

July 15, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Seminarian Mass and Dinner with Bishop Muench – August 29, 2009, 5:00 pm, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Baker**
- ◆ ***Deo Gratias* benefit for St. Joseph Seminary College – August 30, 2009, 6:00 pm, Catholic Life Center Main Auditorium, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop – September 12, 2009, 10:00 am, St. Patrick Parish, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Father Than Vu's 25th Anniversary Mass – September 20, 2009, 2:30 pm, Christ the King Parish & Catholic Center, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Notre Dame Seminary 86th Anniversary & Gala – October 17, 2009, 7:00 pm, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

I recently completed the move to my new residence at Christ the King Parish & Catholic Center at Louisiana State University. Last Sunday I presided at its evening Masses, which are extremely popular with the students as you might imagine, but also serve a good number of Catholics from elsewhere in the diocese who are unable to attend a Sunday morning Mass in their geographical parishes.

Relocating to Christ the King awakened warm memories of my formative years spent on campus and at the Catholic student center. It was during my college years that I became better acquainted with the richness of my Catholic faith and the joy of practicing that faith in the midst of a dynamic Catholic community. My experience at Christ the King provided the context for ultimately discovering a vocation to the priesthood.

The physical plant at Christ the King has undergone a massive renovation and expansion since my time there as a student. It was desperately needed and the result is one of the nicest student centers at any college campus in the country. The old church was thankfully saved and now serves as the parish hall and architectural anchor for the entire complex. Its walls, niches, windows, and materials are still quite familiar to me as a place of prayer and nourishment.

I met the two modern day "church rats," Carlos and Jonathan, who reside at the student center and serve as sacristans for the weekend Masses. Not too many people know that I am a former member of their brotherhood, having lived and worked at the student center during my last two semesters of college. Although I have not yet inspected their quarters, I am confident that it represents a category of housing several steps above that of their predecessors. By that I mean the square footage, air conditioning, and basic services, rather than the cleanliness or decorative touches of its current residents.

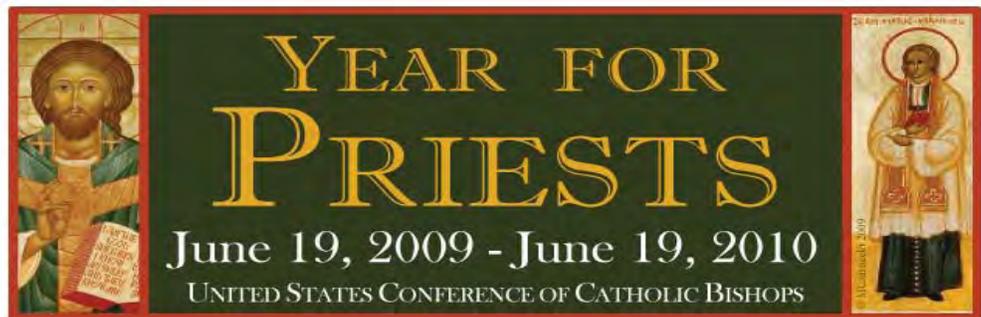
I plan to undertake a search of old photographs and negatives from my college years to see if I can uncover pictures of the church, student center, and parishioners from that period. Part of my duties as church mouse was to assist with the publication of the *LSU Catholic*, the weekly bulletin published in a newspaper format in those days. The editor and cartoonist was Tom Sylvest, Jr., and one of the contributing photographers was Marie Constantin. My role consisted in helping with anything that the "higher ups" did not feel like doing. It was a very short and unremarkable foray into the field of journalism and publishing.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

Mass & Barbeque with Bishop Muench

The annual "back to school" Mass and barbecue with Bishop Robert Muench and the seminarians will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Baker. The seminarians will join the parishioners of St. Isidore at their regularly scheduled 5:00 pm anticipated Sunday Mass, and then gather for a social and meal hosted by Father Fred Youngs. All priests of the Diocese are also invited to join us for the meal if they can make it following the conclusion of their own parish vigil Masses. The dinner is expected to begin around 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Seminarians are asked to wear coat and tie for the Mass and for the formal photographs, which are taken immediately following the Mass. The dress code for the remainder of the evening is casual.



Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 19, 2009- June 19, 2010 a "Year for Priests". The Pope has also declared St. Jean Vianney the Universal Patron of Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d'Ars.

