

**Most Reverend Moacyr J. Vitti, CSS address
at Blessed Pope John XXIII Seminary, in Weston, MA, on March 27, 2006**

Most Reverend Timothy Dolan, Fr. Henchey, Father Rector, Seminary Formators, the Faculty and Seminarians:

My warm greetings!

I always say: "The Seminary is the pupil of the eye of the Diocese." Because of that, I usually dedicate a great love towards Formation Houses. In my Archdiocese in Curitiba, Brazil, we have 5 (five) formation houses:

- One for seminarians in their fourth year of theology. Here, they receive a specific formation on priestly ministry. This scholastic year, there are 4 (four) deacons and 2 (two) other seminarians in this stage.
- One for those who are either in their third, or second or first year of theology. This year there are 27 (twenty-seven) seminarians in this stage.
- One for those who study philosophy. This year there are 31 (thirty-one) seminarians.
- One for those who enter the seminary without any experience of community life before philosophical studies. This year there are 6 (six) seminarians.
- Then another formation house serving as a pre-seminary with 33 (thirty-three) seminarians.

Once a month, I visit the seminarians of each formation house. I celebrate the Eucharist and have supper with them. I also meet regularly the seminarians and their formators through an open and friendly dialogue.

These visits created a wholesome and vibrant relationships among seminarians, formators and myself.

Every month, I meet all the formators. When it comes to accepting candidates to the Diaconate or the Presbyterate, I rely mostly on the recommendations as well as the results of the scrutiny of the formators and the Council.

I am very happy and I have great hopes for our seminarians. I worked for six years at promoting vocations in Brazil. And, also another six years for the Stigmatine Congregation throughout the world. I tell you--- those were years of great joy!

My dear seminarians, I was informed by Fr. Henchey that Jesus has called you from different walks of life --- that is --- after a mature, affective, professional and social experience. - - - - - "Come and follow me"! – this is an extraordinary manifestation of love! - - - Be persistent in answering God's call, and you will be great collaborators in the building up of God's Kingdom.

My Episcopal blessing to one and all.