

November 13, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Answering God's Call Mass & Supper with Bishop Shelton Fabre – December 1, 2009, 6:00 pm, Christ the King, LSU**
- ◆ **Holy Hour for Seminarians with Bishop Robert Muench - December 16, 2009, 5:00 pm, Bishop Tracy Center**
- ◆ **National Vocation Awareness Week – January 10-16, 2010**
- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop – January 23, 2010, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Bishop Tracy Center.**
- ◆ **World Day for Consecrated Life – February 7, 2010.**
- ◆ **"Come, Follow Me," Vocation Discernment Retreat – February 5-7, 2010, Bishop Tracy Center, Baton Rouge.**
- ◆ **"Come and See" Weekends, St. Joseph Seminary College - February 18-20, and March 26-28, 2010, St. Benedict.**

## Dear Seminarians and Friends,

Our retreat master for this year's priests' retreat was Father George Aschenbrenner, a Jesuit priest and author of the book "Quickening the Fire in Our Midst, the Challenge of Diocesan Priestly Spirituality." He gave an excellent retreat which further motivated me to pull his book off of the shelf and review some of his written insights. In so doing, I was pleasantly surprised to discover a quote from a commencement address given by the late Catholic novelist Walker Percy.

Walker Percy (1916–1990) was a convert to Catholicism who lived in Covington, Louisiana, near St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. The address quoted in Father Aschenbrenner's book was given at the 1983 commencement of the Seminary College, and may be found in a collection of Walker Percy's non-fiction writings entitled "Signposts in a Strange Land" (The Noonday Press, 1991, pp. 316-325). I found his words eloquent, encouraging, and especially appropriate for our reflection during this "Year for Priests."

The 1983 graduating class of diocesan seminarians had completed their undergraduate studies of philosophy and were now preparing to begin four years of graduate work in theology. Walker said "As a Catholic layman, I can only wish you well, for your own sake and for our sake, and express the hope, for good and selfish reasons, that it works out. We need you."

"I am speaking in particular of the vocation of the parish priest. In my book he is one of the heroes of this age. There is one positive good which may come to pass from the present crisis in vocations and the coming scarcity of priests, and it is this: the time may come when we, the Catholic laity, may come to value the very person we have taken for granted all these years. What we took and take for granted is the parish priest. Father was always there, is there, and is expected to be there, something like CLECO and Ma Bell."

"I don't know how many of you will become parish priests. But I know how welcome you will be...The opportunity is simply this: that never in history has modern man been in greater need of you, has been more confused about his identity and the meaning of this life...With you lies the future and the hope."

His words still ring true 26 years later and I believe most Catholics share his conviction. This belief and sentiment drives our vocation efforts, sustains us through the years of formation, and continually renews us as we seek to remain faithful to our call.

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

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## A Seminarian's Visit to Ars

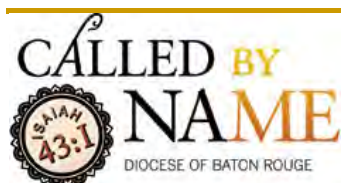
By Brent Maher

Fr. José Lavastida has often exhorted us here at Notre Dame Seminary to "be as wide as the Church, but not narrower;" to recognize that there is great diversity within the Church and we must not exclude anyone who does not fit into our understanding of Her. Through mission work, I came to see some of this diversity; but at the International Priests' Retreat in Ars, France, the "wideness" of the Church came to me in a whole new way. In this small town in the south of France, there gathered over 1,200 priests from more than 70 countries. Each was different and yet the same. Conversations between priests often included good things that are going on in their parishes and dioceses, issues they are facing, and their own experiences of priestly ministry. What I found to be beautiful in these conversations was that although there were some differences in their experiences, there was an even greater similarity. Above all of these similarities, there was one that stuck out to me most: they were joyful men looking to grow closer to Christ. It was inspiring to see them striving for holiness and walking in the footsteps – literally – of the Holy Curé. Between Eucharistic adoration, the heart of the Curé, a relic of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and the various holy sites and places of prayer, there was always a quiet place to pray and there were always found priests doing just that. It was an incredible blessing to have been there to pray among so many future brothers in that place and time, and to see more clearly how within the "wideness" of the Church there is still found a great similarity and unity.

