



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Join us in Celebrating 10 Years of Spiritual Formation

The Institute for Priestly Formation is celebrating its 10th Anniversary! To celebrate this milestone in a special way, IPF is planning a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, Italy from November 14 - 23, 2004. The daily schedule will include Mass and an evening time of reflection to help us receive inspiration from the holy places we will be visiting. We invite you to join us on our journey and experience these historic cities. Please consider sharing in this celebration with us. You may contact IPF at 800-637-4279/402-546-6384 or American Group Travel at 508-278-3636 for more information.

Inside: IPF's Alumni Reunion, June 27-29



IPF Friends Hold First "Celebration of the Priesthood" Dinner

On Thursday, April 29, 2004, at St. Robert Bellarmine J.T. Mainelli Conference Center in Omaha, the Institute for Priestly Formation celebrated its tenth anniversary with its first "friend raiser" dinner event. As we look back over these years, we are gratefully aware of how the Lord has helped our programs grow and helped us become known throughout the United States as an

important resource for diocesan seminarians and priests. In this anniversary year, IPF desires to become better known in its local community, and this event was a tremendous start.

More than 250 people attended the "Celebration of Priesthood" Friends dinner, which featured a video on the IPF summer program for seminarians, and speaker and author Walter Anderson, President and CEO of Parade Magazine. Parade Magazine is the Sunday supplement in the Omaha World-Herald and many other newspapers nationally. An accomplished speaker, Mr. Anderson has appeared on numerous radio and television shows including "Today," "CBS Nightwatch," CNN news, PBS specials and the MDA Telethon.

Mr. Anderson gave a memorable and compelling talk about his life story as told in his recent memoir, "Meant to Be: The True Story of a Son Who Discovers He Is His Mother's Deepest Secret," a heartfelt exploration of family secrets, abandonment, abuse, identity, heredity and the triumph of the human spirit.

IPF is grateful to the committee members who organized this highly successful banquet, including co-chairs James Taphorn and Mary Anne Hoover, Frank Duffy, Bill Ramsey, Charlie Wieser, Dick Bene, John Mullen, Karen Fitzgibbons, Mary Lindsay, Dr. Perry and Donna Williams, and Maureen Smithberg. The Institute plans to make the "Celebration of Priesthood" Friends dinner an annual event.



(From left) Event co-chair James Taphorn, featured speaker Walter Anderson, co-chair Mary Anne Hoover, Fr. Richard Gabuzda and Fr. Joseph Kelly at IPF's first "Celebration of the Priesthood" Friends dinner.



From Our Director...

Dear Friends,

With deep gratitude to the Lord, the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year. We take a moment to look back to the graces that have been part of these 10 years even as we anticipate the good things that the Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

Having been founded as an Institute in 1994, courageous and generous members of Creighton's administration had agreed that a ten-week summer program for seminarians could open if IPF had at least six students. By God's grace, in May 1995, exactly six "pioneer seminarians" joined staff members on the campus of Creighton University to open the first summer program. Fr. Joe Kelly also began our Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors that same summer.

As plans were being formulated for the first summer program, we toured Deglman Hall on the Creighton campus, which was to be our first home. At a certain point during the tour someone said, "Wouldn't it be great if some day we could fill this hall with seminarians!" That distant but fervent hope came true within a few years. Then, having outgrown Deglman Hall, we moved to larger Swanson Hall in 2002. This summer 2004, 115 seminarians will comprise the "10th Anniversary Class."

Through the years we have been able to add more staff members who help us with our programs, including programs "on the road" September through May. A growing number of friends have generously offered prayer and financial support helping the Institute grow in ways that could never have been foreseen 10 years ago.

Gifts for Program Assistance

Two Iowa foundations, The George M. Wernimont Educational Fund of Carroll, Iowa and The St. Joseph Education Society of the Diocese of Sioux City, have recently contributed to the Institute for Priestly Formation to support program needs.

The George M. Wernimont Educational Fund of Carroll, Iowa, made a five-year pledge to the Institute which will help to fund a variety of program needs, especially the Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians. The Foundation presented this gift to the Institute in honor of Bishop Daniel Di Nardo who, after serving as bishop of Sioux City, has recently been welcomed as the coadjutor Bishop of Galveston-Houston. Bishop Di Nardo is a great friend of IPF and serves as a member of its Bishops Advisory Council.