Each parish in the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be taking part in this observance in some way, with a number of diocesan-wide activities as well, for both priests and others.

More information on the international and national observances may be found on the US bishops' website www.usccb.org/yearforpriests.

Baton Rouge Deo Gratias 2009

Deo Gratias (Latin for "Thanks be to God,") is an annual reception and dinner to benefit St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College located in St. Benedict, Louisiana. The Baton Rouge *Deo Gratias* 2009 will take place on Sunday, August 30, 2009, at the Catholic Life Center, beginning with Vespers at 6:00 pm, then followed by a reception and dinner in the Main Auditorium. Food is again being prepared by Chef John Folse. Register online at www.sjasc.edu or contact Ms. Kit Friedrichs-Baumann at 985-867-2233 or via email at kbaumann@sjasc.edu.

Parish Vocation Committee Workshop

The Office of Vocations has scheduled another training and enrichment workshop for new and continuing members of Parish Vocation Committees in the Baton Rouge Diocese. The workshop will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at St. Patrick Parish Activity Center in Baton Rouge.

The workshop will offer an opportunity to share ideas and strategies for promoting vocations in our parishes and schools, and also make available any new resources for the coming school year. Even a committee of one person could make a difference for your parish or school. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

Notre Dame 86th Anniversary & Gala

Notre Dame Seminary will host a Gala celebrating their 86th Anniversary, on Saturday, October 17, 2009, from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the Seminary located at 2901 South Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, musical entertainment, raffle and auction. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available through Notre Dame Seminary. Sponsorships are also available. For further information please contact Sharon Mason at 504-866-7426 or smason@nds.edu.

Called By Name - Year II

The very successful "CALLED BY NAME" program is being offered for a second consecutive year for the benefit of those parishes which were not able to participate in last year's campaign. "CALLED BY NAME" is a program that invites men and women, 16 years of age or older, to consider priesthood or consecrated life.

At the program's heart is the belief that all of us share a common calling through Baptism, to which we are invited to respond in a variety of ways – marriage, single life, consecrated life, diaconate, or priesthood. The "CALLED BY NAME" process focuses on priesthood and consecrated life, and stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.

Parishioners throughout the diocese are encouraged to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest or religious and submit their names at the weekend liturgies January 9-10 and January 16-17, 2010. There are many good prospective priests, brothers, and sisters who are simply waiting to be asked.

Vocations to the Consecrated Life

Please pray for those who are in formation pursuing a vocation to religious life. (And please let the Vocations Office know of any others to include on this roster.) Father Matt can provide more information on religious life and the general charisms of specific religious orders, and put inquirers in touch with the appropriate Vocation Directors for them.

Sr. Mary Corripio (St. Aloysius) Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Br. Augustine DeArmond (St. Thomas, Springfield)..Dominicans

Lacey Flores (Christ the King).....Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles

Christopher Iwancio (St. Aloysius).....Capuchin Franciscans

Kevin Piper (St. Joseph, French Settlement).....Brothers of the Sacred Heart

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2009 Seminarian Summer Assignments

Father Matt has made the following assignments of seminarians for the summer months. Even while seminaries are closed priestly formation cannot end!

Clinical Pastoral Education

- ◆ Todd Lloyd – Baptist Health Care, Pensacola, Florida
- ◆ Brent Maher – Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida

Institute for Priestly Formation

- ◆ Joseph Vu – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Summer Parish Ministry

- ◆ Peter Dang - Our Lady of Peace Parish, Vacherie, where Father Michael Miceli, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Al Davidson - St. John the Evangelist Parish, Prairieville, where Father Eric Gyan, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Kyle Gautreau – St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Baker, where Father Fred Youngs, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Mark Gyan – St. Louis King of France Parish, Baton Rouge, where Father Jack Nutter, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Matthew McCaughey – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Plaquemine, where Father Cleo Milano, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Joshua Johnson - St. Jean Vianney Parish, Baton Rouge, where Father Tom Ranzino, the pastor, is supervising
- ◆ Logan Roussel - St. Albert the Great Chapel and Student Center, Hammond, where Father Randy Cuevas, the chaplain, is supervising

Spanish Immersion and Pastoral Life

- ◆ Brad Doyle – Bayamón, Puerto Rico
 - ◆ Tim Hedrick – Bayamón, Puerto Rico
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