

September 16, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Father Than Vu's 25th Anniversary Mass – September 20, 2009, 2:30 pm, Christ the King Parish & Catholic Center, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Mass and Lunch for Seminarians and their Parents – October 10, 2009, 10:30 am, St. Joseph Chapel, Tracy Center**
- ◆ **Notre Dame Seminary 86th Anniversary & Gala – October 17, 2009, 7:00 pm, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**
- ◆ **World Youth Day - October 25, 2009, St. Helena Parish, Amite**
- ◆ **Serra Club Clergy Day & Golf Tournament – November 2, 2009, Copper Mill Golf Club, Zachary**
- ◆ **"Who Do You Say I Am?" Retreat for Young Adults – November 6-7, 2009, Tracy Center**
- ◆ **"Come and See" Weekend - St. Joseph Seminary College - November 13-15, 2009, St. Benedict**

## Dear Seminarians and Friends,

The annual "Back to School" Mass and Dinner for the seminarians was a great success as always, and provided an opportunity to celebrate God's generosity in calling future priests to serve our local Church. I especially thank Father Fred Youngs and the parishioners of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Baker for hosting this year's gathering. Bishop Muench presided at the Mass along with Father Youngs and also Father Chris Decker, a native son of the parish. Several priests were also able to join us for the delicious meal which followed the Mass. Thankfully, the women who prepared the meal had raised sons of their own and were knowledgeable regarding the quantity of food to have on hand!

The Baton Rouge "Deo Gratias" fundraiser to benefit St. Joseph Seminary College was held the same weekend and was a major success with \$98,000 raised! We gathered in St. Joseph Chapel of the Tracy Center for evening prayer led by Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., and the seminarians, and then moved to the main auditorium for dinner, social, and silent auction. Baton Rouge seminarians Brad Doyle, Tim Hedrick, and Joshua Johnson gave outstanding presentations on the different aspects of seminary formation. They employed just a touch of humor without causing any undue embarrassment for the seminary or the diocese. Chef John Folse was also on hand to introduce the excellent meal prepared by his superb staff.

Thirdly, we had a great turnout for last Saturday's Parish Vocation Committee workshop held at the St. Patrick Parish Activity Center in Baton Rouge. About thirty representatives were in attendance to share ideas and discuss strategies for promoting vocations in our parishes. Seminarian Kyle Gautreau gave a beautiful reflection on how he discovered his call and then fielded a few questions from the group. Kyle has a gift for public speaking which is far beyond what my own abilities were at his stage of formation. I look forward to hearing the homilies which result from his prayer, study, and lived experience, all under the inspiration of God's grace, just two years from now.

The priests of the Diocese gathered this past Monday for evening prayer and dinner in recognition of the "Year for Priests" proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. It was the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which made it an especially appropriate occasion to reflect on our priestly identity and ministry modeled after that of Jesus the High Priest. Evening Prayer was celebrated at the foot of the altar in St. Joseph Cathedral, under the shadow of the magnificent crucifix sculpted by Ivan Meštrović. After prayer, we were shuttled to dinner aboard the team bus of the *Baton Rouge Tigers*, our local Australian rules football team. (The bus was free so there is no need for you to assign some sort of symbolic meaning to our mode of transportation.)

All of the aforementioned events provide wonderful evidence for the existence of a "culture of vocations" in our Diocese. It is characterized by a spirit of prayer and support for the young Catholics of our parishes and schools to at least consider a call from God to the priesthood or religious life. As more and more people are encouraged to contemplate a religious vocation, we will gradually witness an increase in the number of those saying yes. Perhaps the beginnings of a beautiful trend are already visible in our diocesan community.

Finally, please join me in saying a special prayer for Harry Theriot. Harry is one of our new seminarians from St. Joseph Cathedral Parish who recently began studies at Notre Dame Seminary. Unfortunately, he did not experience the sense of peace that normally accompanies entrance into the seminary, and so asked to resign from the seminary in order to figure out the cause of his unease. Since we are dealing with mystery, this is to be expected from time to time despite one's best effort to discern God's will. So pray for Harry as well as for one another.

