

October 15, 2008

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **World Youth Day - October 26, 2008, 1:30 pm, Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Donaldsonville**
- ◆ **Serra Club Clergy Day & Golf Tournament – October 28, 2008, Copper Mill Golf Club, Zachary**
- ◆ **“Come and See” Weekend - St. Joseph Seminary College - November 14-16, 2008, St. Benedict**
- ◆ **Holy Hour for Seminarians with Bishop Muench at the Bishop Tracy Center - December 16, 2008, 5:00 pm**
- ◆ **National Vocation Awareness Week – January 11-17, 2009**

## Dear Seminarians and Friends,

I just returned from a week long convention hosted by the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, which was followed one week later by the annual four day retreat for the priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Both were wonderful events which provided much needed spiritual and vocational nourishment for the priests in attendance. (Rest assured that physical nourishment was given its proper place as well.)

The vocation directors' convention took place in Denver, Colorado. Speakers included Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr. Curtis Martin, founder and president of The Fellowship of Catholic University Students, plus numerous fellow priests and vocation directors who led the smaller breakout sessions.

Most of the convention activities took place at the hotel, but we also traveled to St. John Vianney Theological Seminary for a morning of reflection, and Our Lady of Loreto Church for a closing Mass with Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. And of course, no trip to the Denver area is complete without visiting nearby Golden, home of the Coors Brewery.

Unfortunately, tours of the brewery were not available on the day of our excursion, and phone calls to members of the Coors family proved unable to reverse the situation. So we settled for a tour of a Denver micro-brewery named “Great Divide,” which produces a very nice and varied selection of beers. It also turned out to be the scene of an ugly case of blatant discrimination.

There were about 35 priests on this particular tour. The day's outing also included a visit to a natural formation known as Red Rocks Park, so most of us were dressed in our civilian clothes in consideration of the relaxed atmosphere and sunny weather. Upon arriving at the brewery and completing the tour, we naturally gathered in the bar to further investigate the local product.

Almost all of us had ordered when a certain one of our number, dressed more formally in his clerical attire, arrived at the bar. After serving his beer, the female bartender refused payment saying, “Oh, I can't take money from a priest!” Say what?!?! She had just taken money from 30 good, holy, and unassuming priests! After the outrage subsided, we all had a good laugh with our young Catholic barmaid, named Hillary, whose good nature was somewhat obscured by the multiple piercings and tattoos. You just never know.

Our priests retreat took place the following week at Manresa Retreat House in Convent. Our Retreat Master was Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, and author of numerous books on spirituality. He has a gift for relating scriptural passages to current lived experience, and made use of images such as wandering in the desert, waiting in the upper room, responding to the invitation to be perfect as God is perfect, and praying in the garden with Jesus. It was very instructive and conducive to prayer.

Please say some extra prayers for our seminarian Peter Dang. Peter was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer which develops in the lymphatic system. This cancer is treatable and Peter is preparing to begin a program of chemotherapy which could last six months or more. His doctors are very encouraging with regard to his recovery, and Peter plans to remain at the seminary during the treatment.

The new seminarian posters have arrived and should be delivered to all parishes shortly. The "Called By Name" materials are also near completion and will follow close behind.

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

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## World Youth Day

The Diocesan celebration of World Youth Day is two weeks away and is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, at Ascension of Our Lord Parish in Donaldsonville. The theme for this year's event is "I AM" and activities include Mass at 1:30 pm, followed by music, prayer, and dinner. Participants are asked to register through their youth minister or parish office. More information is also available by contacting the Diocesan Youth Office at 225-336-8751.

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## Serra Club Clergy Day

The Serra Club of Baton Rouge is once again sponsoring its annual "Clergy Day" on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, at the new location of *Copper Mill Golf Club* in Zachary. Tee off begins at 8:30 am. The day's festivities conclude with a delicious meal served at the clubhouse around 3:00 pm. As always, there is no cost for priests to attend, and they are invited to attend the meal even if they cannot get away for the earlier activities. To RSVP or for more information, please call Don Broussard at 225-751-4173 (home) or Jack Persac, III at 225-292-3515 (office) or 225-927-3880 (home), or Michael Olinde at 225-922-9999 (office) or 225-218-4343 (home). Information on the golf course and directions to Copper Mill are available on their website at [www.coppermillgolf.com](http://www.coppermillgolf.com).

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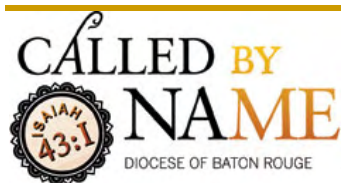
## Promote Vocations in 2009

- ◆ National Vocation Awareness Week (and the beginning of our diocesan "Called By Name" campaign) – January 11-17, 2009.
- ◆ World Day for Consecrated Life – February 8, 2009.
- ◆ World Day of Prayer for Vocations – May 3, 2009.

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## “Come and See” Weekend

St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana (just north of Covington), is sponsoring its first “Come and See” weekend of the school year November 14-16, 2008. The weekend is open to all interested young men in 10th grade through college, and is hosted by the seminarians and the Benedictine monks of St. Joseph Abbey. Participants are invited to experience the prayer and community life of a seminary community, and also get to know some of the guys who are studying to be priests. Arrival at the seminary takes place between 4:00 and 6:00 pm on Friday evening, and the weekend concludes with the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Please contact Father Matt or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.



This January, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will repeat a very successful vocation promotion initiative. “CALLED BY NAME” is a program that invites men and women, 16 years of age or older, to consider priesthood or consecrated life. “CALLED BY NAME” was last used by the diocese from 1990 to 1992 and has since been recommended by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Vocations in their document *A Future Full of Hope: a National Strategy for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life for the Archdioceses and Dioceses of the United States*.

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 10-11 and January 17-18, 2009. There are many good prospective priests, brothers, and sisters who are simply waiting to be asked.

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## Vocations to the Consecrated Life

Please pray for those pursuing a vocation to religious life. (And let us know of any others to include on this roster.)

**Caleb Bernacchio** (Christ the King) ..... Jesuits

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

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

**Christopher Iwancio** (St. Aloysius/C.H.S.) ..... Capuchin Franciscans

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

## Contact Us

◆ Office of Vocations  
Diocese of Baton Rouge  
P.O. Box 2028  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

### Telephone

◆ 225-336-8778

### Fax

◆ 225-242-0342

### E-mail

◆ [vocations@diobr.org](mailto:vocations@diobr.org)

### Website

◆ [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)

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## Weekend Assistance for Priests

The Vocation Director offers weekend assistance to the parish priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge as he is able. Father Matt is booked for the remaining weekends of **2008**, but here are his open dates for the first half of **2009**:

- ◆ February 14/15 & 28; March 1 & 28/29; May 9/10 & 16/17.

Please call him at 225-336-8778 to "reserve" a weekend.

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## Roster of Diocesan Seminarians

- ◆ 4th Theology: Mark Beard ..... 47, Our Lady of Mercy, Baton Rouge  
Paul Gros ..... 26, Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 2nd Theology: Peter Ai Dang ..... 43, Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge  
Todd Lloyd ..... 25, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge  
Brent Maher ..... 24, Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
- ◆ 1st Theology: Al Davidson ..... 54, St. Agnes, Baton Rouge  
Kyle Gautreau ..... 27, St. Mark, Gonzales  
Mark Gyan ..... 54, St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville  
Matthew McCaughey ..... 24, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
- ◆ Pre-Theology: Tim Hedrick ..... 26, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 4th Philosophy: Joseph Hoang Vu ..... 21, Sts. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 3rd Philosophy: Brad Doyle ..... 21, St. George, Baton Rouge  
Joshua Johnson ..... 20, St. George, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 1st Philosophy: Logan Roussel ..... 18, St. Michael the Archangel, Convent

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## Seminary Contact Information

### **Notre Dame Seminary and Graduate School of Theology**

2901 South Carrollton Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118-4391  
Telephone: 504-866-7426  
Fax: 504-866-3119  
Website: <http://www.nds.edu>

### **St. Joseph Seminary College**

75376 River Road  
St. Benedict, LA 70457-9900  
Telephone: 985-867-2232  
Fax: 985-867-2295  
Website: <http://seminary.saintjosephabbey.com>