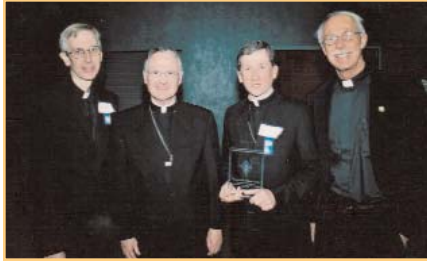




THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

IPF's Second Annual Banquet

Bishop Blase Cupich was the keynote speaker at the second annual banquet sponsored by The Institute for Priestly Formation.



Fr. Gabuzda, Archbishop Curtiss, and Fr. Schlegel, S.J., honor Bishop Cupich (second from right) for speaking at the IPF banquet.

He emphasized that the IPF program works specifically to form candidates for priesthood and to help priests live in a way that they "...impress the lives of people and that they image Christ in what they do." He then spoke about the three "Ds": Desire for God, Discernment and Diaconia, a Greek word for service.

He said that desire for God is really a secondary matter. The process really begins when we see that God "...first of all desires us. It's only when a priest, a candidate for priesthood, realizes that God has come after him--has called him-- that his own desire for God can be a matter of responding to that desire."

"What I learned through IPF was how to relate with God...When a priest lives at the deepest level of his heart then the parish will start to live there as well. I think that is what the Lord has in mind for His people." - Fr. Dan Andrews, IPF Alumnus and Staff, Associate Pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Bellevue, NE.

The second "D" is the discernment of gifts. As Christ told Peter, "You will be a fisher of men." And that "fisherman" is not only about going fishing... "it's about feeding people. And so he's told, 'Feed my sheep.'" IPF calls attention to the many gifts present in each person and helps a candidate for priesthood

understand that he must be flexible in his own ministry.

The final "D" is diaconia or service. "To go where you would not. It is about seeing the talents and abilities of other people and it's about treating people like adults."

In his concluding remarks the bishop said that all these points about desire for God, discernment and service might seem obvious. And yet our young people who come to the priesthood today live in an entirely different world. They need to learn all of these aspects which are in the Gospels, and IPF teaches them so very well. He stressed the importance of taking time with today's young people to teach what really counts and what is important.



Kathy Kannavy, Fr. Gabuzda, Bishop Cupich, Archbishop Curtiss, Fr. Horn, S.J., and Larry Dwyer pose for a photo before the banquet.

Denver Symposium

On March 3-6, 2005, bishops and seminary personnel joined with faculty and seminarians from the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver for the Institute's fourth annual symposium on the spirituality and identity of the diocesan priest. The symposium examined the question: how can spiritual formation be more at the heart of priestly formation?

The symposium sketched elements of a 'new design' for seminary formation in which concerns for the spiritual formation of future priests would be primary. Among the featured speakers was Fr. Rodrigo Polanco, rector of the Pontifical Seminary in Santiago, Chile.

A major challenge to the implementation of the symposium's vision involves forming seminary faculty and staff. The Institute plans to develop such a formation experience, in collaboration with seminary personnel, as a follow-up to the symposium.

From Our Director ...

Dear Friends,

As spring breaks into Omaha, we are busy preparing for our summer programs on the campus of Creighton University. We will welcome a record number of participants to our program for seminarians. In addition to 118 seminarians, four priests from Uganda will participate in the program. They will eventually join a team of four others who were with us over the past two summers. The team has opened a spiritual formation program for seminarians in Uganda.

The Institute's offering of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola for diocesan seminarians and priests continues to meet a growing need. This summer 24 participants will spend 30 days praying according to this method given to the Church through St. Ignatius. Diocesan priests and seminarians are increasingly looking to this program as they seek a deeper immersion in the mysteries of the life of Jesus as a way of preparing for or deepening the grace of priestly ordination. The Exercises help priests find a way to be more deeply on mission "with Jesus" as they live the busy, active lives of diocesan priests.

The summer Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors will find 14 priests from various seminaries gathering together for three weeks of growing in the art of spiritual direction. The seminar helps root spiritual direction in the context of seminary formation.



A new group of 122 men are awaiting the summer program to begin May 30.

As these programs get underway, we invite your intercessory prayer for all participants and staff. May diocesan seminarians and priests who come to Omaha this summer come to know more intimately the heart of the Good Shepherd who calls them to a holy and effective priesthood!

*Sincerely in the Lord,
Father Richard Gabuzda, Director*

Pope John Paul II: Mission and Memories

At an extended dinner, IPF colleagues enjoyed an intentional conversation that focused on savoring the graced memories of Pope John Paul II and his amazing leadership.

The memories were scattered but they reflected diverse personal experiences of the Holy Spirit's glory shining through Pope John Paul II's greatness. We were aware this man had been visited by more people throughout the world than anyone else in history. We were aware the media coverage of the events surrounding his funeral and the election of our new pope would serve as an instrument of unprecedented evangelization for the world.

As we joined in watching and mourning, we remembered. One colleague had been present in St. Peter's Square when John Paul II was named pope. He recalled how surprised the world was as everyone scrambled to know who Karol Wojtyla was and where he came from when he first appeared on the papal balcony. Another colleague recalled her tear-filled joy of first seeing him while

"I have all the theology to persuade people what they ought to do, but what IPF has called me forth in greater faith to do is to witness, share and call people forth to celebrate that faith." - Fr. Steve Stillmunks, IPF Alumnus and Staff, Pastor at Christ the King Parish in Omaha, NE.

attending a concert in the papal audience hall. We recalled receiving the Holy Father's blessing as Fr. Gabuzda presented him the IPF symposium proceedings in that same audience hall. This took place this past November as we celebrated IPF's 10th anniversary within a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

The dinner conversation concluded with a new depth of awe and spiritual understanding from the fact that the very identity and mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation was inspired and born through Pope John Paul II's writings in "Pastores Dabo Vobis," "I Will Give You Shepherds." The debt of gratitude cannot be measured. As believers we were invited to enter into tasting the desire and affection of the Father's immeasurable love for us through John Paul II. Oh what glory! John Paul the Great please pray for us and for IPF's mission.

-Father John Horn, S.J., Assistant Director



Pope John Paul II's writing became the foundation of IPF's mission.



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Serving Diocesan Priests in IPF's mission as "A Light of Hope"

Father Rich, Yes I am interested in supporting the mission of IPF in the following ways:

- Sponsorship of \$1,500.** Your gift will sponsor the spiritual formation costs of one seminarian or priest.
- Donation.** Your offering will help support our valuable programs serving diocesan seminarians and priests.
 - \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____
- Intercessory Prayer.** A promise to support prayerfully IPF's mission.
- Planned Giving.** Please contact me about including IPF in my financial planning.
- Please contact me.** I want to be more fully involved in providing for future program expansion and development.

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All checks should be made payable to : The Institute for Priestly Formation
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