

October 10, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **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**
- ◆ **Holy Hour for Seminarians with Bishop Muench - December 16, 2009, 5:00 pm, Bishop Tracy Center**
- ◆ **National Vocation Awareness Week – January 10-16, 2010**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors recently held its 2009 convention in the Meadowlands just outside of Newark, New Jersey. I was fortunate to be able to attend along with roughly 200 other vocation directors from around the country. The keynote address was given by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. He opened with two quotes from the writings of the late Pope John Paul II:

At its deepest level, every vocation to the priesthood is a great mystery...a great gift. A vocation is a mystery of divine election: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" (John 15: 16). ("Gift and Mystery," page 3).

The Church, therefore, is called to safeguard this gift, to esteem it and love it." ("Pastores Dabo Vobis," page 108).

Archbishop Sambi went on to remind us that one of Pope Benedict XVI's hopes in proclaiming the "Year for Priests" was "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world." Archbishop Sambi expressed his own hope that this "interior renewal" would encourage priests to preach more frequently on vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He noted that "we speak about what we love," and unfortunately many priests appear hesitant to speak about their own vocation or vocations in general. He asked that we encourage one another in this regard for "there can be no expectation of a harvest if we have not planted seeds."

A second address was given by Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., faculty member of St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Father Acklin characterized today's seminarians and religious novices as young men and women who wish to give everything to God. They exude a joy in responding to God's call. Many are products of a "broken generation" in terms of their families of origin, but this does not mean that they represent the "bottom of the barrel." They are merely coming from this particular sociological context, and yet they demonstrate tremendous potential.

Father Acklin mentioned that in many ways St. Jean Vianney was a "broken man" when he first applied to the seminary. He was functionally illiterate and poorly educated in his Catholic faith. But holiness and singleness of heart always transforms. Today's seminarians have a singular longing for holiness, as witnessed in their commitment to personal prayer, adoration, and frequent reception of the sacraments.

Upon returning to Baton Rouge I attended a benefit dinner to help underwrite the cost for our high school teens and seminarians to participate in the annual pilgrimage to Washington, DC, for the March for Life. One of the speakers was Miss Gianna Jessen, a young woman who as an infant survived a late term abortion and developed cerebral palsy as a result of the trauma. She has discovered a grace-filled life despite the challenges of her disability, and at one point asked us, "Don't you know what God can do with weakness?"

Priests and those aspiring to priesthood or religious life are not without weaknesses. Many times we try to deny, ignore, or somehow cloak our brokenness instead of seeing it as a part of the total offering we make to God. "Singleness of heart always transforms." God's grace is sufficient. Do we dare to imagine what God can do with our weakness if only we entrust ourselves to His love?

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

P.S. – The 2009-2010 seminarian posters are now available along with matching prayer cards. We will begin delivering them to the parishes and schools in the near future, or feel free to pick up a set from the Office of Vocations if you happen to be in town in the neighborhood of the Catholic Life Center. You can view it on the diocesan website at www.diobr.org/vocations/09_sem_pos.pdf

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.

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.

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 1:30 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. Information on the golf course and directions to Copper Mill are available on their website at www.coppermillgolf.com.

Birthday Wishes...

- ◆ October 9 – Brad Doyle
- ◆ October 21 – Reuben Dykes
- ◆ November 2 – Logan Rousel
- ◆ November 29 – Joshua Johnson

“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.

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Notre Dame Seminary will be hosting its next *Day of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations, Our Seminarians, the Mission of the Seminary, and all of Our Priests* on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans. Mass and morning prayer with the Notre Dame Seminary Community begins at 8:30 am; followed by Eucharistic Adoration. It will end with Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament at 4 pm. Each Holy Hour, beginning at the top of the hour, will include a short meditation, rosary for priests and vocations, and silent adoration. The Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles will be available for view. For more information call Mélida at 504-247-7724 or visit www.nds.edu

“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.

Called By Name - Year II

The very successful “CALLED BY NAME” program is being offered for a second consecutive year. This especially benefits 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.

Contact Us

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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	44	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 C. Sanders	31	Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
	Brad Doyle	22	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