

# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

## SHARING THE LOVE OF IPF

What happens after a seminarian finishes his summer in Omaha? Do the graces he's received stay with him and bear fruit in his priesthood? After this summer, IPF will have trained over 2000 seminarians in its 20 year history. We thought we'd ask one of the 2000 to answer those two important questions.

When asked for his permission to be interviewed for this article, Fr. Alberto Esposito's response was, "It would be an honor to share with you my love for IPF and the beauty and power I have received from the Institute over the years."

Fr. Esposito, pastor of Santa Maria del Mar in Flagler Beach, Florida, began his association with IPF in its infancy. He participated in the third summer program for seminarians in 1997 and the first training program in Spiritual Direction in 2002. Fr. Esposito said that his "heart danced, a movement of the Holy Spirit" when his vocation director sent him to Omaha as a seminarian. He has returned several times as a summer Seminarian Program Spiritual Director.

How does his IPF experience translate to his parish.

"Our parish has a special charism as a school of prayer. I desire to inspire my parishioners to pray and live in a heartfelt, contemplative way. This way of life is explored explicitly in homilies, classes, and retreats; but the implicit witness is also important. Each day I try to live diocesan priesthood in the passionate, personal presence of Jesus."

Each Sunday, Fr. Esposito hosts the School of Contemplative Prayer, emphatically stating, "This ministry—in all its simplicity and hiddenness—is the heart of the parish." Parishioners begin the



*Fr. Alberto Esposito, pastor of Santa Maria del Mar, Flagler Beach, Florida.*

experience by gathering for a simple meal in the Parish Hall. After lunch, they go to the Adoration Chapel for *lectio divina* in community, faith sharing, and an extended period of silent prayer. The afternoon ends with Evening Prayer and the Sharing of Graces in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

"Not all of us are called to be monks but a dash of monasticism is good for everyone," he explained. Fr. Esposito becomes most joyous as he sees the interior life of his parishioners develop. The participants look forward to their weekly meetings, which serve as an anchor for their daily living. The group often reads books together, such as *Living with Contradiction* by Esther de Waal and the *Loving Search for God* by William A. Meninger. "We have frisky, happy, lively discussions that help each of us integrate the teachings into our hearts."

Fr. Esposito recognizes that if the seed

is planted and the parish remains strong in prayer the contemplative spirit will endure—even if the pastor moves on to a different parish. The pastor's "job description" is to help parishioners become mystics—those who know and love the Risen Christ personally and passionately!

Recognizing the value of supporting seminarians and seminary formation, the Finance, Stewardship, and Pastoral Councils of Fr. Esposito's parish decided enthusiastically to donate a portion of their 6% parish tithe to entities related to seminary formation. IPF has been a grateful recipient of their generosity. Fr. Gabuzda, commenting on this gift, said, "We are grateful that the seeds planted in Fr. Esposito's heart are now being shared with his parish community. Their generosity to the mission of the Institute now helps us plant more seeds in the hearts of more seminarians and priests. 'The gift you have received, give as a gift.'"

Fr. Esposito concluded the interview by saying, "IPF is alive in my heart! The staff is always in my heart and prayers. Thank you, IPF, for the beautiful vision of priestly ministry and parish life that I have received through you."



*Fr. Esposito's School of Contemplative Prayer meets weekly.*

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Dear Friends,

The late date of Easter this year affords us the opportunity to appreciate all the more this feast of new life, beauty and joy. I pray that these pages find you basking in just those gifts.

Our hearts are full of praise to God as we celebrate our *twentieth* anniversary. What wonders the Lord has done in permitting us to see the flourishing of the seeds he planted twenty years ago! As some of you know, that first summer program had six participants from three dioceses. This summer we greeted 175 seminarians from 64 dioceses! The Lord has done great things for us!

The Lord's graces have also allowed us to see growth in just the past few months. We have increased the size of our spiritual direction training program by 50%. Over 140 priests have signed up for this three year program. We have welcomed two new staff members. Kristi Coughlin has joined Tom Pogge and Linda Antonelli in the area of Mission Advancement. Bobbi Matyja is our new administrative assistant, replacing Anna Drvol who now serves as communications coordinator.

We look forward to welcoming some new faces to this summer's *A Reason for*



*Your Hope* gathering. Begun last year, this initiative helps to acquaint people from across the country with the IPF mission. Our special guest this summer will be Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago. We'd be happy to receive a name or two from you to add to our invitation list.

With growth comes excitement of new possibilities, but also the challenge of continuing to keep our operation strong so that our mission to seminarians, priests and seminary formators remains our focus. Thank you for your generous support which allows us to grow the mission. We hope you can join us in raising

*“IPF allows Christ to be your teacher and as a result Christ teaches you how to be a son, spouse, and father.”*

*– Nicholas Mishek, Seminarian  
Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska*

prayers of great thanksgiving to the Lord who has graced us for these twenty years. May we remain faithful to the charism given so that all that the Lord desires for us may come to pass!

Gratefully in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard J. Gabuzda". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda  
Executive Director



*Welcome, Bobbi Matyja and Kristi Coughlin, to the IPF Staff!*



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Received between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013

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IPF gives seminarians the necessary tools  
to become men of prayer."*

*— Timothy Grimes, Seminarian*

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*— Andrew Wakefield, Seminarian  
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all my expectations of IPF. I have  
learned a language to be able to speak  
about the depth of my heart, so as to  
drink deep of the graces that God de-  
sires to bestow on me and my  
priesthood. Nothing is lost when I seek  
to go the depths. IPF gave me  
the courage to go within.”*  
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*Mr. and Mrs. James Taphorn*

## ABBOT RAPHAEL WALSH, O.S.B.

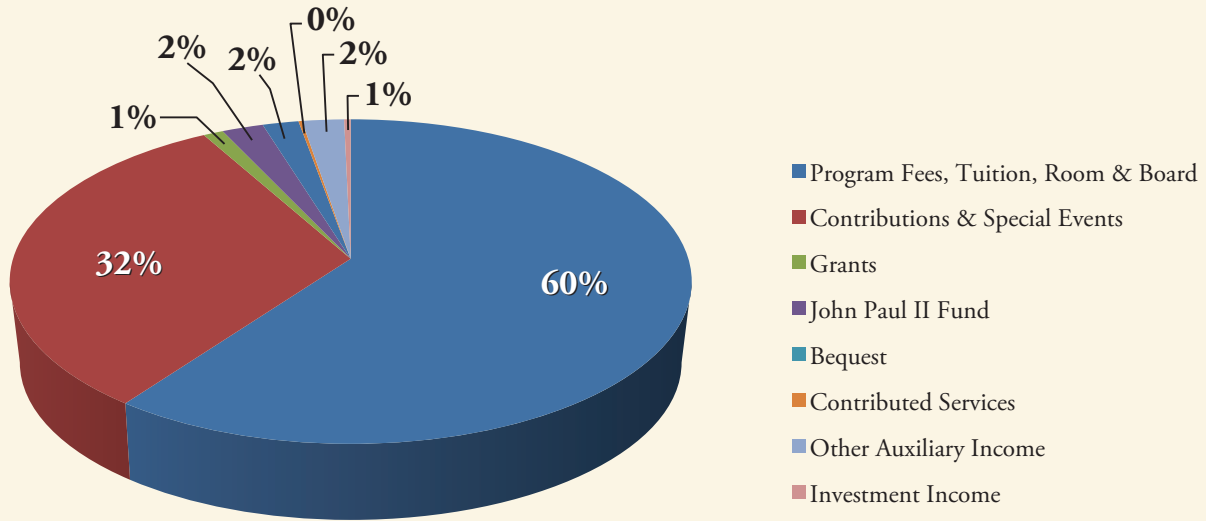
*Dr. and Mrs. David Hoover*

† = deceased

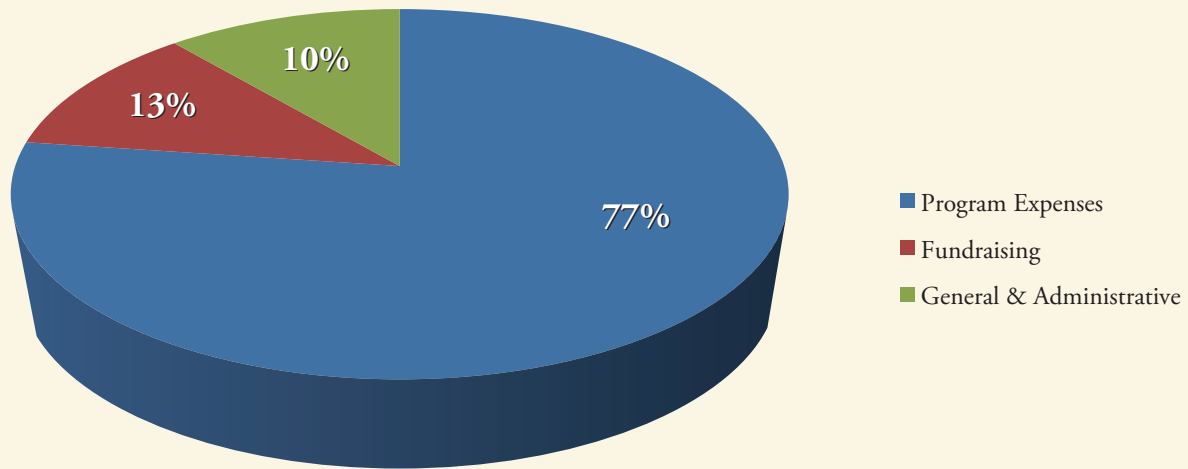


# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION 2013 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## 2013 Revenues



## 2013 Expenses



<u>Revenues:</u>			<u>Expenses:</u>		
	%	Amount		%	Amount
Program Fees, Tuition, Room & Board .	60%.	\$1,659,865	Program Expenses . . . . .	77%.	\$2,131,457
Contributions & Special Events . . . . .	32%.	874,790	Mission Advancement & Fundraising . . .	13%.	354,972
Grants . . . . .	1%.	30,000	General & Administrative . . . . .	10%.	276,320
Pope John Paul II Fund for Priests . . . . .	2%.	61,000	<b>Total Expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>100%.</b>	<b>\$2,762,749</b>
Bequests . . . . .	2%.	54,321			
Contributed Services . . . . .	0%.	5,540			
Other Auxiliary Income . . . . .	2%.	62,689			
Investment Income . . . . .	1%.	10,079			
<b>Total Revenues . . . . .</b>	<b>100%.</b>	<b>\$2,758,283</b>			



## In the News- ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

With this issue of the Newsletter, we are inaugurating a column which will offer news about IPF alumni and friends. We invite alumni and friends to keep us up to date on recent events. Here are some news items that we are aware of:

We note with great joy the episcopal ordinations of two IPF alumni in recent months. In December, **Fr. Andrew Cozzens** was ordained as an auxiliary bishop of St. Paul/Minneapolis. Bishop Cozzens participated in the Spiritual Exercises program in the summer of 2007 and serves as a member of IPF's corporate board as well as our Mission Advisory Council. In February **Fr. Stephen Berg**

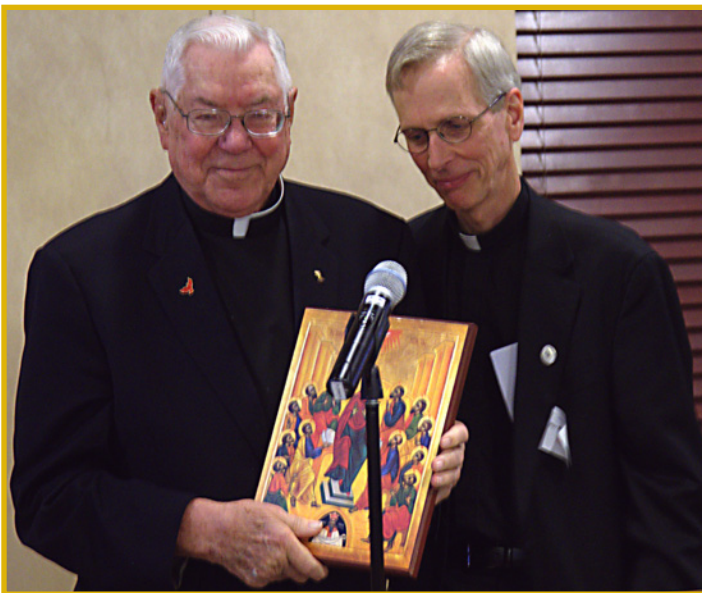
was ordained as bishop of Pueblo, Colorado. Bishop Berg is the first participant in IPF's seminarian program to be ordained a bishop. He was with us in the summer of 1998 as a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.

On December 12, 2013, **Fr. Scott Traynor** of the Diocese of Sioux Falls was installed as rector of St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver. Fr. Scott participated in the seminarian program in the summer of 1996. He also completed the Spiritual Direction Training Program as well as the Spiritual Exercises in 2005. In recent years Fr. Scott has served on the faculty for the summer

program as well as the Spiritual Direction Training Program. He is also a member of IPF's Mission Advisory Council.

In hope, we commend to the Lord the souls of three friends of the Institute: **Msgr. Charles Brodersen** and **Msgr. James Cain**, priests of the Archdiocese of Omaha and **Mr. Alan Mitchell** of Columbus, Ohio. We also commend to the Lord the souls of three alumni: **Fr. Will Comellas** of the Diocese of Scranton (seminarian program 2001), **Fr. Joseph Hilbert** of the Diocese of Harrisburg (Spiritual Direction Program 2005) and **Fr. Kevin Kayda** of the Diocese of Harrisburg (seminarian program 2008).

## CELEBRATION OF PRIESTHOOD BANQUET



IPF's 20 year history was highlighted at the annual Celebration of Priesthood Banquet held on April 28th. Msgr. Francis Kubart of the Archdiocese of Omaha was awarded the Saint John Paul II Award for Priestly Service. Omaha's Vocation Director and President of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, Fr. Paul Hoelsing, was the speaker for the evening.

## FR. GABUZDA ON EWTN LIVE!

Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., host of *EWTN Live!* interviewed Fr. Richard Gabuzda on his show recently. Fr. Pacwa directed questions to Fr. Gabuzda about why and how IPF got started and how it fulfills its mission to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan priests. His answers related to the work of the Institute as a complement to already existing programs in seminary formation and as a response to the need for more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation. The interview can be viewed in its entirety from IPF's website [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL AND PRAYFUL SUPPORT!**



# TREASURED GIFTS OF ARTWORK GIVEN TO IPF



*Artist Jane TanCredi with Dr. Perry Williams*

The Institute thanks Dr. Perry Williams and his wife, Donna, for their exceptional generosity in the form of an iconic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “In appreciation of the influence IPF has had on our lives, we had an opportunity to produce an iconic image of the virgin of Guadalupe. IPF has always revered and cherished the patroness of America and now they have their own, new special image,” said Dr. Williams of Omaha. “Traditionally the Church has sponsored the arts as a means of holy inspiration. We hope this iconic painting

of the miraculous event written by artist Jane TanCredi will do the same to help IPF’s wonderful work.”

Long-time friend and adjunct spiritual director Sr. Cor Immaculatum Hefferman, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister from Scranton, Pennsylvania, has created for the Institute two works of art which express themes that are at the heart of the IPF mission. “Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit,” and “Joseph, Husband of Mary,” were sculpted by Sr. Cor over the period of a few years. Sr. Cor comments: “The Mary that I have sculpted looks to her God, believes, and receives . . . and Joseph, young and in love with Mary,



photosbyjan@sistersofihm.org

*Sculptures of Joseph and Mary created by Sr. Cor Immaculatum Hefferman.*



*Detail from the iconic image.*

opens his arms in welcome, promising his faithful care of her and the Child.”

The image of St. Joseph is the gift of Msgr. John Esseff, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, and also a long-time friend and adjunct spiritual director for the Institute. We are grateful to both Sr. Cor and Msgr. Esseff for their generous love of the Institute’s mission, especially as seen in the gift of these two treasured images.

## SAINT JOHN PAUL II FUND MEDALLIONS

Priests who attended IPF’s Celebration of Priesthood Banquet and who have accounts in the *Saint John Paul II Fund for Priests* that have reached the perpetual level of \$5000 or more were presented beautiful medallions with holders engraved with their names. Those outside the Omaha area will receive their medallions at a special luncheon this summer or, if they are unable to travel, by mail. Medallions created in memory of a deceased priest will be awarded to a relative or the donor. Financial gifts are used by IPF to support the spiritual formation programs offered to diocesan seminarians and priests who have a deep desire for a closer relationship with Jesus. For



more information on the fund, consult the IPF website [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org)

or phone Tom Pogge, Director of Mission Advancement, at 402-280-3528.



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## Celebrating 20 Years of Helping Priests and Seminarians Fall More Deeply in Love with God



### EXPERIENCING THE LOVE OF GOD

Your help is needed to cover the costs of one seminarian attending  
IPF this summer. Prayerfully consider donating online at

[www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org)

or through the mail using the enclosed envelope. Thank you!