



# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

## A NEW BEGINNING: THE COMMUNITY OF IPF PRIESTS

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> boxes were unloaded and carried into a house on Webster Street near St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha. What looked like an ordinary move to the casual outside observer was actually the beginning of a new chapter in IPF history. On those days, Fr. Richard Gabuzda and Fr. James Rafferty officially began life in the Community of IPF Priests, the fruit of many months of prayer, conversation and discernment.

A series of staff meetings, advisory council meetings and multiple conversations with Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha occurred throughout fall of 2012. Each step in the discernment process confirmed: priests were being raised up who had sensed a "call within a call" to remain diocesan priests while committing themselves to working more closely with the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation. The consistent perception was to move forward now with the formation of a community of priests dedicated to IPF's mission.

The plan that developed identified two scenarios: some priests would form a residential community in Omaha while others would remain in their dioceses while yet being committed to IPF programs for set periods of time throughout the year. Both would be characterized by a discerned "call within a call" to remain diocesan priests while serving in the mission of IPF. The initial step focused on the residential community.

The Archbishop of Omaha authorized the formation of the community on a "provisional" basis, that is, to begin and then to see over a period of time whether the Holy Spirit confirms this initiative



*Community of IPF Priest members Fr. Richard Gabuzda and Fr. James Rafferty pose in their new living room. The framed artwork was a gift from the IPF Summer staff commemorating the beginning of a new chapter of IPF history.*

by sending more priests as members. Father Gabuzda was appointed moderator of the new community.

Fr. James Rafferty, who has served in

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the Summer Program for Seminarians for 11 years and who serves as Assistant Moderator of the Public Association formed from the Institute, petitioned his bishop, Bishop Joseph Bambera of the Diocese of Scranton, to become part of

this provisional community. Fr. Rafferty received permission to be part of this provisional community in Omaha for a period of discernment, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Rafferty now serves the mission of IPF on the full-time staff as Director of Programs and Mission, providing general oversight of IPF programs and assuring the continuity and organic growth of the mission.

The Community members work day-by-day with the others on the IPF staff who represent many different calls to holiness. At the same time, the presence of the Community's priests greatly strengthens the staff, increases stability and allows for further growth.

Associate members, alumni, friends and benefactors are invited to join in prayer that, if it is his will, the Lord will send many additional priests to join this new community.

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His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
*Archbishop of Galveston-Houston*  
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Msgr. David L. Toups • Fr. Mark Toups



Dear Friends,

“True joy does not come from things or from possessing, no! It is born from the encounter, from the relationship with others, it is born from feeling accepted, understood and loved . . . In calling you God says to you: ‘You are important to me, I love you, I am counting on you.’ Jesus says this to each one of us! Joy is born from that!”

Pope Francis spoke these words in the midst of an informal encounter with seminarians and novices this past July. When we look at the Holy Father, we see a man of great joy. And he reveals to us the “secret” of that joy: an encounter with Jesus and feeling loved by God.

Throughout the year, the Institute offers opportunities for seminarians and priests to encounter this love, a love which fuels the very active lives of present and future diocesan priests, a love which brings great joy! The pages of this present newsletter depict the many opportunities for this encounter that have taken place in recent months.

Our summer programs brought over 200 seminarians and priests to the Creighton University campus. They were surrounded by the prayer of hundreds of spiritual “moms and dads”

praying daily for them. A special event in July welcomed Cardinal DiNardo from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and a group of new friends who became better acquainted with the IPF mission.

It was a great honor to have hosted a number of distinguished theologians during the month of September. Our hope is that the fruit of this seminar will have long range effects for years to come upon how theology is taught and contemplated within the seminary.

We also want to celebrate the many individuals who have continued to honor the lives of priests through the *Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests*. Honor given to priests who have been important to these individuals helps us provide a new generation of dedicated and holy priests. Thank you!

Our hope is that many more individuals and groups from throughout the country will respond to this important initiative.

Thanks to all our friends and benefactors who help us continue the IPF mission!

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Richard J. Gabuzda*



#### *IPF Alumni in the News*

- **Visiting seminarians learned life lessons while working at Iowa home for brain-injured;** *Omaha World-Herald*; <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130806/NEWS/130809388/>
- **Special ministry needs spring up in North Dakota's oil boomtowns;** *Our Sunday Visitor*; <http://www.osv.com/tabid/7621/itemid/11054/Special-ministry-needs-spring-up-in-North-Dakotas.aspx>
- **Priests find physical health to be as important as spirituality;** *Catholic News Service*; <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1303599.htm>

# MANY FIND HOPE IN OMAHA THIS SUMMER

On July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the Institute hosted 44 new friends from around the country in addition to others from Omaha for an event entitled, “A Reason for Your Hope” with special guest, His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston. The gathering helped more people become familiar with the Institute’s mission, especially its Summer Program for Seminarians.

Guests joined the seminarian community for Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. The evening continued at Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, adjacent to campus, with a splendid evening meal hosted by local supporters, Bob and Betsy Reed. Guests were presented with a brief history of how and why IPF was created followed by a powerful testimony from alumnus, Fr.

on various subjects in response to questions posed by Father Gabuzda, who moderated the session.

The response of the guests was enthusiastic. One couple remarked that the event was “the highlight” of their summer. Another individual said, “The presentation was beautiful and explained the mission of IPF. IPF will now hold a special place in my heart and in my prayers.”

Still another summarized her experi-

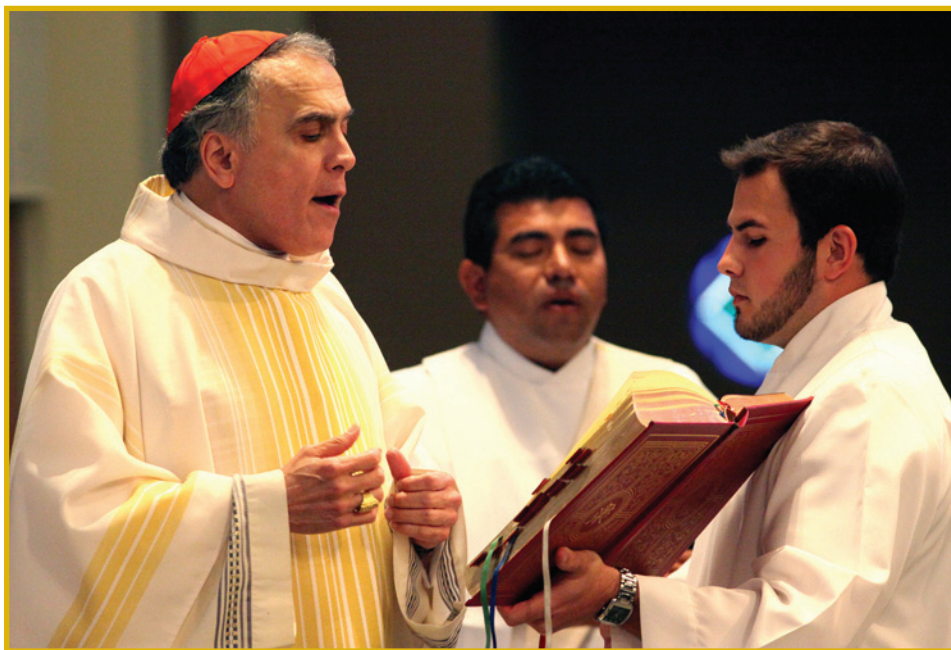
ence this way, “I have been filled with hope by my time here. It is beautiful to see priests and seminarians who want to grow in holiness that they may better bring Christ to our world.” Certainly, she as well as the other guests found “a reason for (their) hope” for the future of the Church through spirit filled priests.

IPF is planning on a similar event next summer.

*“It is beautiful to see priests and seminarians who want to grow in holiness that they may better bring Christ to our world.”*

Mark Ivany from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., who witnessed to the ways IPF affected his life, as well as a testimony from his mother, Marianne Ivany from Houston, TX who related the changes she saw in her priest-son’s relationship to Christ following his involvement with the Institute.