What lies on the horizon? The Holy Spirit, who has led us in these past years, sometimes in surprising ways, will surely lead the way into the next chapter of the Institute's history. Because of growing contacts in the United States and in other countries, the Institute will surely be more involved in the formation of seminary spiritual directors and others involved in both seminary formation and ongoing formation of priests. *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, who has been a constant inspiration and guide, seems to be leading us particularly to other parts of the Americas.



To support all of this growth, a new dream has emerged on the horizon: that of an Institute for Priestly Formation Center here in Omaha that would help support the many programs and activities of the Institute's growing staff.

We invite all our friends to celebrate with us the Lord's grace which has been so abundantly poured out on the Institute throughout these past years. We also invite all of our friends to ask that the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Institute's founding ten years ago, lead and guide us according to the heart of the Good Shepherd. Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda
Director

The St. Joseph Education Society of the Diocese of Sioux City will sponsor the next series of the Institute's Spiritual Direction Training Program, a nine week, three-year program offered at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, IL, which provides training for diocesan priests from the Midwest region and other parts of the country. The Diocese is sponsoring the current program that concludes in January 2005. The next series will begin in May 2005 with an estimated 50 new participants.



Celebrating our Many Blessings

As The Institute for Priestly Formation celebrates its 10th Anniversary year, we pause to thank our Lord for the gift of this mission to serve diocesan priests and seminarians. IPF has gained many friends during these years and as we grow in relationship with each of you, we have experienced the real joy and love of family.

Thanks to your support, 2003 was an amazing year for IPF. Whether teaching, listening, praying or providing financial backing, you embraced and shared in our goal of offering a spirituality that can sustain the diocesan seminarian and priest in his busy daily life.

The Institute's Development Council has accepted the call to stewardship in supporting the mission of IPF. These individuals guide us in our efforts to fund new and existing programs. The Finance Council advises the Institute toward sound financial and investment principles.

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The Institute is grateful for the many gifts received between July 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003.

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We sincerely regret any errors or omissions. Please contact our office with any corrections so that we may update our records.



Next Symposium Set for March 2005

The Institute for Priestly Formation will co-sponsor a symposium with the Archdiocese of Denver/St. John Vianney Theological Seminary on March 3-6, 2005. This program, the fourth of the Institute's symposia, will focus on the theme "Interiority for Mission: Spiritual Formation for Priests of the New Evangelization." Highlighting the important role of bishops in the formation of priests, the symposium will feature as speakers Bishop Sam Aquila of Fargo, Bishop Robert Carlson of Sioux Falls, Bishop David Ricken of Cheyenne and Bishop Felipe Estevez, auxiliary bishop of Miami. Archbishop Chaput of Denver will welcome participants to the "Mile-High City."

The keynote address will be given by James Keating, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Moral Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum. The symposium will address ways in which the spiritual formation of seminarians and ordained priests can be an "integrating element" among all of the important areas of formation. In such a vision, learning to "be with" Jesus in prayer, and on mission, frames the identity of the diocesan priest. Participants will include bishops, formation personnel and others interested in priestly formation. Local priests and seminarians from the Denver seminary will also participate.

Further information and registration materials will be available in Fall 2004.

Prior Symposia Proceedings Are Available!

Proceedings from the Institute's first three symposia on the Spirituality and Identity of the Diocesan Priest are available for \$7.50 per journal, or all three for just \$15.00 (prices include shipping):

2001: Chaste Celibacy: Living Christ's Own Spousal Love. Co-sponsor: Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, MI

2002: Spiritual Physician: Living Christ's Own Mission of Healing Love. Co-sponsor: Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA

2003: Spiritual Fatherhood: Living Christ's Own Revelation of the Father. Co-sponsor: Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD

To order, please contact the Institute for Priestly Formation at ipf@creighton.edu or 402.546.6384/1.800.637.4279.

Opportunities for Giving

The Institute for Priestly Formation is a charitable organization which is exempt from income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Gifts may be made to the Institute in a variety of ways, some of which can take effect immediately; others can be deferred until your death. The Institute welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your advisors. Here are some suggestions that may be suitable for you:

Gifts of Cash: The most popular and easiest way to give. Up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income can be deducted with any excess deductions carried over for five additional tax years.

Gifts of Securities: A gift of appreciated stocks or bonds may be the most economical way for you to make a charitable gift.

Gifts of Real Estate: An outright gift of real estate will have similar tax benefits as a gift of appreciated securities.

Gifts of Life Insurance and Annuities: Many persons have paid-up life insurance policies or deferred annuities that no longer serve the purpose for which they were purchased. This type of gift will remove the death benefit from your estate and avoid all federal and state estate/transfer taxes upon your death. Additional income tax benefits can be available in your lifetime

by assigning ownership of a life insurance policy directly to the Institute.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets: Retirement plan assets such as your IRA's are tax-deferred vehicles. By making the Institute a primary beneficiary of your retirement plan, burdensome taxes can be avoided, allowing you to leave other assets to your heirs with less of a tax burden for them.

Gifts through your will: There are many ways to express your gift in your Last Will & Testament or Living Revocable Trust that won't take effect until your death.

Income and Estate tax rates and rules can change from year to year. **Please consult with your attorney and accountant before making any gifts.** The Institute stands ready to assist you and your advisors in considering these and other options. With careful planned giving, you may be able to support the Institute for Priestly Formation and receive important tax savings as well.



Alumni Reunion Planned for June 27-29

By the Lord's goodness and grace, the Institute for Priestly Formation is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its founding this summer. As we look back over the years, we are gratefully aware of how the Lord has helped our programs grow and helped us become known throughout the United States as an important resource for diocesan seminarians and priests.

A 10th Anniversary Alumni Reunion, "I Will Thank the Lord with All My Heart," (Psalms III, I) is planned for June 27-29 in Omaha. All of the events are planned to be held on the campus of Creighton University.

This will be a time of reflection and faith-filled sharing among alumni as well as praying together with the IPF summer community of seminarians and priests. In addition, we are delighted to welcome Mr. Christopher West to the Institute for two lectures during the reunion. As many of you know, Christopher West is a committed husband and father who lectures throughout the country and internationally on Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body."

Monday evening's Anniversary Banquet will feature the awarding of the *Our Lady of Guadalupe* Medal to several distinguished individuals who have helped foster IPF's mission over these past 10 years.

Please come to pray and celebrate with us! The fee for the reunion is \$75.00 per person. The fee does not include lodging or taxi cab service. Contact us at ipf@creighton.edu or 800.637.4279 for more information.



Participants in IPF Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians at Creighton University, 2003.

IPF Staff In-Servicing

The full-time staff of The Institute for Priestly Formation continues to receive numerous requests for serving priests and seminarians in the months September through May. Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Fr. John Horn, S.J. and Kathy Kanavy are on the road about two weeks each month. Many adjunct staff are also generously offering their time to accept these increasing invitations. Some recent highlights include:

Seminary Spiritual Directors In-Servicing. IPF staff regularly visit *St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, Florida, St. John Vianney Seminary, Denver, and Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis* for ongoing in-servicing of the seminary spiritual directors.

Catholic Spirituality and Celibate Sexuality. In November, six IPF staff offered a weekend for the seminarians and staff at *St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary* on deepening integration of celibacy and spirituality to promote a more generative priesthood. This is the second in a three-year series of weekends. During the weekend, the staff was privileged to be with the seminary community for the announcement of the appointment of then Msgr. Felipe Estevez, director of seminary spiritual formation and a

participant in many IPF programs, to Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Miami. **Congratulations, Bishop Estevez. Ad multos annos!**

Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans. Fr. Joe Kelly, Fr. Vinny Fortunato, OFM Cap., and Kathy Kanavy offered a week-long seminar for the fourth year theologians on "The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priesthood and The Art of Spiritual Direction." They also offered an evening seminar to the seminary spiritual directors.

Numerous retreats for seminaries and presbyterates are also offered by other staff members such as Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J., Msgr. John Esseff and Sr. Cor Immaculatum, I.H.M.

Thank you for your prayerful support! The staff is deeply aware that the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation "runs on" the prayers of all of you. We often comment that we know we are carried by the power of intercessory prayer. Thank you for your faithful participation in this critical part of our mission.



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

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Mission Statement

The Institute for Priestly Formation has been founded to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Working as a complement to already existing programs of seminary formation, the Institute responds to the need for a more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, the Institute's programs present a spirituality that can inspire, motivate and thus sustain the busy daily lives of contemporary diocesan priests.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Founders

Rev. George A. Aschenbrenner, S.J.
Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda, IPF Director
Rev. John P. Horn, S.J.
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