

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ACADEMIC CONVOCATION

(September 8, 2009)*

Jennifer J. Liskow'02G**

Rivier welcomes class of 2013 at Mass of the Holy Spirit and Academic Convocation



The 2009-2010 academic year officially began with a College-wide Mass of the Holy Spirit and Academic Convocation on September 8, 2009. Rivier President, **Dr. William Farrell**, opened the proceedings by welcoming first year students, faculty, and staff to the new academic year, especially addressing the incoming class of 2013.

Brother Paul Demers officiated the Mass and offered prayers of peace and strength for all to weather the struggles that lay ahead both on campus and throughout the world. Demers offered his blessings for the class of 2013, new faculty and staff, the three new athletic teams and new athletic facilities, new academic programs, and the accreditation process for the nursing, education, and business departments. Pointing to the mission of the College, Demers concluded that "what we do on this very first day of the academic year speaks volumes of what we are about here at Rivier College."

Following the Mass, president of the Student Government Association, **Bethanie Gentile '10**, introduced two esteemed faculty members, **Susan Barbaro, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Biology and **Elizabethada Wright, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English, to speak to the class of 2013 about the

theme of their upcoming First Year Seminar program. Addressing and expanding upon the ideas and themes presented in the common reading, "Deep Economy" by Bill McKibben, both Barbaro and Wright encouraged students to consider their impact on the world beyond their immediate college community. Barbaro challenged students to consider that acquiring an education merely to gain wealth will not in itself guarantee a happier life. Barbaro cited research in the field of microbiology and environmental science to explain how growth can have a negative effect on the planet and how one's actions impact the globe, not just one's community.

Wright followed Barbaro's speech with an appeal to students to take advantage of the opportunity that a college education presents. Sharing personal accounts of transformational experiences, Wright explained that every person has the capacity to move forward even after debilitating events. Wright also expressed the willingness of Rivier faculty to be available to students to help them with their journey. "We want you to knock on our office doors," she said. "We want to get to know you."

As the official opening of the academic year, the 2009-2010 Academic Convocation initiated new students and faculty into the Rivier community. Conveying the mission of the College to promote academic excellence and social outreach, Wright summed up the message students walked away with: "You can reach higher to become better."



College song

Rivier, to you we proudly sing,
Our hearts with love brim o'er,
Our voices rise in praise;
For you we'll make the echoes ring
Faithful evermore
In memory of these days.

Within your halls we've found a noble, lasting truth,
An ideal great and strong;
For this receive our thanks and accept from our youth
This pledge, our loyal song.

For higher things, then daily let us pray and strive,
No matter what life's frays—
Still through it all, Rivier, we'll ever keep alive
Your lessons of God's ways.

* Retrieved November 15, 2009, from the Rivier College Website, <http://www.rivier.edu/news/Default.aspx?ID=12722>.

****JENNIFER LISKOW** is Rivier's Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications and teaches in the College's Professional Communications program. Jennifer earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features and essays published. She serves on the Board of Directors for NH Roller Derby, the state's first competitive flat-track roller derby league.

Mass of the Holy Spirit and Academic Convocation

*Transforming Hearts and Minds
to Serve the World*

September 8, 2009

Welcome first-year students



Convocation schedule of events

9:30 a.m.

Students and faculty line up

10:00 a.m.

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Br. Paul Demers, s.c., D.Min., Presiding

Musical Interlude

Introduction of Speakers

Bethanie Gentile, President of the Student Government Association

Academic Convocation

"Microbes, Communication and Community: AURTMTE/C"

Susan Barbaro, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology

Elizathada Wright, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

College Song

Regina Shearer, M.Div., Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

11:15 a.m.

Lunch

1:00–2:00 p.m.

Seminar Sessions

Offices will be open for business from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

About the speakers



Dr. Susan Barbaro is an Associate Professor of Biology at Rivier College and Department Coordinator of the Biology Department. Her academic and research interests encompass issues in environmental microbiology, medical microbiology, ecology, and environmental science.

Dr. Elizathada Wright is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Rivier College. She integrates her love of literature and teaching through her role at the College, as well as applying her passion for theatre through playwrighting and teaching theatre.



Mass of the Holy Spirit

Gathering Song *Gather Your People*

Gather your people, O Lord.
Gather your people, O Lord.
One bread, one body, one Spirit of love,
Gather your people, O Lord.

1. Draw us forth to the table of life;
Brothers and sisters, each of us called
To walk in your light.
2. We are parts of the body of Christ,
Needing each other,
Each of the gifts the Spirit provides.
3. No more harm on the mountain of God;
Swords into plowshares.
Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart.
4. Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life;
Waters of mercy,
Waters of hope that flow from your side.

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Opening Prayer

Brother Paul Demers, s.c., D.Min., Chaplain

First Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-12

Psalm Response

Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit;
Renew the face of the earth. (2x)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 6:31-44

General Intercessions

Preparation and Presentation of Gifts

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MASS OF THE HOLLY SPIRIT AND ACADEMIC CONVOCATION (SEPTEMBER 8, 2009)

Eucharistic Acclamations

Mass of Creation

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Amen, Amen, Amen!

Our Father and Sign of Peace

Communion Song

One Bread, One Body

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

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Post Communion Prayer

Sending Song

One Spirit, One Church

We are a pilgrim people, we are the church of God.
A family of believers, disciples of the Lord.
United in one spirit, ignited by the fire.
Still burning through the ages, still present in our lives.

1. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and in our hearts take up thy rest;
come with thy grace and heavenly aid to fill the hearts which thou
hast made.
2. O Comforter, to thee we cry, thou gift of God sent from on high.
Thou font of life and fire of love, the soul's anointing from above.

*Text: Refrain by Maryanne Quindivan, OSU © 1990 Ursuline Academy of Cleveland. Verses, attr. To Rabanus Maurus,
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