The next morning, attendees received a more formal presentation on the Institute’s mission, including the “What is IPF?” video and testimonies from a current summer seminarian and a summer staff member. They once again joined the IPF community, this time for Mass celebrated by Cardinal DiNardo. At the luncheon that followed, local friends joined the group and were treated to “A Conversation with Cardinal DiNardo.” The Cardinal offered reflections



*His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, celebrates Mass at St. John’s Church on the campus of Creighton University.*



*New friends from across the country gather with Cardinal DiNardo.*

# THE POPE JOHN PAUL II FUND FOR PRIESTS CONTINUES TO GROW

*Is there a special priest in your life you would like to honor?*



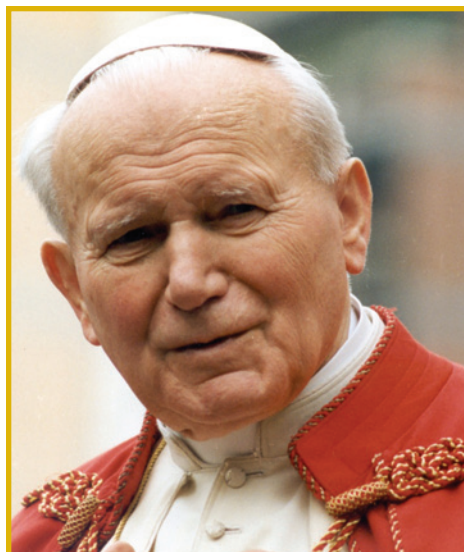
*Those in attendance at this summer's luncheon honoring priests for whom accounts have been established in the IPF Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests: (l to r) Fr. David Reeson, Msgr. William Whelan, Fr. Gregory Baxter, Msgr. William Fitzgerald, Fr. Joseph Taphorn, Fr. John McCarthy, S.J., Fr. Gerard Dewan, Fr. Mark Touns, and Fr. Richard Gabuzda.*

When it was announced that their pastor, Fr. Harry Buse, was to be reassigned, Herm and Ellen Weist of Omaha thought the IPF *Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests* was the perfect way to thank Father Harry for his many years of dedicated service to St. Leo the Great Parish. "We were thrilled when several fellow parishioners and friends felt the same way and generously contributed to the Institute," Ellen said.

Another group led an effort to honor their pastor on his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. Still another went together to create an account for a recently deceased priest who had generously ministered to their parish. These are a few recent examples of how groups of laity have honored their beloved priests by opening accounts within the *Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests*. All three of these accounts have exceeded the \$5,000 threshold which means the accounts have become Perpetual and the name of the priest is inscribed on the beautiful Pope John Paul II Plaque currently displayed at

the Institute. The proceeds in all of the Fund's accounts are used by the Institute to train the next generation of priests.

An account can be opened for any priest whether he is a diocesan or religious priest, living or deceased. A brief biography of the honored priest and a list of all donors to his account are perpetually inscribed in the Book of Remem-



brance. When the Institute's new Center for Priestly Spirituality is constructed, there will be a prominent place for the Plaque and the Book of Remembrance.

Every summer, a Mass is celebrated in remembrance of all honored priests and their donors.

To date 57 priests have been honored by 297 donations. There is no limit as to how much money can go into an account. Donors can contribute to an existing account or open a new one.

By contributing to an account in honor of a priest, you can be part of the Mission of the Institute in the spiritual formation of seminarians and priests while at the same time recognizing the service and generosity of the priest of your choice. **Is there a special priest in your life you would like to honor?**

Please contact Tom Pogge, Director of Mission Advancement, at 402-280-3528 to obtain a *Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests* brochure or to make a donation.

Additional information is on the IPF website [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org).

## POPE JOHN PAUL II FUND ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING PRIESTS:

Archbishop Leo Arkfeld\*  
 Fr. Greg P. Baxter\*  
 Msgr. Charles F. Brodersen\*  
 Msgr. James C. Buckley\*  
 Fr. Harold J. Buse\*  
 Msgr. James R. Cain  
 Fr. Martin P. Conley  
 Fr. Damien J. Cook  
 Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss  
 Fr. Gerard M. Dewan\*  
 Fr. Lawrence J. Dorsey  
 Msgr. Peter F. Dunne  
 Fr. Thomas M. Fangman  
 Msgr. William F. Fitzgerald\*  
 Msgr. John A. Flynn  
 Fr. Richard J. Gabuzda\*  
 Fr. Daniel E. Galas  
 Msgr. Robert J. Gass  
 Fr. Donatus Grunloh, O.F.M.  
 Fr. Melvin Grunloh, O.F.M.

Fr. Thomas J. Halley, S.J.\*  
 Msgr. Joseph Hanefeldt\*  
 Fr. Oliver Lee Hightower  
 Fr. Paul C. Hoelsing  
 Fr. John Horn, S.J.\*  
 Fr. Norman F. Hunke  
 Fr. Mark R. Ivany  
 Fr. Daniel J. Kampschneider  
 Msgr. Francis P. Kenny\*  
 Msgr. Eugene H. Kerwin  
 Fr. Thomas Krupski, O.F.M.  
 Fr. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.  
 Archbishop George J. Lucas\*  
 Msgr. William J. Lyons\*  
 Fr. John McCarthy, S.J.\*  
 Fr. Jim McCormick  
 Fr. Richard D. McGloin, S.J.  
 Msgr. Andrew H. Meister  
 Fr. Mel J. Merwald\*  
 Fr. Herman J. Niebrugge

Fr. Richard W. Niebrugge  
 Fr. William O'Leary, S.J.\*  
 Fr. Thomas O'Neill\*  
 Msgr. Paul Peter\*  
 Fr. Robert F. Preisinger  
 Fr. David G. Reeson  
 Msgr. Edward J. Schadt\*  
 Fr. Robert E. Schmidz  
 Fr. James F. Schwertley  
 Fr. Donald W. Shane\*  
 Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan  
 Fr. Joseph C. Taphorn\*  
 Fr. Mark A. Toups\*  
 Fr. Leo A. Walsh, S.T.D.  
 Fr. Patrick Walsh  
 Abbot Raphael Walsh, O.S.B.  
 Msgr. William S. Whelan\*

\* These accounts have reached the "Perpetual" level of \$5000 and above.

## NEW TITLES FROM IPF PUBLICATIONS

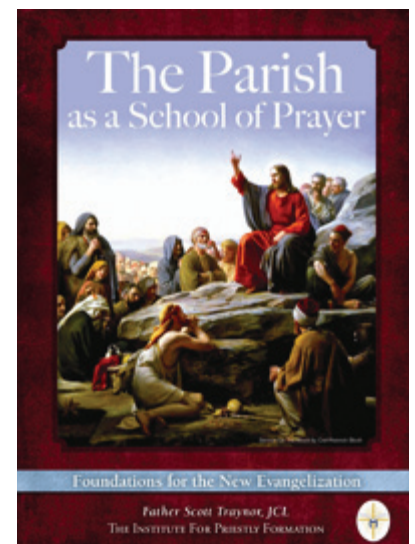
To order IPF Publications, contact Catholic Word at 800-932-3826 or go to <https://www.catholicword.com/ipf>



Deacon James Keating's newest book, *Spousal Prayer: A Way to Marital Happiness* affirms that the sharing of hearts is a necessary commitment in both marriage and prayer. The mingling of the love of spouse with and in the love of God is and has always been the foundation for a life of peace, creativity, and vibrancy, not to mention sanctity. In fact, we cannot even understand what marriage is unless we look at how

Christ loved His Bride, the Church, till the end (Jn 13:1). For the baptized, Christ has joined His love for the Church to the Sacrament of Marriage and Marriage, to His love for the Church.

Father Scott Traynor's book *The Parish as a School of Prayer: Foundations for the New Evangelization* recognizes Blessed John Paul II's urging for priests to transform their parishes into powerhouses of prayer. The world today poses many hazards that are capable of progressively undermining faith. Divine Love alone is capable of inspiring, directing, and sustaining the Christian's mission to transform culture according to God's plan.



# SUMMER PROGRAM FORMATION FOR SEMINARIANS

Since its inception in 1995, over 19  
have participated in IPF's ten-v  
of 169 seminarians came f



# AM OF SPIRITUAL OR DIOCESAN MARKS 19 YEARS

000 seminarians from 140 dioceses

week program. This year's class

from 65 different dioceses.



# SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM EXPANDS

Since 2002, IPF has provided spiritual direction training for diocesan priests from throughout the United States. Over 340 participants from 40 dioceses have enjoyed this three year opportunity to grow in the art of spiritual direction, presented with the concrete realities of diocesan priestly ministry in mind.

Originally begun as a one-year pilot program in Florida, the program moved to the Conference Center at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago. The Conference Center and seminary have been gracious hosts ever since, enabling the program to grow and flourish. Numbers increased steadily since the first group graduated in 2005. As the program continued, one series was conducted in two venues: the Conference Center at Mundelein and a retreat house in the Diocese of Austin, Texas. The following series returned to Chicago in a greatly expanded version.

In recent years, as the class size rose to 77, demand far outstripped our ability



*Both sessions of the 2014-2017 Training Program in Spiritual Direction will take place on the Mundelein Seminary campus.*



MUNDELEIN  
SEMINARY

to provide for all those desiring to attend. The Institute entered into a process of discernment about how to respond to this increasing need. The discernment process identified the good that would come to both the Institute and participants if we were able to launch a second section of the program. However, the fact that Fr. John Horn, SJ, had not been replaced on the Institute's full-time staff precluded the possibility of moving in that direction.

With the arrival of Fr. Rafferty this past July, the situation changed dramatically. Details were gathered as the discernment continued and by the end of September, all the pieces fell into place and we were able to announce the cre-

ation of a second section of the program.

Both sections of the program will take place at the Conference Center of Mundelein Seminary. The sections will run in parallel with only a few weeks separating each of the sessions. The total enrollment of both sections combined is anticipated to be about 140, double the size of our previous programs!

As we celebrate this new milestone in IPF history, we gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Archdiocese of Denver and the continuing generosity of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary Conference Center whose support help this new venture possible.

## FAVORABLE IRA TAX PROVISION FOR 2013

The American Taxpayer Relief Act, enacted on January 2, 2013, extended the favorable tax provisions which allow direct distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts to charities.

A person who is 70 ½ or older can make qualified charitable distributions directly from an IRA up to an aggregate of \$100,000 for 2013. One of the main benefits of the charitable distribution rule is that direct payments to the charities by the IRA can satisfy some or all of the minimum distribution requirements for those over 70 ½ and thus shelter that income from taxation. This provision expires at the end of 2013.



For tax purposes, it is important the funds be payable directly from the IRA account to the charity. Some financial institutions require that they mail the check directly to the charity; others will make the check payable to the charity, but mail the check to the owner of the IRA so the owner can mail or present the check to the charity. Since this favorable tax provision expires at the end of the year, it is important these donations be accomplished in 2013.

If you are in this situation, please consider the Institute for such a gift. Additional information can be obtained from Tom Pogge, Director of Mission Advancement, 402-280-3528.



## “DOME OF GRACE” CONTINUES TO COVER THE SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer’s “Friends Night”, for the fifth year in a row, united IPF seminarians and their Spiritual Mothers, women who had committed to praying one Hail Mary for a specific seminarian “son” or for the group as a whole throughout the ten week program. Great conversation ensued, as evidenced by the photos here. Others from outside Omaha were able to join in the celebration on-line viewing a live feed. Several seminarians mentioned their family members and friends tuned in to view what was taking place in Omaha.

The idea of Spiritual Motherhood has expanded and now includes “cells” of praying moms outside of Omaha.

An initiative several years ago to begin Spiritual Fathers, men who pray for the summer faculty and staff, continues to enhance the “dome of grace” each year. That “dome of grace” provided by the prayers of Spiritual Moms and Dads was mentioned by staff members this summer as being present and tangible throughout the entire ten week program. Surely the Holy Spirit is encouraging the IPF programs to be surrounded with prayer for all participants during their summer in Omaha.

For more information regarding IPF’s Spiritual Motherhood, consult the website [www.priestformation.org](http://www.priestformation.org).



*Marilou Holmberg and David Loeffler, Diocese of Phoenix*



*Jo Holloway and José Gutierrez, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*



*Dr. Paul Esposito, Spiritual Father, and Fr. Gerard Dewan*



*Irene Schlautman and Eliot Schwer, Archdiocese of Omaha*

# SPIRITUALITY AS THE CORRECT METHOD FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDY

Each year IPF conducts a research seminar on some aspect of priestly formation. On September 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, ten theologians from around the world participated in a Seminar on the theme of "Spirituality: the Correct Method for Doing Theological Study." This theme was inspired by the thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI, particularly his comments delivered at a Congress devoted to the work of the late Hans Urs Von Balthasar in 2005. This Swiss theologian dedicated a good part of his research to restoring a unity between the study of theology and the call of Christ for theologians to become holy. Pope Benedict himself has noted that theology needs faith; theology needs its practitioners to think in faith since it is faith that frees reason to think more effectively and to see its object more clearly.

The papers presented in this seminar will culminate in

*"...restoring a unity between the study of theology  
and the call of Christ for theologians  
to become holy."*

a book to be published by IPF Publications. It will be intended for use by seminary formators nationally and internationally. The days of study were enveloped in prayer, silence and fraternity. These days were also ones of deep conversation among the theologians as participants, in humility, helped one another bring clarity to each other's ideas.



