

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

Seeds Planted and Growing

In October 2015 Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha confirmed the statutes which gave birth to the Association of IPF Priests of St. Joseph. The Association was designed to gather

together priests who work with the IPF mission and who profess vows of consecration, including a vow to promote the interior life of diocesan priests. Some members remain in

> their diocesan assignments (external members) and work with IPF programs as is possible; others live together in Omaha (internal members), work full-time with the IPF mission, and serve as animators of the larger Association.

This past year has witnessed the flourishing of this new association in several ways. Last year two priests became candidates for the Association as external members. In these months they have participated in a formation program which will prepare them for eventually professing vows in the Association.

Fr. Andy Gehringer, a priest of the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and pastor of Holy Infancy parish in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, participated in IPF's Spiritual Exercises program as well as the Spiritual Direction Training Program held in Chicago and has served as a spiritual director for the summer program for seminarians.



From left to right: Fr. James Rafferty, Fr. Nicholas Cachia, Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Fr. Andrew Gehringer

Pray Fridays is Live on Facebook



"I Pray Fridays" is a community page for The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) created to invite Catholics everywhere to pray for the Priesthood. The page exists to encourage faithful Catholics to pray for their pastor specifically and the spiritual renewal of all priests in general. The particular call to action itself is simple: Commit to pray each Friday for your pastor and the mission of IPF.

There are no dues or required meetings. Joining is easy! Simply visit

www.facebook.com/IPrayFridays and click the "Like" and "Follow" buttons. Then, unite with us each Friday in praying for the priesthood. Come back frequently to share your stories about heroic priests and to learn how God is using The Institute for Priestly Formation to help diocesan seminarians and priests fall in love and stay in love with the Trinity.

The "I Pray Fridays" community is a place to celebrate the diocesan priesthood. You will find testimonies to

God's action in the lives and ministries of seminarians, priests and those whose lives they have impacted. We will include specific intentions and welcome readers to post

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their intentions as well. You will also find helpful tools and links to resources that will help you deepen your personal encounter with God in prayer. Our hope is that the community will give rise to regular intercession for a renewed outpouring of God's Grace in fostering a happy, healthy priesthood and an increase in vocations.

Join today and then share the community with other faithful Catholics who have a heart for supporting our priests.



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Dear Friends,

The graces and blessings of this past year have been many. To begin with, as you will see by glancing through the Report, the Lord blessed us with new life in the form of candidates coming forward to join the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.

Our combined summer 2016 programs welcomed over 200 participants to the campus of Creighton University. New dioceses participating in the seminarian program included the dioceses of Paterson, New Jersey, Steubenville, Ohio and the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter (based in Houston). We look forward to hosting similar numbers for summer 2017.

The Spiritual Direction Training Program, offered in cooperation with the Conference Center of Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, recently granted certificates to 129 priests from throughout the U.S. and Canada. A new round began this spring, welcoming 140 participants.

Many generous friends have chosen to honor priests and build up the resources of IPF by participating in the Saint John Paul II Fund for Priests. A new initiative, "Mary's Sons," has attracted others who have chosen to help us "close the gap" between fees charged and expenses incurred in our many programs.

We are especially grateful to God and to our very generous friends who allowed us to exceed our 2016 Annual Fund goal, reversing the deficit of the previous year. Many friends continue to give at heroic levels and with great sacrifice; for this we are very grateful. With such a solid foundation, we look forward to reaching out across the country through our alumni to assist with our "Building the Base Initiative". By way of this initiative, which begins this year, we hope to enroll many new donors, inviting them to share in the wonderful mission that is IPF.

As you review the Report, please join us in thanking God for the generosity and love of the priesthood represented among the names of our many donors. May the Lord bless all of you, your families, and may He grant all that you need and desire as we journey together in our ever-deepening walk with the Lord! Thanks for walking with us in the IPF mission.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Garagea

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda Executive Director



Seminarians exploring the Omaha Cathedral's Holy Door during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

SEEDS PLANTED AND GROWING

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Fr. Nicholas Cachia, a priest of the Archdiocese of Malta, and currently missioned to the faculty of St.

Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, also made the Spiritual Exercises with IPF, attended the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors, and has taught for many years in the seminarian program.

Father Robert Cadrecha, a priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg was just recently accepted. Fr. Cadrecha is an alumnus of the seminarian program as well as the Spiritual Direction Training Program.

In addition to the gift of three candidates, the Association recently received an especially welcome gift. Fr. Jim Rafferty became a fully professed internal member of the Association on March 19, 2017 and, as such, became incardinated as a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Fr. Rafferty had been granted permission to work with the IPF mission and to participate in the discernment leading up to the formation of the Association. His now-permanent position became possible through the generosity of the Diocese of Scranton and Bishop Joseph Bambera, who gave Fr. Rafferty permission to make this move. We are humbled by the gracious generosity of the Diocese of Scranton which has now made the sacrifice of two priests so that the mission of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph might flourish.

Fr. Rafferty joins Fr. Rich Gabuzda, moderator of the Association, in the residential community of IPF Priests of St. Joseph and will serve as associate moderator and finance officer. All of this is wonderful news for the Institute

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US IN FAITH



In recent months we have experienced the passing of two good friends of the IPF mission. Bill Ramsey, long-time Omaha public relations executive (pictured on the left), and Dick Bené, who worked in the local insurance industry.

Bill was instrumental in helping the IPF staff learn the art of public relations. With the assistance of Bill's professional colleagues as well as his personal expertise, we were introduced to the rudiments of putting together a development plan, establishing our first database and learning how to become better known in the Omaha community and beyond. Bill devoted a great part of his life to working with Serra, the organization that promotes vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Through Bill, the network of relationships that is Serra was opened to us as well. An outgrowth of this wonderful connection endures to



this day as local Serra clubs host IPF summer seminarians for our annual pilgrimage to Boys Town where the Serrans treat us to a beautiful Mass and brunch.

Dick Bené was a member of our local Mission Advancement Council since its inception in 2002. He worked tirelessly to support the mission of IPF, often saying, "I'll do anything you ask!" For many years he was part of the committee which planned and produced the annual Celebration of Priesthood banquet. Dick was also a Serran; he delighted in organizing Serra visits to the seminaries attended by Omaha Archdiocesan seminarians.

Both Bill and Dick were exemplary in their Catholic faith, in their love for the Church, and in their love for the priesthood. The IPF mission was greatly impacted by this faith and love. May they both receive the reward of good and faithful servants!

for Priestly Formation since IPF Priests of St. Joseph will assure the continual availability of diocesan priests who help with IPF programs. St. Joseph, pray for us!

BLESSINGS

Received between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016

IPF regrets any errors or omissions. If you notice an error, please contact the Institute at 402-280-3905 or email ipf@creighton.edu

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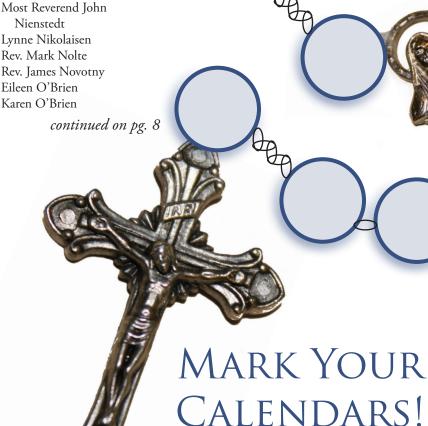
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continued from pg. 9

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"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."

- Chris Berens, IPF Mission Advancement Council



HONORING FR. PATRICK O'KANE: IPF'S CELEBRATION OF PRIESTHOOD BANQUET

As friends of the Institute gathered for our 14th annual Celebration of Priesthood Banquet, the Saint John Paul II Award for Priestly Service was conferred upon Father Patrick O'Kane, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa. Fr. O'Kane, whose 40th anniversary of priestly ordination will be celebrated this year, has served in a variety of parish assignments in the Sioux City Diocese. Having received a master's degree in Educational Administration and a special degree in Educational Leadership, Fr. O'Kane became principal of several diocesan high schools and eventually diocesan superintendent of schools.

Fr. O'Kane has also served for many years as an adjunct staff member of the Institute. Having attended our very first Spiritual Direction Training Program, he joined the staff of the program for the next round. In addition to serving as a spiritual director in the summer program for seminarians, he designed a curriculum review process for the Institute which has been used to review summer program courses as well as the Spiritual Direction Training Program.

Friends of Fr. O'Kane offered a special tribute by opening and contributing to a fund in his honor as part of the Saint John Paul II Fund for Priests. He is pictured above receiving the Saint John Paul II medallion from Fr. Jim Rafferty, Fr. Rich Gabuzda and Kathy Kanavy.

At the dinner, which was held on April 20th, the 320 guests also heard a presentation about the Institute's activities. In addition, two alumni IPF alumni offered testimonials about how the IPF mission has impacted their personal and priestly lives. Fr. Damien Cook, pastor of Christ the King parish in Omaha, completed the most recent series of the Spiritual Direction Training Program held at Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago. Fr. Jeffrey Lorig, pastor of St. Ludger parish in Creighton and St. Ignatius parish in Brunswick, graduated from the Spiritual Direction Training program in 2014. The purpose of the annual celebration is to honor priests and to gather old and new friends of the Institute while also raising funds for the Institute's mission. We are grateful to St. Robert Bellarmine parish and its pastor, Fr. Steve Stillmunks, for allowing us to use their beautiful parish center for the event.

Spiritual Moms Are Praying, Preparing

HEARTS

Before they arrive in Omaha each summer, every seminarian enrolled in that summer's program has had "Spiritual Moms" praying for him. Before they move into the dorm for the nine-week summer program, many Hail Mary's have been said on their behalf. Before the first summer IPF Mass at St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus is celebrated, women have spent an hour in adoration in the same church praying that their sons' hearts be open and receptive.



Seminarian Jacob Wessel, with his Spiritual Mom, Cathy Thayer at Friends Night in 2016

The priority each summer is to find Spiritual Moms who wish to be matched "one-to-one" with a seminarian. They need to be committed to attending Friends Night

in July when they will meet face to face. When that list is complete, all women, no matter which diocese across the country they represent, are encouraged to participate in the Spiritual Moms program as "general" pray-ers. The women in this group pray for each seminarian by name, three men a day, per a list they receive in May. The goal is to make the "dome of grace" (a term coined by a faculty member years ago to explain the effect of the prayers for the men) as full and as strong as possible.

It's a win-win apostolate; the women love praying for the men, and the men receive additional graces from their prayers.

If you would like to become a 2017 Spiritual Mom, consult our website at www.priestlyformation.org.



"I'm very grateful that I have been able to be involved in the spirituality of a young man. That I was part of saying a 'Hail Mary' everyday for these young men."

- Sue Barrett, IPF Mission Advancement Council

RECEIVING DIVINE LOVE AT THE CROSS

IPF's mission is to serve the clergy but twice annually, the Omaha area's lay community is invited to a "Morning of Reflection". These opportunities are designed to give the laity a taste of the IPF charism used in the spiritual formation programs. The morning begins with Mass followed by a simple breakfast, then talks on prayer presented by the IPF staff. Over 300 gathered this spring with the desire to enrich their Lenten journey towards the resurrection. The talks were recorded and can be accessed through IPF's website, www.priestlyformation.org.

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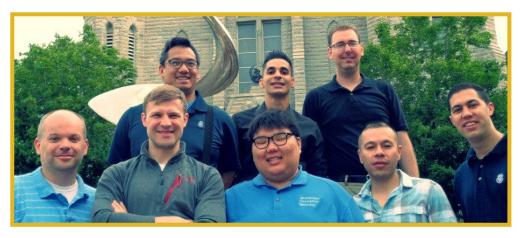
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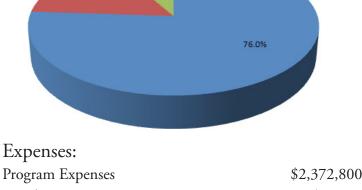
THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION 2016 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

2016 Revenues

35.1%

2016 Expenses

8.4%



Revenues:

Program Fees, Tuition, Room & Board

Contributions & Special Events

Grants

John Paul II Fund

Other Auxiliary Income

Investment Income

\$1,823,532

56.5%

1,133,964

126,461

92,500

41,225

11,427

\$3,229,109

Development

General and Administrative

15.6%

486,887

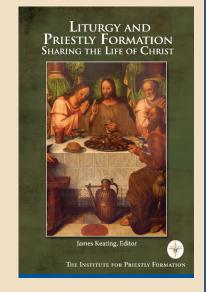
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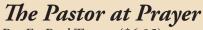
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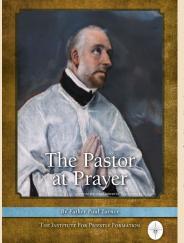
Liturgy and Priestly Formation: Sharing the Life of Christ Edited By: Deacon James Keating (\$13.95)

This book is a collection of essays presented at a seminar held at Creighton University by The Institute for Priestly Formation. All of the essays were written in response to David Fagerberg's book On Liturgical Asceticism and focused on various issues facing clerics in formation. The essays explore how liturgy renders Christ's sacrifice available for our own deification, allowing seminarians to reflect more deeply on their noble task of bringing this mystery to the people in Sacrament, word, and charity.





By: Fr. Paul Turner (\$6.95)



In this brief book, Father Turner discusses the many facets of a pastor's prayer life, ranging from his daily prayer to his celebrating Mass and administering the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, and Anointing of the Sick. Father Turner recognizes the challenges that pastors face as they attempt to keep prayer at the center of their busy lives. He gives helpful advice about how to pray, what to pray, where to pray, when to pray, and why to pray. The book concludes with a set of reflection questions that are meant to deepen the pastor's prayer life and enhance his experiences of spiritual direction.

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