

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION



Vol. XVI, No. 2, 2018

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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LOOKING AT SUMMER

We welcomed 177 seminarians to IPF this summer. Learn more about their experiences in the classroom and in Omaha from the pictures we have to share. *See page 6*



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Pictured left: Seminarian Francis Vu talks with Fr. Nicholas Cachia next to a Marian statue on Creighton's campus

Pictured right: A group of seminarians take a picture to celebrate after their silent retreat

Like our new look?
 We'd love to hear your feedback.

Contact our office at
 402-546-6384
 and ask to speak with
 our Communications
 Coordinator.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



Dear Friends,

Once again we were blessed with many graces throughout this past summer. We welcomed 177 seminarians for our nine-week program. They came from 65 different dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Diocese of Kamloops, Canada. Seven seminary spiritual directors participated in our three-week seminar; the Spiritual Exercises program hosted six priests and eleven seminarians. The faculty retreat welcomed 7 participants. And this summer we piloted a new program, an advanced seminar for seminary spiritual directors; six priests joined us for that program.

Throughout these months we have been delighted that new friends have chosen to support us in a variety of ways, especially through the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests. We have continued to travel to various parts of the country to continue to spread the word about the Institute's mission.

Next year will mark the Institute's 25th Anniversary. We look forward to celebrating this milestone in a variety of

ways throughout the year. However, we are planning a gala celebration in Omaha next July 12-14. We hope that alumni and friends from across the country will join us, alongside our good friends here in Omaha.

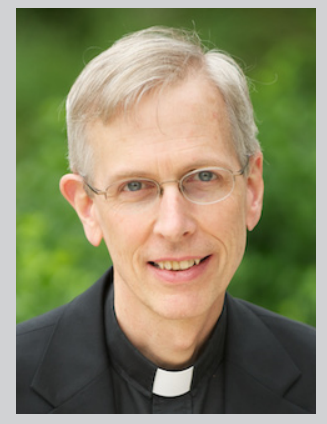
We also look forward to co-hosting with St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary a symposium for seminary formators which will feature as keynote speaker Archbishop Jorge Patrón Wong, Secretary for Seminaries at the Congregation for the Clergy. The symposium will invite prayer and reflection on an important and visionary document on priestly formation which the Congregation published two years ago, *The Gift of the Priesthood (Ratio Fundamentalis)*.

For all that the Lord has done in recent months and for all that He is bringing about in the coming months and throughout next year, we give thanks. We remain grateful for our many alumni and friends who continue to support the Institute's mission by their prayer and financial sacrifices.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Richard J. Gabuzda

Fr. Richard Gabuzda,
 Executive Director of IPF





OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AWARDS

Our Lady of Guadalupe pointed the minds and hearts of thousands towards the one she loved most dearly, her son Jesus. During the middle of our summer program, we were blessed to have the opportunity to bestow medallions featuring Our Lady on Msgr. Robert Panke and Chris and Peggy Berens. Each of these honorees has shown how they strive to exercise trust in accepting Mary's model of humble, practical faith as they follow her Son.

Msgr. Panke, rector of Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C., oversees the formation of seminarians and continuing formation for priests in the Archdiocese. His relationship with IPF began in 1995, when he attended a 30 day silent retreat. Since then, Msgr. Panke has attended IPF's Spiritual

Direction Seminar, directed 8-day silent retreats, been a member of IPF's Mission Advisory Council and taught in the IPF summer programs.

Chris and Peggy Berens have been active members at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Omaha since 1985, and both have put numerous hours into volunteer activities, giving generously of their time. They came to know IPF through their pastor, now Bishop Hanefeldt. They have served IPF in a variety of capacities, from being a Spiritual Mom and Spiritual Dad to serving on the Mission Advancement Council to being a leader during the "A Taste of IPF" retreat in March.

We are truly grateful for the work and time each of these honorees gives to the mission of IPF.



Pictured above: Seminarians from the Saint John Paul II Seminary pose with their rector, Msgr. Panke

Pictured above: Chris and Peggy Berens and Msgr. Panke receive the Our Lady of Guadalupe award from IPF staff, Kathy Kanavy and Fr. Rafferty

PRE-ORDINATION RETREATS

Beginning in April 2019, IPF will host a silent directed retreat specifically for those men who are soon to be ordained deacons or priests. Church law instructs those preparing for ordination to spend at least five days in retreat to prepare their hearts with the Lord to enter into the gift and mystery of Holy Orders. Over the past several years, seminarians have contacted IPF to arrange for a silent directed retreat as the way in which they have wanted

to be with the Lord in the important time before ordination. Having daily spiritual direction has helped their time of prayer to be fruitful. While many of those seminarians have been able to arrange an individually directed retreat with a spiritual director whenever it has been convenient for both the seminarian and the director, this year IPF will offer the first organized retreat that can serve a larger number of seminarians as a group. IPF is

committed to serving the spiritual lives of priests and seminarians, and the period leading up to ordination is a crucial time for listening to the Lord and receiving His friendship in a way that often gives new strength and confidence to a man's vocation as he offers himself to God and the Church for life. More details can be found on IPF's website. Please pray for this retreat and all those approaching ordination.

JOINED IN SORROW, PRAYING IN FAITH

We would be remiss if in this issue of our newsletter we did not mention the painful situation taking place in the Catholic Church at this time. In the United States, revelations of horrific instances of abuse perpetrated by Catholic priests, coupled with long-standing immoral behavior on the part of a highly influential cardinal, elicit anger, pain and grief on the part of all Catholics. We at the Institute share in the sorrow for all who have been harmed by the infidelity of priests, especially minors, and we are united in intercession for comfort and healing for all of them.

These deeply felt emotions have resulted in calls for a system of greater accountability for bishops and a means of overseeing and disciplining bishops who are at fault. Bishops and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have acknowledged the gravity of the situation and have offered suggestions for initial courses of action. Pope Francis has called for a meeting of the presidents of bishops conferences from throughout the world to address the crisis. In addition, as seminaries themselves have come under scrutiny and concerns have been expressed for the safety of seminarians, some seminaries have designated outside resources for reporting instances of harassment.

While courses of action can and must be developed, we know that the Church must also continue to call for greater holiness on the part of priests. The life of "interiority," a deep prayer life, a life of union with God which carries into daily life, certainly lies at the heart of any Church reform. Now more than ever, the Church is in need of saints, and, in particular, priests who are saints.

The Institute for Priestly Formation remains committed to our mission which focuses on "the cultivation of a deep interior communion with Christ" which leads the priest to share in Christ's own pastoral charity. As we too grieve and join the whole Church in prayer, we pray that we ourselves may be renewed in the mission to which we have been called. We once again place ourselves at the service of the Church, as an instrument in God's hands for helping priests, seminarians and those who form them to strengthen and deepen this vocation which is so essential to the mission of the Church.

We invite all of our alumni, friends and benefactors to recall that, at times of greatest darkness in the Church's history, saints have been raised up. And Jesus has promised that the darkness will not overcome the power of His Cross and that He will continue to care for the Church which is His Body.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 25-28, 2018
Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors
Camarillo, CA

OCTOBER 30, 2018
Mission Advisory Council Meeting
IPF Office, Omaha, NE

NOVEMBER 5-12, 2018
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine Providence, Clearwater, FL

NOVEMBER 10, 2018
Bishops Advisory Council Meeting
USCCB Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

DECEMBER 15, 2018
Advent Morning of Reflection
Christ the King Parish, Omaha, NE

JANUARY 13-18, 2019
Spiritual Direction Training Program - A
Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL

Continued on the next page



CALENDAR OF EVENTS, CONTINUED

JANUARY 20-29, 2019
NCDVD Annual Retreat
Bethany Center, Tampa, FL

FEBRUARY 10-15, 2019
Spiritual Direction
Training Program - B
Mundelein Seminary,
Mundelein, IL

FEBRUARY 18-25, 2019
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine
Providence, Clearwater, FL

MARCH 16, 2019
Lenten Morning of
Reflection
Christ the King Parish,
Omaha, NE

MARCH 29-31, 2019
Ratio Symposium
St. Vincent de Paul Regional
Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL



Pictured to the left: Seminarians enjoying a game of frisbee in the summer heat.



Pictured above: Visiting the Skyfari exhibit at the zoo.



Pictured left: Seminarian Alan Baldarelli, holding the world with mercy at the Omaha Zoo.

LOOKING AT SUMMER



Pictured above: Fr. Joe Kelly reflects in quiet prayer after the Eucharist has been received in a daily IPF Mass.



Pictured to the left: A seminarian gazes upon a statue of Mary during quiet contemplation from retreat week.

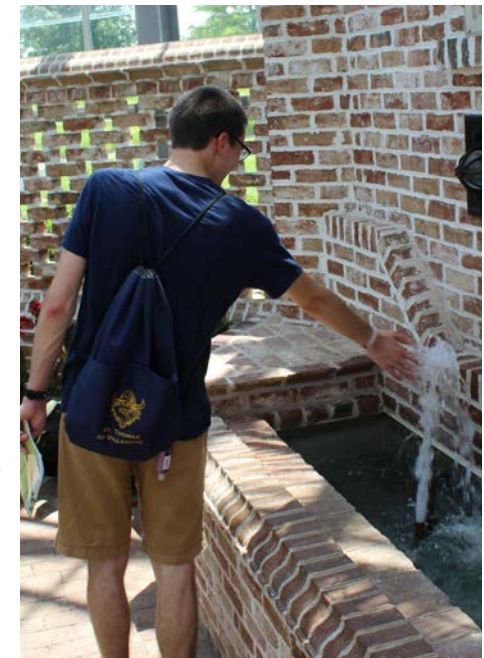


The seminarians arrive on Memorial Day weekend and are treated to dinner at Queen of Apostles in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Fr. Brian Eilers presides over a daily Mass at St. John's.

Spending some quiet time at Lauritzen Gardens.

Seminarians enjoy learning during their 503 class.



During their time at IPF, seminarians attend 4 different classes. These courses are Christian Prayer and Discernment, Prayer and Priestly Identity, Growing into Authentic Manhood with Christ the Priest and The Mystery of the Liturgy: Receiving in Celebration and in Life. Nearly 30 teachers come to Omaha to help instruct these men throughout the summer, helping IPF to provide smaller class sizes and a more one-on-one learning environment.



Seminarians praying during daily Mass at St. John's Church.

A few seminarians went to view the St. John's Illustrated Bible in the Creighton Reinert Alumni Library.

Seminarian Alan Baldarelli poses for a selfie with Fr. Paul Simms.





30 DAYS OF SILENCE?

It looks like they just exert will power not to speak for 30 days, but that misses the profound gift of what is happening in their hearts.

Seventeen priests and seminarians made a thirty day silent retreat at IPF this past summer on the campus of Creighton University. They walked in the footsteps of countless others before them following “The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.” They came from Chicago, Cleveland, Portland, Orlando, San Jose, Washington, Canada and Malta. How could they be silent for so long?

On the outside, it looks like they just exert will power not to speak for 30 days, but that misses the profound gift of what is happening in their hearts. What do they do?

Each day the retreatant prays four or five one-hour periods of quiet prayer. They meet with a spiritual director daily to receive suggestions for prayer in a way that is unique to them and their personal relationship with God—similar to how a personal trainer designs an

exercise program for an individual. Each hour they pray for a specific grace, pray with a Scripture passage or meditation, and they speak personally to the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Mother, and perhaps St. Joseph or another saint as they are drawn. As they pray through the life of Jesus Christ, they are invited through the meditations to be in closer friendship with Him and to remain with Him always. They do this as they share with Him the joys, hurts, struggles and deep desires of their hearts. These deep personal places are brought forth to experience His love, His mercy, His healing and the fullness of their identity as beloved sons of the Father. From this foundation, they are strengthened in their priesthood. We are very grateful for your support that allows these priests to grow in deeper union with God so, in turn, we can be drawn closer to God and one another.



GROWING THE FOUNDATION

Most good stories have a solid beginning. For the past several years, P. Thomas Pogge, Executive Director of The Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation, and Larry Dwyer, President of the Foundation, have been working to establish a solid Foundation for IPF.

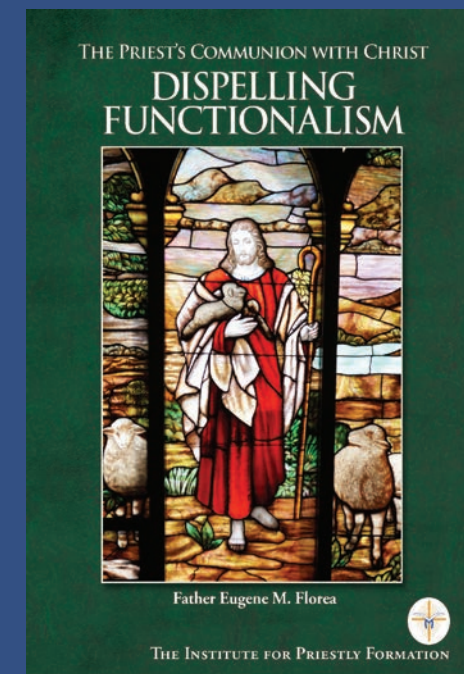
The structure includes an expanded Board of Directors, and creation of several Committees consisting of Major Gifts, Planned Giving, Investment and Finance, and Grants. The Investment and Finance Committee has developed a Statement of Investment Policy to guide both the long-term and short-term investment of the funds in the Foundation.

The Foundation has investments with The Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota and Merrill Lynch Bank of America. Both entities follow the Catholic Screening Guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Currently, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$1,960,000. This provides a good start to its efforts of expanding the assets.

A number of documents have been prepared to assist in solicitations of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. Of significance is the creation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society to honor major donors and those who make provision in their estates in support of the mission of the Institute. A number of alumni and other donors have included the Institute in their estates.

With IPF's 25th Anniversary fast approaching in 2019, we have asked our Board and Committee members to help us make this Silver Anniversary a significant building block for the next 25 years.

To learn more about the mission and how you can partner with the Institute and the Foundation in the spiritual formation of seminarians and priests, please contact Tom Pogge at 402-280-3528 or ptpogge@creighton.edu.



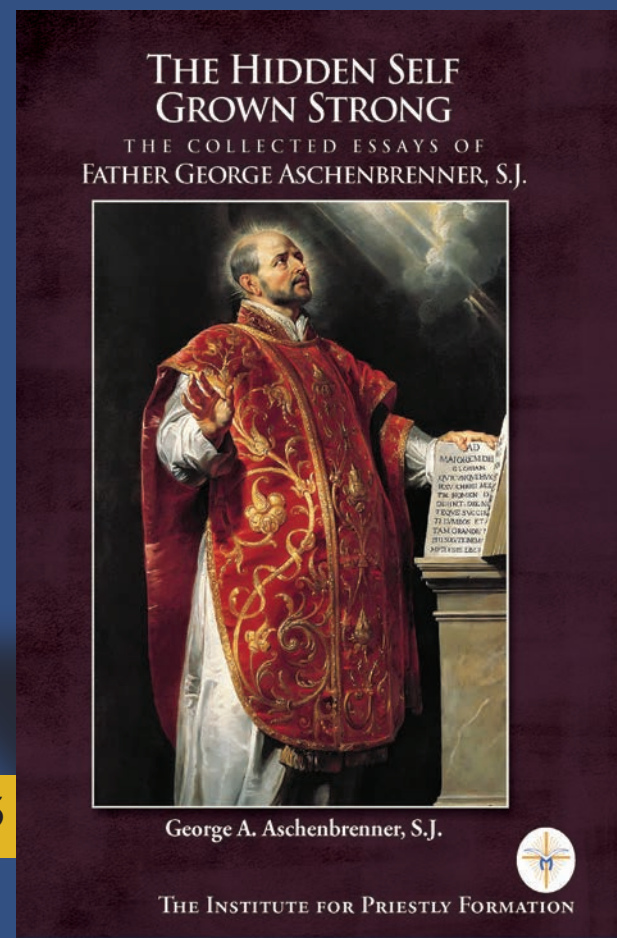
\$13.95

Fr. Eugene Florea explores how priests can move from functionalism to being rooted in communion with Christ. When the priest is properly grounded in his identity, he will have a clearer sense of mission and a more fruitful ministry.

NEWEST IPF PUBLICATIONS

Order these publications online at www.ipfpublications.org

A series of essays by Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J., one of the founders of The Institute for Priestly Formation. He explores topics in the 13 presented essays on the interior life and prayer, the importance of the Examen, and ministry/priesthood.



\$14.95

George A. Aschenbrenner, S.J.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

SPIRITUAL MOMS: 11 YEARS OF PRAYER

“But can we do it? Can we have every seminarian covered by the time they arrive?”

These were the questions posed by Anne Pogge at a ladies’ luncheon in early May 2008. Anne had gathered women close to the Institute for a luncheon in her home to celebrate IPF recently becoming a Public Association of the Faithful. Only a few days prior to the luncheon, Anne had envisioned what was to become the IPF Spiritual Moms initiative, an initiative which celebrated its 11th summer this year. Her prayer was that every seminarian headed to Omaha to participate in IPF’s spiritual formation program that summer of 2008 would be prayed for, by name, by a specific woman in the Omaha area, creating a prayerful “dome of grace” for the program participants. The ten ladies present at the luncheon got to work. They made phone calls, they sent emails, they prayed for inspiration as to whom to contact – and they did it. Every one of

the 150 men that year had a Spiritual Mom – and every seminarian since then has also had, not only one, but many women praying for him during his time in Omaha.

Anne’s coordination of the program for the past eleven years has been a gift to IPF. The hours and hours of phone calls, emails, and hours spent pouring over spreadsheets making sure every seminarian not only had women

praying for him, but that there was a woman there to share “Friends Night” with him, has truly been a spiritual work of mercy. And the graces have flowed, not only for the seminarians, but for their “moms” as well.

IPF wishes to thank Anne for her dedicated service to this beautiful apostolate and for posing the questions to the other faith filled women at her luncheon eleven summers ago.



Fr. Eamonn Bourke talks about his IPF experience at Friends Night. After the talks, Spiritual Moms and their sons have time to chat. Ellen Weist and Edrourd Jean are seen to the left. Gigi Stamp and Manuel Barrios are seen conversing below.



Friends Night began with an hour of adoration in St. John’s Church. After spending time with the Lord, Spiritual Moms and their sons had time to socialize. Furthest to the left is Noel Baude and seminarian Robert Ernest. Next to them, Terri Caffrey and seminarian Daniel Callahan beam with smiles of joy.

As these seminarians meet the women who’ve been praying for them during their time at IPF, there are often many stories shared and moments of grace realized. First we have Joyce Lynn and her spiritual son Matthew Krusleski. After that, we have seminarian Brian Geary with his spiritual Mom, Kristi Rooney.



Seminarian John Tomassi and Spiritual Mom Deb Fortina smile for the camera during the social hour. In the bottom left, seminarian Angelbert Chikere coaxes a grin from his Spiritual Mom, Janice Wear. In the bottom middle, staff member Bobbi Matyja checks in with Seminarian Brett Jamrog and Spiritual Mom Lourdes O’Leary to see if they need any more lemonade to drink.

Each seminarian’s encounter with the Lord during their time at IPF is a unique journey. At Friends Night, two seminarians are asked to give a short witness of how their time at IPF has impacted their vocation. The next page provides the transcript from the witness given by Robert Kinyon, a seminarian from the Diocese of Rapid City. Seminarian Ariel Orozco, from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee was the other speaker for the evening.



THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

A transcript of the witness given by Robert Kinyon at Friends Night 2018

This summer has been such a tremendous and a powerful blessing for me, from day one, up to today, when I get to talk to you and share just one of the graces. I really had no clue what I wanted to talk about. I wanted something that's very overarching, that hopefully I could apply within a couple different experiences that I've had. But, I think the major grace and the major blessing that I've come to receive from the Lord is an experiential understanding of the goodness of His providence, coming to actually know Him, coming to know His love for me, and to be able to trust in the plan that He has laid out for me.

I think the first experience of His goodness and of His providence is the fact that I'm here. I spent three months on the waiting list trying to get in. With each day that went by, I was actually more and more resolved not to come. I was kind of like, "Yeah, well, if I don't get in, no big deal. I'll find something else to do within the Diocese of Rapid City."

All of February passed, all of March, April and May and then three days before the program started, my vocations director received an email from Fr. Rich, saying, "We have a spot, he's in and he's ready to go!" Really? It totally floored me and in the hardness of my heart I was kind of like, "Dang it. Seriously?" I had a whole different agenda, a whole different plan to

spend time within my diocese, but sure enough I was in the car driving here, and I was a little sour about it.

But then going into the retreat and spending time with the Lord really blew me away. And, yeah, I came in like a total mess. It wasn't a coincidence that I didn't want to be here. I think the evil one was very present. I was very unsure and uncertain about my vocation. I'm going to Rome next year for seminary and I really wasn't especially excited about that. I felt like I hadn't really experienced the Lord and His powerful love in quite some time. All those things were powerfully resolved in my retreat. Jesus touched my heart in an incredibly powerful and reassuring and unbelievable way. It totally blew me away.

There was a certain peacefulness and ease going forward which assured me, thank God, and gave me confidence about my vocation. Receiving the call to the priesthood and then just being able to soak in the graces that have come since then over the past few weeks since the retreat has been an incredible blessing.

So, I just want to thank you, for all your prayers and for all your generosity. It's incredibly humbling for me to speak here in front of you knowing that your love and your prayers are being poured into all of our hearts and into the heart of the Father. Thank you.

SEE THIS VIDEO AND OTHERS FROM SUMMER 2019 AT:
WWW.PRIESTLYFORMATION.ORG/RESOURCES
IN THE HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES



"I think the first experience of His goodness and of His providence is the fact that I'm here. I spent three months on the waiting list trying to get in."
- Robert Kinyon, Diocese of Rapid City

VISITING THEOLOGIAN

Mary McCaughey, Professor of Theology at St Mary's College (Seminary), Oscott, England held the position of Visiting Theologian during the summer seminarian program. She presented a lecture to the faculty, and researched essays on priestly formation. Her work will be helpful to many in the seminary world as she furthers our understanding of Joseph Ratzinger's approach to the spiritual direction of priests. In addition Dr. McCaughey has authored a book on women and prayer which IPF Publications will produce next year.



PASTORAL FORMATION TO HEAL

In September seven seminary theologians met at the Institute for Priestly Formation on the Campus of Creighton University. The invited theologians came from various institutions in Detroit, St. Paul, Birmingham, England, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, and Emmitsburg. The goal of the Seminar was to engage theologians in conversation and prayer about how priestly formation assists in the emotional and spiritual healing of seminarians. The popular and political culture is poisoning progression in affective maturity, limiting our recognition of truth, stunting our capacity to trust God and think of the needs of others. How can the four areas of formation be agents of healing to facilitate theology's capacity to heal the mind, pastoral formation's role to heal self-centeredness, human formation's role to free men from resisting self-knowledge, and spiritual formation's role to bring the truth about oneself into contemplative intimacy with God? The research conducted by the theologians will constitute the contents of an IPF Publications book

to appear in 2019, serving the ongoing formation needs of seminary faculty worldwide.

Overall, these Seminars fit into the other ministry for seminary theologians within the Institute, namely, our Annual Seminary Theologian Retreat, held each June on the campus of Creighton University.

The 2018 Seminar for Seminary Theologians participants include: Dr Anthony Lilles, Dr. Ralph Martin, Father Tommy Lane, Father Tom Berg, Dr. Daniel Burns, Father Paul Keane, and Dr. Deborah Savage.



Pictured above: Dr. Ralph Martin explains a point as Dr. Deborah Savage listens.

Pictured below, from left to right: Fr. Paul Keane, Dr. Daniel Burns, Deacon James Keating, Dr. Anthony Lilles, Dr. Ralph Martin, Dr. Deborah Savage, and Fr. Tommy Lane (not pictured, Fr. Tom Berg)



EXPLORING THE *RATIO FUNDAMENTALIS*: CONFIGURATION TO THE HEART OF CHRIST



- March 29-31, 2019
- St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, Florida
- Keynote Speaker: Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong
- Registration on IPF's website

This national symposium will serve all who are involved in priestly formation (bishops, vocation directors, seminary administrators, formators, spiritual directors, theologians) with presentations, conversation, and prayerful reflection on the vision and impact of this guiding document for priestly formation.



Co-Sponsored by
The Institute for Priestly Formation
and St. Vincent de Paul Regional
Seminary



Our programs of spiritual formation have reached nearly 4,000 seminarians and priests from 166 U.S. Dioceses, 52 international dioceses and 11 religious orders.

IPF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN 2019

As pioneers responding to the call of Saint John Paul II regarding the formation of priests in the circumstances of the present day, IPF provides the time, place, and practical tools to help draw seminarians and priests into deeper communion with the Trinity, embracing the special charism inherent in the identity of the diocesan priest. It is the vision of The Institute for Priestly Formation to be a center of renewal and resource for the Roman Catholic Church inviting all priests to deeper intimacy with God and lives of ministry flowing from God's abiding presence (John 15:5).

The work of IPF is a tangible reason for hope. Since programs are restricted to seminarians, priests and seminary personnel, many lay people are not aware of the great work that the Institute is doing to nurture happy, healthy, and holy priests. During the coming anniversary year, would you consider offering hope to those in your circle by sharing the IPF story? To make this easy, a simple *Hosting an IPF Reception* tool kit is now on our website. Please visit www.priestlyformation.org/advance-ipf to learn how you can make a difference by sharing the good news of what IPF is doing in our present culture.



GROWING THE IPF PRIESTS OF ST. JOSEPH

Fr. Andrew Gehringer and Fr. Nicholas Cachia have been discerning their involvement with the IPF Priests of St. Joseph. We are happy to note that both of these priests have professed first vows, which indicates their desire to live in the vows for some time before making perpetual profession with final vows. We are thrilled that they have made this important step, which shows their dedication to serving the spiritual lives of their brother priests. Please keep them and all the IPF Priests of St. Joseph in your prayers, as they seek to serve the Church in this important ministry.

A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE

SAVE THE DATES!

July 12, 2019



Evening Prayer with Adoration

July 13, 2019



Morning Reflections with
Fr. Mark Toups & Deacon Keating

Breakout Sessions and Alumni
Gathering

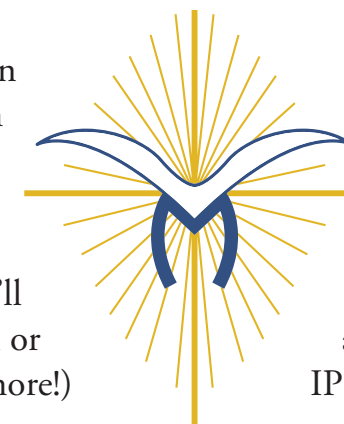
Evening Mass

Celebration Banquet



A 25th Anniversary Gathering of Alumni and Friends

The Institute for Priestly Formation is excited to celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2019. We'd love to have our alumni join in the celebration by sharing with our office their ordination anniversaries. If you'll be celebrating a 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th or 25th (or more!)



ordination anniversary during 2019, please let us know. Contact our Communications Coordinator, Anna Drvol, in the IPF office and let her know which diocese you're from, which program you're an alumnus of, as well as what year you first attended an IPF program.





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SUMMER IPF PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION:

As we grow in intimacy with the Lord this summer, we find ourselves at different places (176 to be precise) along the journey. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (Jon 15:5). On the left, Sean has perfected the rest and receptivity necessary for a fruitful Trinitarian relationship. In the middle, Adam has learned to radiate the joy that comes from living freely out of his identity as a beloved son of the Father. On the right, Chad is clinging to Jesus and learning to remain with Him, while the weight of his sin and woundedness pulls him down.

- Seminarian Ryan T. Quarnstrom