(l to r) Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, S.J., *former Dean of the Gregorian University, Rome*; Fr. Vincent Twomey, *Retired Professor, St Patrick's Seminary, Maynooth Ireland*; Fr. Emery De Gaal, *Chair, Theology Department, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago*; Sr. Gill Goulding, *Professor, Regis College, University of Toronto*; Fr. Christopher Collins, S.J., *Director, Catholic Studies Program, St. Louis University*; Dr. Tracey Rowland, *Dean, John Paul II Institute, Melbourne, Australia*; Dr. Daniel Keating, *Professor of Theology, Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit*; Msgr. John Cihak, *Congregation for Bishops and Papal Master of Ceremonies, Vatican City*; Dr. Peter Casarella, *Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame*; Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., *Institute for Priestly Formation, Director of Theological Formation.*

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AWARD



(l to r) Dr. Perry and Donna Williams, Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Msgr. Gerard McCarren, and Kathy Kanavy.

This year's Our Lady of Guadalupe Award, presented annually to men and women who have given witness with their lives to the efficacy of listening for and responding to Mary's call to live Jesus' own life in our day, exercising in practical ways the gift of humble faith, placed at the service of the Institute's mission, was presented to Dr. Perry and Donna Williams and Msgr. Gerard McCarren. Dr. and Mrs. Williams became members of the Institute's Mission Advancement Council in 2003, shortly after the Council's initial meeting. They were part of the committee that planned the first Celebration of Priesthood Dinner which takes place in Omaha each April and have served on that committee ever since. Msgr. McCarren has served as a classroom instructor and spiritual director in the IPF summer program for seminarians since 2004. The award was presented in recognition of their dedicated service to the mission of the Institute and with deep gratitude.

# SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE'S MISSION

As you read the articles in this newsletter, you have a sense of the exponential growth of the Institute in responding to the needs of the Church in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests. With Father James Rafferty's arrival and the beginning of the Community of IPF Priests, the Holy Spirit is raising up a group of diocesan priests who will provide for the long-term sustainability of the Mission of the Institute.

We invite you to be part of this Mission. Tuition and fees do not cover all the costs of providing this spiritual formation. Every financial gift, no matter how large or small, is important and very much appreciated.

Please consider giving a gift to the Annual Operating Fund using the enclosed envelope or online at [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org)

## *A life-changing gift*

If you are in the position to make a significant contribution to the Institute, you could create a legacy which will allow the Institute to grow. If you're not in a position to give a current gift, please



consider providing for the Institute in your Will, Trust, or Estate. Tom Pogge, the Director of Mission Advancement and Executive Director of the IPF Foundation would be happy to talk to you about this. His number is 402-280-3528 or email [tpogge@creighton.edu](mailto:tpogge@creighton.edu).



*IPF needs your help to continue its mission to deepen the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood. Thank you for your financial support.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 13-22, 2013

**Training Program in Spiritual Direction**  
Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, IL

OCTOBER 24-27, 2013

**Federation of Seminary  
Spiritual Directors Meeting**  
St. Louis, MO

OCTOBER 31, 2013

**Mission Advisory Council Meeting**  
Omaha, NE

NOVEMBER 4-11, 2013

**IPF Alumni Retreat**  
Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence  
Clearwater, FL

NOVEMBER 9, 2013

**Bishops Advisory Council Meeting**  
Baltimore, MD

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

**Planned Giving Seminar**  
Omaha, NE

DECEMBER 7, 2013

**Advent Morning of Reflection**  
Christ the King Church, Omaha, NE  
*For the Laity and the Clergy*

JANUARY 12-17, 2014

**Training Program in Spiritual Direction**  
Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, IL

JANUARY 26-31, 2014

**NCDVD Vocation Directors Retreat**  
Bethany Center, Lutz, FL

FEBRUARY 10-17, 2014

**IPF Alumni Retreat**  
Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence  
Clearwater, FL

MARCH 3, 2014

**Mission Advisory Council Meeting**  
Omaha, NE

MARCH 25, 2014

**Anniversary Celebration Mass and Reception**  
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, NE  
*For the Laity and the Clergy*

APRIL 5, 2014

**Lenten Morning of Reflection**  
Christ the King Church, Omaha, NE  
*For the Laity and the Clergy*



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