



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

Spiritual Moms Pray for Their Sons

What does it mean to be a Spiritual Mom? According to Eleanor Hanus, an 84 year old Spiritual Mom from Omaha, the answer is “*Everything!*” Eleanor received a list with the names of all 175 seminarians and was asked to pray for some of them each day during the summer program. In Eleanor’s words, “*Praying is what I do. The best way to use my time is to pray for future priests because the seminarians are sacrificing so much for all of us. I prayed for every seminarian each day. It took five or six rosaries to say one of their names on each Hail Mary, but I will do anything to help. Seminarians are special people.*”

Luci Bolding was matched “one-on-one” with her spiritual son, Bobby Gross from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. According to Luci, “*Spiritual Moms have a vested interest in our future priests. We pray every day that ‘God’s will be done’ in their formation and their decisions about the priesthood. And we continue to pray for them after the summer is complete because they are part of our family of faith. I am so thankful for this blessing.*”

The Spiritual Moms program, begun in 2008, expanded to other communities this summer. Women in Louisiana, Virginia, Colorado, Illinois and Massachusetts joined in prayer for seminarians. In Melrose, MA, Maryann Little formed a group of women who divided the list of seminarians’ names and each woman prayed for about eight IPF seminarians on a daily basis. The evening of Friends Night, a night of prayer and fellowship held annually in Omaha and the evening when mothers and sons meet for the first time, the group in Melrose gathered at their parish and



Luci Bolding with son, Bobby Gross

followed the same format used in Omaha: Eucharistic Adoration, testimonials (read from transcripts of those heard in Omaha in 2009) and desserts. Both evening events ended with the singing of *Salve Regina*.

According to Fr. Rich Gabuzda, the Spiritual Moms add a “dome of grace” which covers the campus during the summer program. Many of the IPF Spiritual Directors comment that the seminarians are very receptive to the movements of the Holy Spirit while in Omaha and give partial credit to the powerful prayers of Spiritual Moms such as Eleanor, Luci, Maryann and hundreds of other Moms who joined in offering praise and petition on behalf of the IPF seminarians.

Spiritual Moms, thank you for your participation these past three years and please be ready to give your “yes” again next spring when we contact you! In the meantime, please pray for all of the needs of IPF. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of IPF, *pray for us.*



Kathy Lovell from Logan, Iowa, chats with Ed Looney from the Diocese of Green Bay.



Rita Macaulay, getting to know her seminarian son, Javier Barreto from the Archdiocese of Miami.



Colleen Gawley, deep in conversation with her son, Chris Axline, from the Diocese of Phoenix.



Fr. Joe Hanefeldt discusses the priesthood with potential seminarians from the Vankat family.



From Our Executive Director...

Dear Friends,

As we enter the fall of the year, we look back on the graces of recent months and move forward with all aspects of IPF's mission.

Over the summer, we were once again blessed with many graces experienced in all of the four programs. The seminarian program hosted a record 175 participants. Here is one seminarian's account of his time in Omaha:



It is difficult to express in words the good things the Lord does through the generosity of all those involved in IPF! It was a life-changing program for me and I wish to say thank you for your continued "yes" to the good Lord and his Blessed Mother.

Father George Aschenbrenner, S.J., one of the founders of IPF, was in Omaha for the summer, assisting with the Spiritual Directors Seminar and serving as a director for the Spiritual Exercises program. He is back at his home base in Washington, DC, planning to offer some retreats and to work on his writing projects.

In September faculty members who teach in the summer's IPF 501 course, Christian Prayer and Virtue, gathered to review the course which includes the eight-day retreat, an integral part of the seminarians' experience of fostering a deeper spirituality. Faculty members will return in January to complete their work on this important beginning to each summer's program.

Also in September, Deacon Keating again hosted a group of seminary faculty who presented papers with the intent of showing the interrelationship of seminary spiritual direction and seminary theological study. As with last year's seminar, the papers will be published and made available through IPF Publications.

And, speaking of publications, a new and unique publication has also premiered in recent weeks. IPF has published a workbook entitled, "Spiritual Fathers: A Workbook for Priests and Dads." Edited by Deacon Keating, the workbook serves as a resource for priests in parishes wishing to engage fathers in their parishes in some intentional prayer and conversation about their important role as fathers, especially their role in encouraging vocations.

We look forward to traveling to Philadelphia where our 2011 symposium will be held at St. Charles Seminary from March 17-20. The symposium's theme will be: "Good Shepherd: Living Christ's Own Pastoral Authority." Bishop Samuel Aquila, Diocese of Fargo, will be the keynote speaker.

We are grateful to those who responded to IPF's invitation to join the \$20-a-Month Club or to Sponsor a Seminarian. Those generous individuals are helping us "close the gap" in our annual operating budget. We could certainly use some additional Club members and Sponsors!

As always we remain grateful to our many friends who continue to support us with love, prayer and financial sacrifices. Your generosity allows growing numbers of priests and future priests to receive "life-changing" graces through the mission of IPF. Let's keep one another in prayer!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Gabuzda

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda
Executive Director

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His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI

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Become a Member of IPF

“Gratefully, I acknowledge the role IPF played in my affirmation of my calling to the Priesthood. I will strive each day to honor the commitment IPF requires (of me as an Associate). I feel called to give back to others who are called to the Priesthood. I look forward to actively participating in the Institute and, when I can, will financially contribute to it.”

— Fr. Jay Cretella

(After serving as a deacon for many years in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, Jay Cretella was ordained a priest this year. He participated in the 2009 Summer Program for Seminarians.)

Members of IPF come in all shapes and sizes. Priests, bishops, seminarians and laity alike have agreed to support the work of the Institute by becoming a Friend or Associate.

If you occasionally offer intercessory prayer, attend sponsored

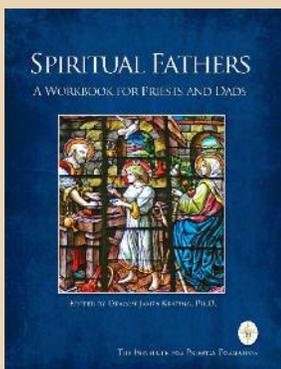


events, provide financial support, or volunteer time or talents to promote IPF's Mission, you are already a Friend of IPF. By filling out an application (available on-line), you merely formalize the relationship you already have with the Institute.

The Associate level of commitment is more involved, requires a deeper prayer commitment and a specific way of life incorporating Ignatian meditation and contemplation.

IPF encourages you to learn more about becoming a member by consulting the IPF website (www.creighton.edu/ipf) or by calling the toll free number 1-888-528-5668.

IPF Publications



Spiritual Fathers: A Workbook for Priests and Dads

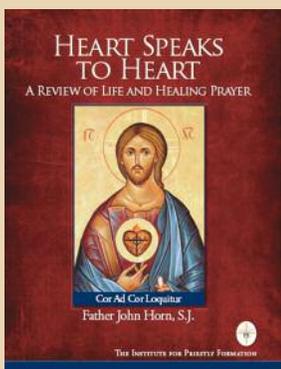
Edited by Deacon James Keating

It is vital that fathers welcome the inklings of priestly vocation within their sons. *Spiritual Fathers* will equip dads to delve into their own spiritual life so that they can assist their sons and support them in discerning the vocation to which God has called them.

“This workbook will be invaluable to vocation directors, fathers, and pastors. If used in the way intended by the authors, it will deepen the prayer life of all the readers and create homes and parishes which welcome priestly vocations in their midst.”

— Father Andrew Gehringer, Vocation Director, Diocese of Allentown

\$9.95



Heart Speaks to Heart: A Review of Life and Healing Prayer

Father John Horn, S.J.

Heart Speaks to Heart is a dynamic and challenging tool for all Catholics desiring a deeper and more sustained intimacy with Jesus Christ.

“Every summer seminarians from across the country come together at the Institute for Priestly Formation, sent by their bishops, to deepen their prayer life and grow in communion with Christ. In Fr. John Horn's new workbook Heart Speaks to Heart, a similar experience within a review of life, coupled with the blessing of healing prayer, can touch the heart of every pastor and every parishioner concerned about growing in intimacy with Christ and tasting God the Father's love.”