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

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## "Discerning God's Will" Workshop

The Region V Religious Formation Conference is sponsoring a workshop on "Discerning God's Will" on Saturday, September 19, 2009, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. The presenter is Father Mark E. Thibodeaux, S.J. The workshop is open to men and women in all stages of formation, formation directors, and vocation directors. The cost is \$25.00 per person (bring a bag lunch). For more information and to register please contact, Sister Clarice Suchy, S.T.J.: [claricestj@yahoo.com](mailto:claricestj@yahoo.com) or 985-893-1557.

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## Mass and Lunch for Parents of Seminarians

The annual Mass and lunch for seminarians and their parents is set for Saturday, October 10, 2009, at 10:30 am in St. Joseph Chapel in the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. The main celebrant for the Mass – and also host of the lunch to follow – will be Bishop Robert Muench.

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## Notre Dame 86th Anniversary & Gala

Notre Dame Seminary will host a Gala celebrating their 86th Anniversary on Saturday, October 17, 2009, from 6:00 to 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, a raffle and an auction. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available through the Seminary. Sponsorships are also available. Please contact Sharon Mason at 504-866-7426 or [smason@nds.edu](mailto:smason@nds.edu).

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## World Youth Day

The Diocesan celebration of World Youth Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, at St. Helena Parish in Amite. The theme for this year's event is "Beacons of Hope: We Have Set our HOPE on the Living God." Participants are asked to register through their parish office or youth minister. 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, November 2, 2009 at *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 Michael Olinde at 225-922-9999 (office) or e-mail [michael@olinde.com](mailto:michael@olinde.com). 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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## "Who Do You Say I Am?" Retreat

A retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married. Take time with others to explore how Jesus lived his life, what it means to have faith in Him, and what it means to follow Him as disciples. Deepen your understanding of Jesus' sacrifice for us and focus on your own spiritual journey from Friday evening to Saturday evening, November 6-7, 2009, at the Bishop Tracy Center. For further information contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 225-336-8751.

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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 13-15, 2009. 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 am Mass on Sunday. Please contact Father Matt or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.

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## 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 priests 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.

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## Contact Us

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

### Seminaries

- Notre Dame Seminary  
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New Orleans,  
LA 70118-4391  
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- St. Joseph  
Seminary College  
75376 River Road  
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## Promote Vocations in 2010

- National Vocation Awareness Week (and the beginning of Year II of our diocesan "Called By Name" campaign) – January 10-16, 2010.
- World Day for Consecrated Life – February 7, 2010.
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations –April 25, 2010.

## 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

## Roster of Diocesan Seminarians

Year of Study	Name	Age	Home Parish
3rd Theology	Todd Lloyd	26	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
	Brent Maher	25	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
2nd Theology	Peter Dang	43	Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
	Al Davidson	55	St. Agnes, Baton Rouge
	Kyle Gautreau	28	St. Mark, Gonzales
	Mark Gyan	55	St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville
1st Theology	Matthew McCaughey	25	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
	Caleb Bernacchio	29	Sacred Heart of Jesus, Baton Rouge
	Joseph Vu	22	Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
Pre-Theology II	Tim Hedrick	27	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
Pre-Theology I	Reuben Dykes	25	St. Joseph Cathedral, Baton Rouge
	Matt Graham	28	St. Jude the Apostle, Baton Rouge
4th Philosophy	Michael Sanders	31	Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
	Brad Doyle	21	St. George, Baton Rouge
	Joshua Johnson	21	St. George, Baton Rouge
2nd Philosophy	Logan Roussel	19	St. Michael the Archangel, Convent
1st Philosophy	John Harris	18	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
1st Philosophy	Cody Reed	20	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland