow and arrow, and mows the grass. He is 91 years old!

On April 15, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur delivered a farewell address before a joint session of the U.S. Congress. Toward the end he quoted from a popular ballad during his days at West Point Academy: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." However, we know that old **priests** never die; they remain in the memories of the people they have served. It also seems that some older priests do not just fade away! Please join me in honoring the ever-young and active Father Albert Hubertus!