— Most Rev. Robert Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis

\$12.95

**To order call 1-888-309-5520
or visit us online at www.IPFpublications.com**





Upcoming Events

The Catholic Imagination at Prayer



Saturday, December 11th, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Omaha

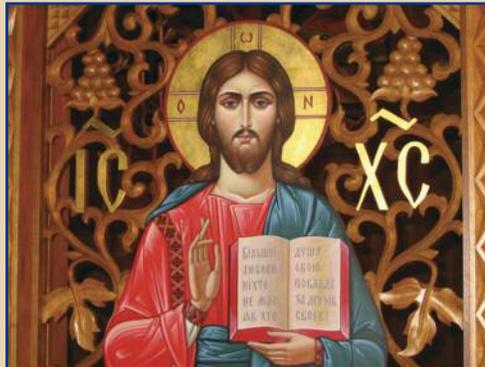
Presenters: Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Fr. John Horn, S.J., Kathy Kanavy, and Deacon Jim Keating

Presentations focus on **praying with beautiful artwork** and are followed by time for personal prayer and reflection. Come receive a hint of what the IPF seminarians experience during the summer program.

**8:30 Mass, 9:00 Continental Breakfast,
9:30-noon Presentation, Prayer and Reflection**
Register on line or by calling 402-280-3901.

IPF Alumni Retreat

“Fr. Tim Gallagher, O.M.V., and St. Ignatius Loyola’s Discernment of Spirits”



January 31 - February 7, 2011, or October 31 - November 7, 2011

The Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence, Clearwater, Florida

Contact: Ron and Adrienne Novotny

(727) 724-9505 • cenacleofourlady@aol.com

www.divineprovidence.org

New Life in Christ

“The IPF seminarian program has helped me to experience the love of the Blessed Trinity at a whole new level that I never imagined I could experience. It has changed my life. It has given me a new life in Christ.”

— *Matias Hualpa, Archdiocese of Miami, FL
Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarian Participant*

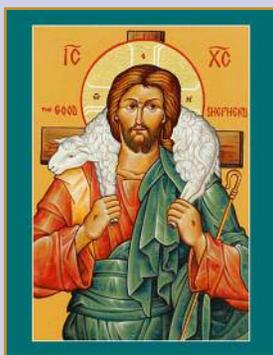


Find us on
Facebook

Did you know IPF has a Facebook page? If you have a Facebook account, we'd love for you to become a fan! Even if you don't have an account you can still visit our page. Go there to see photos, get information on upcoming events, leave comments or prayer requests, and more!

Mark Your 2011 Calendars

Tenth Annual Symposium on the Spirituality and Identity of the Diocesan Priest



**“Good Shepherd:
Living Christ’s Own Pastoral Authority”
St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia
March 17-20, 2011**

Co-Sponsored by
The Institute for Priestly Formation and the St. Charles Seminary

A Celebration of Priesthood Dinner

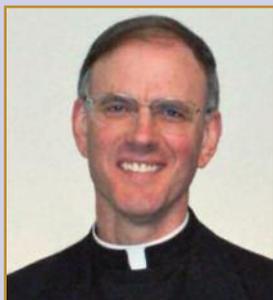


With Special Guest

**The Most Reverend Robert Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis
Thursday, April 28, 2011**

Changed from the annual Saturday date allowing more priests to attend.
Consider bringing your pastor.
St. Robert Bellarmine Church Mainelli Center
120th and Pacific, Omaha

A Day with Fr. Tim Gallagher



**“The Discernment of Spirits:
An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living”
Saturday, April 30, 2011**

Christ the King Church
831 South 88th Street, Omaha

Watch your mailbox or check the IPF website for more information on these upcoming IPF events.



Seminarian Perspectives on the Summer Program

Participants in the Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians are often anxious to share their summer experiences with their fellow seminary classmates. No doubt Francisco Rodriguez is singing the praises of his IPF summer in Omaha with others at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

"I came to IPF with eager anticipation for I had heard nothing but good things about IPF from seminarian brothers who had previously been in the program.... Needless to say, they were correct."

Blake Rozier, a student at St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota, along with Francisco, gave testimonial talks at IPF's Friends Night in July.



Francisco Rodriguez

"When I was reflecting on what I am about to share tonight, I could not help but think of my brother seminarians and the young priests in my home diocese who have gone through IPF and have come back to the diocese singing its praises. I will be doing the same when I return home. I'm very grateful to God to be here. This program is truly the work of the Lord," Blake told the gathered crowd.



Blake Rozier

love was granted. Praise God!"

Blake also received a great gift from Mary. *"With IPF, I have been encouraged to go deeper with this relationship (with Mary) and have begun to live this intimate relationship throughout the course of every day."*

May Mary continue to guide Blake, Francisco, and the other summer participants through their continuing studies at their seminaries and well into their priesthoods.

Both seminarians spoke of developing a deeper relationship with Mary. This relationship, which began during the eight day, silent, directed retreat, deepened throughout the summer.

According to Francisco, *"I was led by the hand of Mother Mary. We prayed, danced, played, and she consoled me. She completely disarmed my inhibitions so when she presented me to the Holy Trinity, I was open and ready to receive the Lord's healing and love. My desire to be immersed in their*



2010 Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians Participants

Seminary Theologians Gather for Second Annual Seminar

Led by Deacon James Keating, the second annual Theologian Seminar took place on the Creighton campus this fall with seven theologians from various seminaries in attendance. The purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for theologians to deepen and explore their vocation as seminary professors.



Those in attendance included Msgr. Gerry McCarren (Immaculate Conception Seminary, Newark), Fr. Earl Fernandes (Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati), Fr. Raymond Gawronski, S.J. (St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver), Fr. Daniel Trapp (Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit), Fr. Todd Lajiness (Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit), and Fr. Pete Ryan, S.J. (Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg). Fr. Steve Wlusek (St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario) was not able to attend but his paper was presented.

The seminar integrated both academic discussion with prayer and contemplation. Time for silent reflection on the research each theologian shared was incorporated into the schedule. The contemplative aspect of the seminar was equally as important as the content of the presentations.

IPF plans to publish these essays which model a contemplative theology that carries practical application to seminary teaching while inviting other seminary theologians into the dialogue. The book will contribute to IPF's effort to concretize the Program of Priestly Formation, which envisions spirituality as the heart of seminary formation around which all other facets must be integrated.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Award

The medallion of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, is bestowed upon women and men annually who have given witness with their lives to the efficacy of listening for and responding to Mary's call in our day to live Jesus' own life. This is made possible through exercising in practical ways the great gift of a humble faith.

This past June, IPF proudly bestowed the medallion upon long time supporters, Jim and Joan Taphorn, and faculty member, Fr. Scott Traynor, in profound gratitude for their generous response to Mary's call to live Jesus' own life through acts of charity and lives that give witness to Christian hope.

Pictured here following the ceremony are Fr. John Horn, S.J., Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J., Fr. Scott Traynor, Fr. Joe Taphorn, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Omaha, together with his parents, Joan and Jim Taphorn, Kathy Kanavy, Fr. Jim Rafferty, and Fr. Rich Gabuzda.

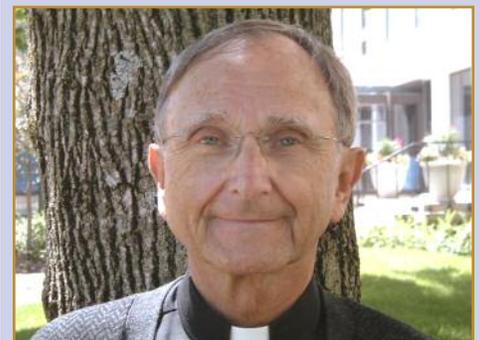


Will You Join Them?



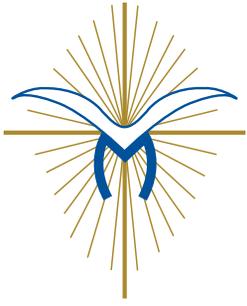
"I believe deeply in the mission of IPF. Our priests will be holy only if we pray and beg for the graces they need to maintain them in holiness. They need the tools to develop a deep personal relationship with Mary and the Trinity. I believe IPF gives them these tools. Having had two sons in the seminary, I know how important the discernment process is and I believe IPF enhances this process for our seminarians. I feel called to help support IPF financially to the extent I can."

— Anna Marie Spargo
\$20/Month Club Member



"I 'Support a Seminarian' out of gratitude for my call to the priesthood and for the people of God who supported me during my years of formation. With their prayers and contributions they 'put their money where their prayers were!' My monthly donations to IPF offer another young seminarian that same opportunity to grow more deeply in love with the priesthood."

— Fr. John Cippel
Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL
Sponsor a Seminarian Fund Donor



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or phone 1-888-528-5668.

Mission Statement

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) was founded to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. The Institute responds to the need to foster spiritual formation as the integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, this spiritual formation has as its goal the cultivation of a deep interior communion with Christ; from such communion the priest shares in Christ's own pastoral charity. In carrying out its mission, the Institute directly serves diocesan seminarians and priests, as well as those who are responsible for diocesan priestly formation.

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