



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

ALUMNI RETURN THIS SUMMER TO GIVE BACK

“Paying it forward”, seventeen IPF alumni returned to Omaha for the Summer Seminarian Program to provide spiritual direction and classroom instruction to this year’s 170 nine week

It is also important to have a Spiritual Director who can help the seminarians experience the freedom to be vulnerable and intimate with the Lord during their IPF summer.

Fr. Dan Andrews was one who served as a Spiritual Director and remembered his experience back in 1998 this way: “Fr. John Horn directed me on my 8-day retreat. It was a life changing ex-



seminarian program participants. The seminarian program alumni, now priests who have received special training on the unique needs of the seminarian, were eager to give back the gift that they had received.

“Serving as a director for the seminarian 8-day retreat was a great gift for me. Simply being in the places that so impacted my own seminary formation brought back renewed graces from my time here years ago,” commented Fr. Jordan Samson, a 2007 seminarian program alumni and a current participant of IPF’s Spiritual Direction Training Program.

Alumni are particularly aware of the importance of the 8-day retreat. It begins every seminarian’s experience of spiritual formation during their summer on the Creighton campus in Omaha. The intense retreat facilitates a deep encounter with Christ, a communion that the seminarians unpack during the remaining eight weeks of the program.



perience of grace for me; a holy time of “falling in love” with God. So, I am acutely aware of how important it is for the men to have a Spiritual Director to walk with them.”

Experiencing IPF from “the other side of the desk” was both beneficial to the alumni and to the current seminarians going through the program for the first time. An alumni’s perspective is unique and particularly graced.

“As the Lord worked in the hearts of my directees, I thought often of how impactful these short eight days are for all who enter into them,” Fr. Samson further reflected.

Fr. Andrews summed up his experience this summer by saying, “I could not think of a better way to say “thanks” to God than to serve others in the same way I was served. It’s a true joy for me to be able to serve as a Spiritual Director for the Institute.”

And a great way to “pay it forward”.

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REV. RICHARD GABUZDA
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As happens each fall, our hearts turn first to gratitude for the gifts of recent months even as we anticipate new graces in the months ahead.

We are grateful for the 170 seminarians from 62 different dioceses in the United States and Canada who joined us for our nine-week program. Here's how one seminarian described his experience:

IPF is what I needed to truly engage in seminary formation. I learned how to give myself to Christ in a way I had been desiring for so long, which helped me approach seminary in a new and invigorated mindset that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

These seminarians were joined by other seminarians, priests and seminary faculty in our four other summer programs: Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, Retreat for Seminary Theologians and Retreat for Seminary Formators.

The newsletter features highlights from the summer including the presentation of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Award as well as our "A Reason for Your Hope" event which welcomed Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Looking toward our fall events, Deacon Keating welcomed a group of theologians for the annual Theologian Seminar.

This year the theme was "The Saints and Priestly Formation." Deacon Keating was also a presenter at the national meeting of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors held this year in Boston. And don't miss the wonderful photo of Deacon Keating and wife, Marianne, with Pope Francis!

October and November will find our staff gathering once again in Chicago for our Spiritual Direction Training Program for the next-to-last session of the current round. Meanwhile we are making preparations for the new round, set to begin in May 2017. Other travel will take us to Conception Seminary in Missouri for the annual seminary spiritual directors' meeting and to Baltimore for our Bishops Advisory Council meeting.

We remain indebted to the many groups and individuals who continue to pray for us and our program participants as well as to the wonderful benefactors who partner with us in making these programs available. Please know that you remain in our grateful prayers!

Gratefully in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Gabuzda". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda
Executive Director



“A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE” LEADER OF U.S. BISHOPS ENCOURAGES FAITHFUL WITNESS



Father Richard J. Gabuzda, Executive Director of The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF), poses a question submitted by a luncheon guest to Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz during a question-and-answer session after the annual IPF luncheon.

By Mike May

Reprinted from *The Catholic Voice* of the Archdiocese of Omaha

To be a faithful Catholic in today’s world – “be yourself, and be your best self.”

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, encouraged guests during a question-and-answer session at the annual Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) luncheon July 19 at Creighton University in Omaha.

In Omaha to support IPF, which provides programs of spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians and priests, and asked about challenges to living the faith, he said, “God wants us to be saints with all the gifts and weaknesses he gave us ... to be witnesses that are transparent and genuine.”

Archbishop Kurtz addressed about 70 clergy, Catholic leaders and guests at the concluding luncheon of IPF’s two-day gathering “*A Reason for Your Hope*,” sharing the institute’s vision and mission. He joined IPF Executive Director Father Richard J. Gabuzda to answer questions submitted by guests.

He also praised IPF for its work of spiritual formation.

“IPF teaches a spirituality of giving and unselfishness in an intentional way,” Archbishop Kurtz said. “I see a solid grounding ... and I get the sense that there’s a sacrificial aspect to IPF that is not just turning a seminarian in on himself, but is an outward movement.”

Speaking with the *Catholic Voice* following the luncheon, Archbishop Kurtz addressed the recent acts of violence in the United States and around the world, encouraging Catholics to practice what he called the three C’s – courage, compassion and civility, plus a fourth he now adds to the mix – calm.

“We are in such a frenetic age in which people are used to having immediate reactions,” he said. “But wisdom has always been begotten from a reflective spirit, so I think on all levels of our society, beginning especially in our own families, that instead of reacting to things, especially things that involve disagreement, we can begin to respond rather than react.

“A response takes into account a thinking through, reflecting, what I would call a measured action,” he said. “And we need more of that in our society.”

BLESSINGS ... AND A CHALLENGE

“Friends Night” is the annual evening when IPF summer seminarian program participants meet their Spiritual Moms, the women who have been praying for them daily during their time in Omaha. Each year, Fr. Gabuzda invites a faculty member to give a brief testimonial as to what IPF has meant to him. We invite you to read the transcript of the talk given that evening and to accept the challenge proposed at the end of the talk.

When Fr. Gabuzda asked me to give my testimony he said that it is going to be only four minutes. I said, for a Colombian priest, I don't think so! But Fr. Gabuzda, I will try to do my best.

It is my blessing to be with all of you on this beautiful evening. My name is Fr. Armando Tolosa from the Archdiocese of Miami. I am the Spiritual Director at St. John Vianney College Seminary. I have been ordained for six holy, happy and healthy years.

When they asked me to put together my thoughts of my experiences at IPF, the words that came to mind were from the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you”.

In 2006 my Spiritual Director asked me to come to IPF's seminarian program after I finished my first theology year. When I came to this program I heard the invitation to “fall more deeply in love with God and remain with that love”. First, Jesus changed my holy hour. I became more contemplative. With all the tools that I received from IPF, I became more of a human “being”, because before in my holy hours I was a human

“doing”. I was “doing” many things in my holy hour. I brought my books with me, all the novenas, everything. “Let's go to talk with Jesus,” I told myself, and he said, “You don't talk to me. You bring a lot of stuff.” IPF gave me different tools for how I can be contemplative before the Holy Trinity and to just be present. No more human “doing”. Ask and it will be given to you.



After my second year of theology I was being assigned to a pastoral experience internship. I said, before I go to the mission to do things, I want to stay for 30 days. I came in 2008 to IPF's program of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola because the experience in 2006 had been so remarkable. I thought it was going to be impossible to be on a silent retreat for 30 days. Impossible for me, Armando; I like to talk! My first week of these thirty days I was struggling because around this campus, you know, there are cheerleaders and all those girls around and everything that's going on here and I come into the silent retreat for 30 days? My Spiritual Director said, “Armando, that just shows you that IPF is organized very well because you will someday be a diocesan priest and you



will need to be able to be a contemplative, prayerful, mystic person in the midst of busyness.” And I got it. Bingo! That’s when I understood the identity of the diocesan priest: contemplatively in action. I finished my 30 days with many blessings and graces.

I was ordained in 2010 and then two years later, in 2012, the rector called me at the seminary and said, “Armando, I need you to be a part-time Spiritual Director for the seminarians.” Ask, and it will be given to you. I need to check with IPF to find out what they have for future Spiritual Directors at seminaries.

I need tools. I have had directees in my parish but I need more tools to direct seminarians, the future of the church, so I came back to Omaha for the three week summer Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors.

In 2014, I started the IPF three year Training Program for Spiritual Direction. In the training program, I am one of 150 priests. Imagine five different sections of two groups of priests praying together, in discussion with each other, working in fraternity. It is always a gift to be together with the other priests. I will finish the program, if God wills it, next year.

The Institute for Priestly Formation is trying to help seminarians to become holy, healthy and happy and to fall in love with God and it is under attack. I just want to challenge you to do one thing. When you pray the rosary to our Lady, pray one decade of the rosary for IPF. Can you do it? Can you pray one decade of the Rosary for IPF, especially on Thursdays, the day that the Last Supper instituted the Eucharist? Pray on Thursdays one decade of the rosary for IPF, that they can continue to help seminarians and priests to fall more deeply in love with God and to stay in that love. Thank you!

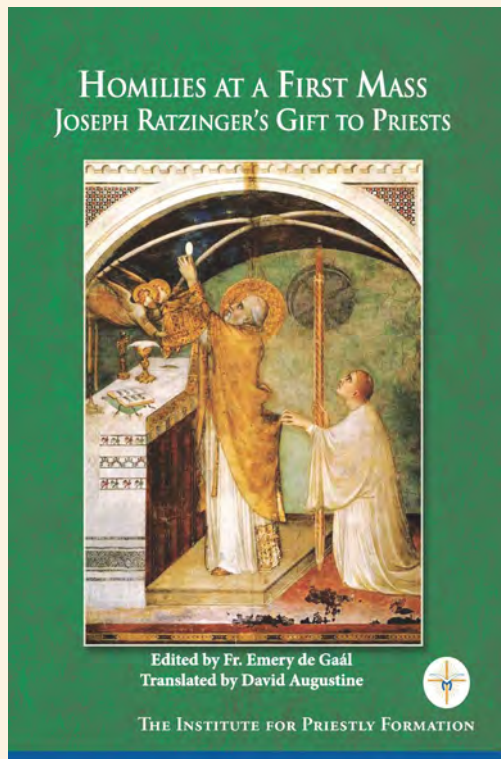


I thank IPF for all the many tools I have received as a priest and as a seminarian. They have made me a happy, healthy, and holy priest.

Thank you Spiritual Mothers here tonight. My mother and father are in heaven. But IPF gave me a mom and a dad, too. Thank you, Janeen and Dennis, who have been praying for me this summer. I bet you never expected to have a Colombian son! Thank you Spiritual Mothers for praying for seminarians and IPF every single day. Why? Because this battle is very difficult.



NEW FROM IPF PUBLICATIONS



Homilies at a First Mass: Joseph Ratzinger's Gift to Priests

Edited by Fr. Emery de Gaál
Paperback, 8.5 x 5.5, 82 pages
9780988761384 | \$9.95

This book is a collection of homilies delivered by Joseph Ratzinger at the First Masses of newly ordained priests, and on other occasions, during various times in the twentieth century. These homilies are filled with an understanding of priesthood and ecclesial ministry that invites priests to abide in Christ, listen to Him, and draw their identity and mission from Christ's own shared priesthood. To order an IPF Publication, contact Catholic Word at CatholicWord.com, 800-932-3051 or Team@CatholicWord.com.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AWARD

Each summer since 2003, IPF has awarded the *Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Award* to recipients in honor of their generous response to Mary's call to live Jesus' own life "through acts of charity and a life of priestly service."

For his dedication to the ministry of retreat direction in the mission of IPF, Fr. Robert Uzzilio received the award. For their exemplary lives as Catholics in the Omaha community and for their gifts generously shared with our mission, Herman and Ellen Weist were chosen. And for her dedication to the service of the Church through her religious community, for her dedication to the formation of future priests and, especially for her devoted service to IPF, the award was conferred on Sr. Linda Sevcik, S.M.

The Institute for Priestly Formation is grateful for their sacrifices and dedication to the mission.



Award recipients: Fr. Robert Uzzilio, Herman Weist, Ellen Weist, and Sr. Linda Sevcik at the altar of St. John's Church on the Creighton campus.

JUBILEE FOR DEACONS IN ROME

IPF's own, Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., Director of Theological Formation, was invited by the Vatican's Council for the New Evangelization to deliver a presentation during the 50th Anniversary of the reinstatement of the permanent diaconate and the institution of the Centre of the Diaconate (IDC) at the end of the Second Vatican Council. Deacons and their families from around the world convened in Rome in May as part of the year-long celebrations for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The program of events for the weekend included a pilgrimage through the Holy Door in Rome, sessions focusing on the ways Deacons make God's mercy known to the Church and culminated in a Mass with Pope Francis on Sunday May 29th.

During this Mass Pope Francis noted in his homily that the terms "apostle" and "servant" can never be separated.

"They are like the two sides of a medal. Those who proclaim Jesus are called to serve, and those who serve proclaim Jesus," he said, noting that Jesus, who "came not to be served but to serve," was the first one to show us this.

"A disciple of Jesus cannot take a road other than that of the Master," Francis observed, adding that if we want to follow Jesus, we must first imitate him, becoming a servant to others.



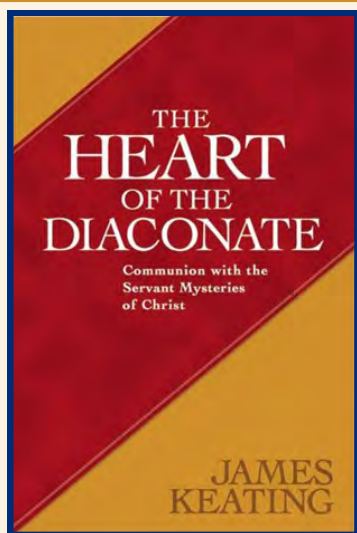
Photo copyright of L'Osservatore Romano

Deacon Keating's topic was the "The Deacon and the Family". His presentation was held at the Basilica of St. Maria sopra Minerva near the Pantheon. In the Basilica is housed art work by Michelangelo and the remains of St. Catherine of Siena. The following day Deacon and his wife Marianne were invited to meet Pope Francis. Also, during this Rome trip Deacon Keating presented a paper to the seminarians and spiritual formation staff of the Pontifical North American College on the topic of prayer.

As the Roman trip ended, Deacon headed to Ireland where the Irish Conference of Catholic Bishops had invited him to come to St. Patrick's Seminary in

Maynooth to address the question of Diaconal Spiritual Formation.

The transcript for Deacon Keating's Rome address can be found in the journal *Church Life* published by the University of Notre Dame <http://churchlife.nd.edu/2016/06/06/the-deacon-and-the-family-mercys-presence/>, and his remarks from Ireland constitute the contents of his new book, *The Heart of the Diaconate* from Paulist Press. His presentation to the Students of the North American College can be found online at <http://www.hprweb.com/2015/12/vulnerability-as-a-place-of-divine-encounter/>.



Through the three areas of Calling, Formation and Ordination, and Ministry, *The Heart of the Diaconate* explores the creative tension of the diaconate vocation and what the diaconate for the future will look like. The book outlines what those who are considering the diaconate must possess if it is truly going to be an

effective and vibrant ministry within the church. With a focus on availability to both prayer and ministry, the future of the diaconate must be both mystical and youthful and address one important question: Where has the gospel yet to reach in my diocese?

2016 Catholic Press Awards Collection

IPF congratulates Deacon Keating for being awarded this prestigious award.



THREE MEN AND AN INSTITUTE

By Chris Berens

This is the story of two priests, one parishioner, and the impact The Institute for Priestly Formation has made in their lives.

Fr. Joe Hanefeldt was a parish priest in Omaha. He became involved with IPF during its early years. He completed both their 30 Day Spiritual Exercises and the Spiritual Director Training Program. In addition, he was on the Institute's Mission Advisory Council, served as a Spiritual Director for the IPF summer seminarian program, and currently serves on their national Bishops Advisory Council.

While Fr. Hanefeldt contributed significantly in serving IPF, IPF had a profound impact on his spiritual life and his priesthood. As his love for the priesthood grew, so did his spiritual fatherhood increase for his parishioners. So much so that he has now been given a bigger flock to shepherd and was ordained Bishop of the Grand Island Diocese in March 2015. Bishop Hanefeldt's life demonstrates how IPF can "*Give us shepherds after my own heart.*" *Jeremiah 3:15*

IPF is not only rejuvenating the priesthood in America, but impacting the faith life of countless people throughout the world.

Fr. Jeff Lorig has a much different story, but was also greatly impacted by IPF. During his first assignment after ordination he was struggling with his vocation and questioned whether God had truly called him to the priesthood. He was providentially assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Omaha, where he was put under the guiding hand of Fr. Hanefeldt. In addition, Fr. Lorig met



Most Reverend Joseph Hanefeldt, Bishop of Grand Island, with author, Chris Berens.

regularly with a spiritual director, a graduate of IPF's Spiritual Director Training program. Through spiritual direction and prayer Fr. Lorig was able to embrace his calling to the priesthood.

Not only did it save his priesthood, but Fr. Lorig's spiritual life has flourished. He has completed the Spiritual Director Training program himself, and now serves as a Spiritual Director for the IPF summer seminarian program. Fr. Lorig also provides spiritual direction to parishioners, conducts retreats, and is a frequent speaker on contemplative prayer. IPF helped Fr. Lorig to "*Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.*" *Fr. Pedro Arrupe*

I first met Fr. Hanefeldt over 20 years ago when he was assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Likewise, I got to know Fr. Lorig when he was the associate pastor at our parish. Both of these priests have had a profound impact on my life.

Fr. Hanefeldt was my first spiritual director and introduced me to IPF. Fr. Lorig inspired me to increase my prayer life and to trust where God was calling

me. I now serve on the Mission Advancement Council and the IPF Foundation Board. I have practiced contemplative prayer and have received regular spiritual direction since 2003. Involvement with IPF has strengthened my faith and practice of Ignatian Spirituality. Through IPF's encouragement, I help lead contemplative prayer retreats in parishes throughout the Omaha archdiocese, many times with Fr. Lorig.

I sincerely believe that IPF was instrumental in the priestly formation and resulting appointment of now Bishop Hanefeldt. Without contemplative prayer and spiritual direction, Fr. Lorig might well have left the priesthood. I would probably not be receiving regular spiritual direction, let alone doing any public speaking on contemplative prayer. I am just one person of hundreds and hundreds who have been impacted by the lives of just two of the priests who are IPF alumni.

Since 1995 hundreds of priests have been through the IPF Summer Program, Spiritual Direction Training, Spiritual Exercises, and numerous other programs. Think of the transformation that has occurred in the lives of these priests and imagine all the people impacted by them on a daily basis. IPF is not only rejuvenating the priesthood in America, but impacting the faith life of countless people throughout the world.

Praise God for the Institute for Priestly Formation!

Our apologies:

The listing of 2015 St. John Paul Fund for Priests donors published in the previous newsletter was in error. The correct listing is on the next page.

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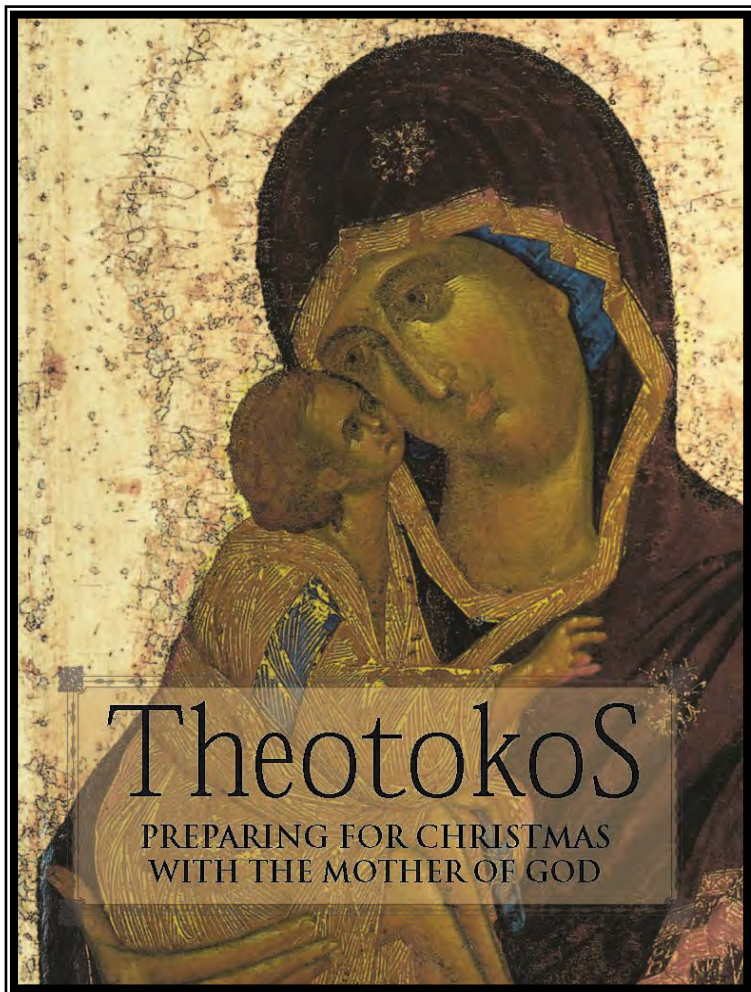
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10 copy minimum order

Order now from the IPF website
www.PriestlyFormation.org

EXTRA EYES ENJOYED EDITING

“I totally enjoyed being on retreat with our Lady!”

Seven sets of eyes “tweaked” the latest version of Fr. Mark Toups’ beloved *Theotokos: Preparing for Christmas with the Mother of God* which is now available for parish distribution (see above). Seven women accepted an invitation to volunteer to help find the needed edits to the new format of the popular Advent personal retreat aid.

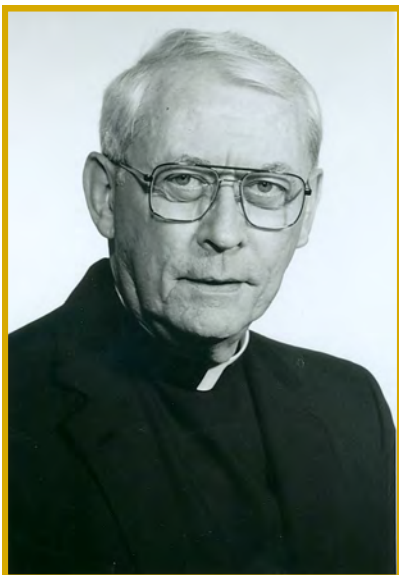
Kelly Epperson wasn’t so sure – at first. “I have to be honest that when I was asked to help with the editing, I was feeling a little stressed out and overwhelmed with things at work. But I was

thrilled and felt honored to be asked. And boy, am I glad I said yes! It was such a beautiful reading and reflection. And not only did God provide me the time to help with the editing of *Theotokos*, but he also provided me the time to get caught up at work and read through it a second time before turning it in. When we say yes to God, I realize that he provides us the time that we need. I look forward to re-reading it (for the third time) during Advent and taking the time to meditate and journal my thoughts and feelings. The readings during Advent have always been my favorite. I love the excitement and the anticipation of the coming of Our Lord.”

Volunteers help IPF in a variety of ways from stuffing envelopes, to making coffee for retreat days, to helping us update our database by doing online research from home, to making sure announcements of upcoming events get printed in parish bulletins, to praying annually for IPF summer seminarians, to hosting informational evenings in their homes or parishes so others can learn more about the work and mission of the institute, to simply praying for us on a regular basis. Some volunteers help on a regular basis; some are on an “as needed” list. All are greatly appreciated. Especially those with sharp eyes who enjoy editing!

Please remember IPF in your estate planning and

HONORING THE HONORABLE: ST. JOHN PAUL II FUND FOR PRIESTS



priest, even though he died a few years ago. The priest's name is Msgr. Eugene Kerwin.

Larry told many stories of the beloved priest, but one that was particularly meaningful was about Msgr. Kerwin's devotion to the Rosary. "He always held it in front of him," said Larry, "and he would cup it in his hands and look at each bead as he said the Aves. Everyone could tell he was seeing himself in each mystery – he was that united to Mary." It was a remarkable witness to Larry and was one of many things that endeared him to Msgr. Kerwin.

Life is about the connections we have with people. Some people are memorable, some are not. Larry Dwyer shared with those present at the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests annual luncheon this July stories about a memorable priest, one he has honored with donations to his Fund; a priest who came into his life when he was a young boy and was an important part of his life ever since. His connection is as strong today as ever to this

The purpose of the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests is to offer friends and benefactors an opportunity to participate in the mission by honoring a priest, living or deceased, who is or has been a special part of your life.

Is there a priest in your life who was as dear to you as Msgr. Kerwin is to Larry?



IPF welcomes Megan McAuliffe as the newest member of our staff. Megan will be working with the Mission Advancement team on Donor Relations and Social Media.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 27-30
**Federation of Seminary
Spiritual Directors Meeting**
Conception Abbey, MO

NOVEMBER 7-14
IPF Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence
Clearwater, FL

NOVEMBER 12
Bishops Advisory Council Meeting
Baltimore, MD

DECEMBER 3
Advent Morning of Reflection
Christ the King Church, Omaha, NE
For the Laity and the Clergy

JANUARY 8-13 FEBRUARY 5-10
(Section A) (Section B)
Training Program in Spiritual Direction
Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, IL

JANUARY 22-30
NCDVD Vocation Directors Retreat
Bethany Center, Lutz, FL

FEBRUARY 13-20
IPF Alumni Retreat
Pax Christi Retreat Center
Clearwater, FL

MARCH 11
Lenten Morning of Reflection
Christ the King Church, Omaha, NE
For the Laity and the Clergy

MARCH 25
Anniversary Celebration Mass and Reception
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, NE

APRIL 20
Celebration of Priesthood Banquet
St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Omaha, NE
For the Laity and the Clergy



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