

How Can I Become a Spiritual Mom?

It is quite easy to become a Spiritual Mom for IPF.

- If you have served as a Spiritual Mom for the IPF Summer Seminar Program in the past, you are already on the list and will receive the letter in April which begins the process for each summer. If you are new and would like to participate, the contact information is on the back of this pamphlet. The IPF website at www.priestlyformation.org is a great resource.
- Our first priority each summer is to find the Spiritual Moms who wish to be matched one-to-one with a seminarian and attend Friends Night in Omaha. When that list is complete, we encourage as many women as possible to participate in the Spiritual Moms program no matter which diocese you represent. Our goal is to make the “dome of grace” as full and as strong as possible—to encourage and to protect all of the seminarians in their summer of prayer.



An IPF Seminarian Spiritual Son
with his Adoptive Family

Expectations

- It is very important for the seminarians to commit to their summer of prayer without unnecessary interruptions. The first time a Spiritual Mom will make contact with her seminarian is at Friends Night toward the end of July.
- We strongly discourage establishing a “social” connection earlier in the summer which may become a distraction for the seminarians.
- Likewise, a Spiritual Mom is not obligated should the seminarian request financial assistance of any kind during the summer or at a later date. Remember: we are **Spiritual** Moms!
- After the summer is complete, some of the seminarians and Spiritual Moms continue a friendship. IPF neither encourages nor discourages longer term relationships.
- If a connection happens which is agreeable to both parties, what a blessing! If not, the prayers of faith-filled women provided a “dome of grace” which nurtured and protected the seminarians’ vocations during their summer of mutual prayer.

Contact Information

Check the website
www.priestlyformation.org
or email IPFMoms@gmail.com
or call Anne at 402-391-2177 or
Linda at the IPF Office 402-280-3901.

SPIRITUAL MOMS



THE INSTITUTE FOR
PRIESTLY FORMATION

History of IPF Spiritual Moms

On March 25, 2008, The Institute for Priestly Formation became a Public Association of the Faithful. To celebrate, a group of women associated with IPF gathered for a luncheon on May 7, 2008. During the lunch, conversation turned to three topics:

- Celebrating IPF as a Public Association of the Faithful,
- Pope Benedict XVI's call for spiritual mothers for all priests and seminarians, and
- Daily practice of one grandmother/mother praying one "Hail Mary" for each of her descendants.

The fourteen women in attendance, almost in unison, agreed that the 150 seminarians arriving in just 24 days should each have a Spiritual Mom. The commitment on the part of the Spiritual Mom would be to pray one "Hail Mary" each day of the ten week Summer Seminar Program for her assigned seminarian. These women contacted their prayer groups, friends and families and when the seminarians arrived on May 31st, each one had been assigned a Spiritual Mom.

On Friends Night, July 16, 2008, the most beautiful celebration occurred when the Spiritual Moms met their seminarians for the first time face-to-face. After a shared hour of Eucharistic Adoration, the area in front of St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus was filled with introductions, laughter, hugs, and joy.

The IPF faculty spoke of a "dome of grace" which had covered the entire ten weeks of the Summer Seminar Program. They attributed this "dome" to the prayers of the Spiritual Moms.

"I don't have any biological sons. Praying for my IPF Spiritual Son, who will be ordained this spring, has been such a blessing!"



Mutual Prayer

Three Ways to Serve

There are three ways to serve as an IPF Spiritual Mom.

- *One-to-one Intercessor:* One Spiritual Mom is matched with one seminarian for the summer. We request that the Spiritual Mom prays one "Hail Mary" (or more!) for her seminarian each day during the ten week summer program and that she intends to attend Friends Night.
- *General Intercessor:* These Spiritual Moms receive a list with the names and dioceses of all of the seminarians in attendance. There are many daily prayer options for using this list, including general prayer for all the seminarians attending IPF, prayer for two or three seminarians each day, prayer for ten seminarians each day on a decade of the Rosary, or your favorite method of intercessory prayer.
- *Prayer Cells:* Seminarians, spiritual directors, and IPF faculty members come from many dioceses across the country. As interest in the seminarian program spreads, women in several dioceses have asked to participate as Spiritual Moms. Since God knows not time or space, IPF has provided a format for these groups also!

The list of names of seminarians and their dioceses is sent to one contact person in these prayer cells. On Friends Night they may gather for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration in their own diocese then, via internet, join us in Omaha to hear the prepared program. An information packet is available for anyone interested in forming a Prayer Cell.

Weekly Updates

For those Spiritual Moms who wish to direct their prayer intentions more specifically, a weekly email will be sent with information regarding the seminarians' course of study that week and any desired graces or intentions. This information will be posted on IPF's website and will be mailed, if requested, at the beginning of the summer to anyone not using email.

Friends Night

Several references have been made to Friends Night. What is it? On Wednesday of the eighth week of the ten week program, IPF hosts an evening of prayer and hospitality.

The evening begins with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration attended by both the seminarians and the Spiritual Moms (and other supporters of IPF). A social follows at which time the Spiritual Moms and seminarians who have been matched one-to-one meet for the first time. A short program follows where men share some of the graces of the summer.

There are always a few one-to-one Spiritual Moms who are unable to attend Friends Night at the last minute. Some of the women who chose to pray as General Intercessors and who also plan to attend Friends Night will "adopt" a seminarian for the evening. This ensures that each seminarian has a Spiritual Mom for Friends Night.



Friends Night