

June 15, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Dates to Remember

- ♦ **June Seminarian Gathering – Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 6:00 pm, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Plaquemine**
- ♦ **July Seminarian Gathering – Monday, July 13, 2009, 5:30 pm, St. Jean Vianney Parish, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Deo Gratias benefit for St. Joseph Seminary College – August 30, 2009, 6:00 pm, Catholic Life Center Main Auditorium, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Seminarian Mass and Dinner with Bishop Muench – August 29, 2009, 5:00 pm, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Baker**
- ♦ **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,

At the end of this month I will be moving my residence from Our Lady of Mercy Parish to Christ the King Parish at Louisiana State University. The reason for this move is to help me become more visible on campus and better acquainted with the Catholic students at L.S.U. who frequent the Center. My office and work schedule at the Catholic Life Center should remain largely unchanged, with the *caveat* that I will become part of the regular rotation for celebrating the Masses at Christ the King.

Christ the King is normally served by two full-time priests. The parish has five Masses on Sundays when school is in session, plus two Masses each weekday. However, since the pastor, Father Than Vu, also serves as Vicar General for the Diocese, a third priest is needed to help shoulder the sacramental and pastoral duties. Father John Carville's retirement this summer opens up a pastoral slot for me to fill, while at the same time furthering my mission to promote and encourage vocations.

I wish to thank Fathers Miles Walsh, Howard Adkins, and Vic Messina, and the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish for opening their home to me these last four years. Mercy has been an ideal residence for me in terms of its location and its acceptance of visiting priests. Father Miles in particular has been very considerate in terms of inviting me to parish gatherings without placing unrealistic demands on my limited availability for work. I grew in my admiration for his priestly ministry and thank him for his hospitality and friendship.

Now I embark on a new "adventure" as I prepare to share a rectory with Father Than Vu and incoming parochial vicar Father Andrew Merrick. For those unfamiliar with the "ecosystem" of the typical Catholic rectory, it serves as home, sanctuary, "spiritual incubator," and mental "decompression chamber" for parish priests. We never know if our personalities and daily rituals will peacefully coexist until after we move in together. Suddenly, the eccentricities of three grown, celibate men are exposed to the light of day. This is one of those times when one discovers if the "grace of ordination" is myth or reality!

For all the benefits this move offers relative to vocations, it does involve one major drawback, which is a decrease in my availability for weekend Mass assistance around the diocese. My hope is that I will still be able to fill in for my brother priests at least once or twice a month. Initially however, I am not scheduling any new weekends at other parishes until I see how the Fall semester progresses. I will of course honor all of my prior commitments, and even if I cannot cover an entire weekend for someone, I expect that one of us at Christ the King will be able to help with Masses as in the past.

Congratulations to Steve Lee and the crew at our own Catholic Life Television for receiving four Communicator Awards for 2009 from the International Academy of Visual Arts. The station was recognized for creative excellence for the "Called By Name" videos it produced in support of the vocation efforts of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. It comes as "icing on the cake" in the middle of a very successful vocation initiative in our local Church.

Congratulations as well to Bishop Gregory Aymond on his recent appointment as the fourteenth Archbishop of New Orleans. Archbishop-designate Aymond has a great love for vocations and a native son's understanding of the local culture. As a former rector-president of Notre Dame Seminary, he is likely to provide timely support and encouragement for our two local seminaries. The Archbishop-designate grew up in the same Gentilly area of New Orleans as Bishop Muench, so listen closely for traces of the accent.

Finally, I remind all of our seminarians working in the Diocese this summer of our monthly gatherings held to promote fraternity and faith. My brother priests and incoming seminarians are also invited to join us if possible. The first gathering is tomorrow evening at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

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## Seminarian Gatherings - Summer 2009

Every summer the Seminarians and Priests of our Diocese gather for fellowship and prayer in various Parishes around our Diocese. Hosting our gatherings this summer are St. John the Evangelist, St. Jean Vianney and St. Isidore the Farmer Parishes.

- ◆ Tuesday, June 16 – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Plaquemine. Begins at 6:00 pm with Mass in the church, followed by social and dinner at the rectory
- ◆ Monday, July 13 – St. Jean Vianney Parish, Baton Rouge. Begins at 5:30 pm with Evening Prayer in the church, followed by social and dinner at the rectory
- ◆ Saturday, August 29 – St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Baker. Seminarians attend 5:00 pm anticipated Mass with Bishop Muench, followed by social and dinner

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## First Parish Assignments

Our two "rookie" priests – now happily called "former seminarians" – have been assigned by Bishop Robert Muench to full time parochial ministry.

- ◆ **Father Mark B. Beard**, parochial vicar of the cluster churches of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Gramercy, St. Joseph in Paulina, and St. Michael the Archangel in Convent
- ◆ **Father Paul A. Gros**, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Denham Springs

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## Path to Priesthood 2009



Catholic Life Television of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will air ***Path to Priesthood: The Rite of Ordination of Mark Beard and Paul Gros***. Journey with these two new priests through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Listen to their stories of inspiration, as well as insights from Bishop Muench and others about priestly formation and the Rite of Ordination. *Path to Priesthood* can be seen on **Catholic Life Television** at the following times:

◆ **Beginning June 9 and continuing through June 30, 2009**

Airtime: 2 hours 24 minutes

◆ **Baton Rouge, Cox Communications, Channel 15**

June 9, 16, 23 - Tuesday, 9:30 am

June 10, 17, 24 - Wednesday, 7:00 pm

June 11, 18, 25 - Thursday, 2:30 pm

June 13, 20, 27 - Saturday, 9:30 am & 9:00 pm

June 14, 21, 28 - Sunday, 9:00 pm

◆ **New Roads, Charter Communications, Channel 44**

June 10, 17, 24 - Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

June 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays, 9:30 am

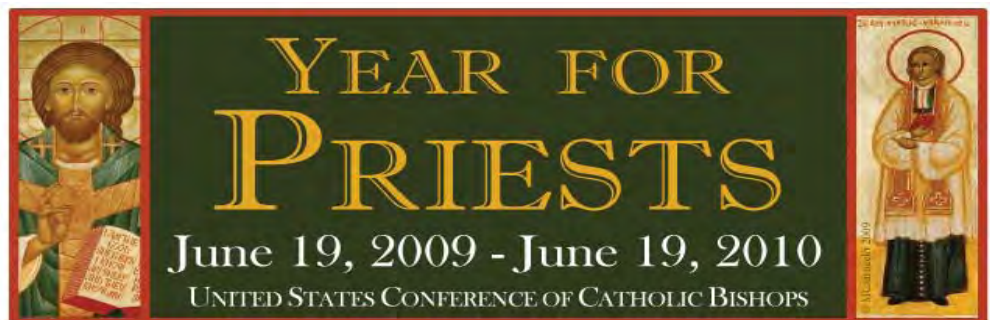
◆ **Hammond, Charter Communications, Channel 74**

June 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays, 9:30 am

◆ **St. James civil Parish, Charter Communications, Channel 10**

June 10, 17, 24 - Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

June 13, 20, 27 - Saturdays, 9:30 am



Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "Year for Priests" beginning this Friday, June 19, 2009, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 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](http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests)

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## Benedictine Discernment Weekend

St. Joseph Abbey, a community of Benedictine monks in St. Benedict, Louisiana, will host a program for men ages 20 to 45 interested in discerning a call to monastic life. The program will be held from Wednesday evening, July 8, 2009, through Sunday, July 12, 2009. Participants will pray and work with the monks as well as attend seminars on topics related to monasticism. Participants will also have the opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Benedict with the monastic community. Anyone interested in more information is asked to contact Br. Jude Israel, O.S.B., vocation director of St. Joseph Abbey, at 985-867-2249 or via email at [brjude@sjasc.edu](mailto:brjude@sjasc.edu)

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## 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](http://www.sjasc.edu) or contact Ms. Kit Friedrichs-Baumann at 985-867-2233 or via email at [kbaumann@sjasc.edu](mailto:kbaumann@sjasc.edu)

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## 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.

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## 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

## Contact Us

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### Website

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

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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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