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## Answering God's Call

*Answering God's Call*, a Vocation Mass and Supper, will be held at Christ the King Church and Catholic Center on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, beginning with Mass at 6:00 pm in the church, followed by supper in the adjoining Activity Center. The celebrant and guest speaker will be the Most Reverend Shelton Fabre, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans. Please contact Father Matt or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.



Planning packets for Year II of the "Called By Name" are available on our diocesan website ([www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)). The campaign is centered on two consecutive Sundays, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9-10, 2010), and the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 16-17, 2010). Candidates identified by the campaign will be invited to attend this year's Diocesan Convocation on March 21, 2010, at the Catholic Life Center.

In terms of advance preparation, each parish needs to make enough copies of the brochure and response card to distribute at all Masses on the two January weekends. These materials may be printed either in color or in black and white, so parishes should choose the appropriate master depending on their preference. The response card is designed as an insert for the tri-fold brochure. Pencils and pens are not really

## Birthday Wishes...

- ◆ November 2 – Logan Roussel
- ◆ November 29 – Joshua Johnson
- ◆ December 22 – Al Davidson

needed since the cards are intended to be taken home, completed, and then returned to the church or parish office.

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## Holy Hour for Seminarians and Bishop

The annual holy hour led by Bishop Muench with the seminarians of our diocese is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2009, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in St. Joseph Chapel at the Bishop Tracy Center. The holy hour will be followed by a supper with Bishop Muench, Father Matt Lorrain, and Sr. Lucy Silvio, C.S.J.

Seminarians are kindly asked to communicate regrets only to Fr. Matt or Ms. Mary Layman.

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## “Search Your Heart” Retreat

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart are sponsoring a weekend discernment retreat on December 18-20, 2009, at the Rosaryville Spirit Life Center near Ponchatoula. The retreat is open to men ages 17 to 35, and will provide time for reflection and spiritual direction. For more information, call Br. Chris Sweeney, S.C., the brothers' vocation director, at 504-352-9940, or visit their website at [brothersofthesacredheart.org](http://brothersofthesacredheart.org).

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## Jesuit Discernment Retreats

The Jesuit Vocation Office will host two discernment retreats December 17-21, 2009, and January 2-6, 2010 at St. Charles College in Grand Couteau, Louisiana. Retreatants will spend part of their time with the Jesuit novices who are studying there, and the remainder of the time with a Jesuit spiritual director in a silent, privately-directed retreat. For more information, call Fr. Paul Deutsch, S.J., vocation director, at 337-662-5251, ext. 253, or visit the website [www.norprov.org/vocations](http://www.norprov.org/vocations).

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## Parish Vocation Committee Workshop

The Office of Vocations will host a training and enrichment workshop for all parish vocation committees on Saturday, January 23, 2010, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. This workshop is designed to offer training for both new and existing committees, and will include opportunities for participants to share success stories and ideas for use in other parishes. All parishes are invited to send representatives to the workshop. Please call Ms. Mary Layman at the Office of Vocations (225-336-8778) to register so we can prepare enough materials.

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## “Come Follow Me” Retreat

The Diocese of Baton Rouge is joining with our sister Dioceses of Lafayette and Lake Charles to offer a discernment retreat on February 5-7, 2010, at the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. It is open to all interested men in high school, college or professional life who are considering a call to the priesthood. 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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- [vocations@diobr.org](mailto:vocations@diobr.org)

## Website

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

## Seminaries

- Notre Dame Seminary  
2901 S. Carrollton Ave.  
New Orleans,  
LA 70118-4391  
504-866-7426  
[www.nds.edu](http://www.nds.edu)
- St. Joseph  
Seminary College  
75376 River Road  
St. Benedict,  
LA 70457-9900  
985-867-2232  
[www.sjasc.edu](http://www.sjasc.edu)

## 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	26	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	20	St. Michael the Archangel, Convent
1st Philosophy	John Harris	18	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
1st Philosophy	Cody Reed	20	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland