

Dear Alumni/ae and Friends of Bexley Hall:

After seventeen years at Bexley Hall, eleven of which have been spent as Dean/President, besides teaching the while, the Board has graciously offered me an extended sabbatical, and I will step down from my various positions at Bexley Hall as of 1 August.

These past eleven years have been ones of bumpy, but real growth for Bexley Hall amidst a host of challenges. Yet now we are centered in one place, and we retain our initial commitment to the M.Div. with a strong accent on spiritual formation. Our alliance with Trinity Lutheran has been cemented by a new five-year contract. We are pursuing conversations with Seabury-Western about joining forces in certain initiatives. The Annual Fund is up over last year, even in the midst of the recession, and as of the time of this writing, we have many strong prospects for the incoming Junior Class.

Last February I charged the Board with beginning the process of a new self-study to determine the face of Bexley Hall now that the work of the last decade towards governmental autonomy has been achieved. This was one of our best meetings ever, and I hope the momentum will carry forward.

While it would be invidious to single out a list of names to those who have contributed to the rebirth of this seminary, I wish at least to thank the Revd Han van den Blink for his unstinting support and wise counsel, as well as that of our Chairman, Canon Carl Gerdau.

There are fewer privileges greater than forming priests for the future of Christ's Catholic Church. For this gift, I remain eternally grateful to God, and take delight in the many fine ordinands we have sent forth over the years.

Many wish to know what next for me? I see the sabbatical as a time to finish several half-written papers that always got pushed to the bottom of the In Box. I will certainly visit friends in London and elsewhere, and may possibly take a short locum in an Anglican parish on the European continent.

And to all the supporters of Bexley Hall throughout the years, may I end by thanking you most heartily for your support of this our beloved seminary – now in its 185th year!

Yours in Christ,

The Very Revd John R. Kevern, Ph.D., D.D.
Dean and President