



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

IMPACTING THE PRIESTHOOD ... ACROSS THE WORLD

Three Men from the Island of Malta Experience God in Omaha

Malta is a small, pristine island nation in the Mediterranean, a mere 58 miles from Sicily. Malta is internationally renowned as a tourist resort, decked with stunning churches, breath-taking beaches, and weather that beckons vacation.



However, this summer, three men from the Archdiocese of Malta left the bustling vacation island and joined IPF on Creighton's campus for a summer they will never forget.

Fr. Nicholas Cachia's introduction to IPF was through the three-week training program for Seminary Spiritual Directors in 2003. In the following years he has been asked to be an instructor. Fr. Nicholas has been an anchor in IPF's adjunct faculty. This past year marked his seventh as a staff member.

Fr. Nicholas shares, "I believe that IPF is, without exaggeration, a God-send in the Church of today. IPF has invited me to go to the source and the core of my identity as a Christian and my identity as a priest. Jesus has become everything in my life. I understand that my priesthood is completely empty without Jesus. And it is Jesus that I want others to experience through my example, word and ministry."

Seminarian Luke Cutjar participated in the 10-week summer program for seminarians. "My experience at IPF was wonderful!" Luke adds, "IPF gave me a new rhythm to my prayer and a deeper understanding of who I really am in



Seminarian Brian Gialanzè, Fr. Nicholas Cachia, and Seminarian Luke Cutjar, all from the Archdiocese of Malta in the Mediterranean, spent their summer in Omaha at the Institute for Priestly Formation. When asked why the Archdiocese of Malta would send three men over 6,000 miles to Omaha, Brian Gialanzè responded, "IPF equips the seminarian with what is crucial to his formation. IPF programs and their approach to formation blend in a way that empowers the seminarian to be more receptive in receiving seminary formation at a deeper level."

God's eyes. IPF also helped me embrace celibacy as a special call to be a spouse of the Church, holding on firmly to God's very own heart."

"The world needs authentic priests who are deeply in love with their Lord, and whose love gets noticed a mile away! Thank you for supporting IPF and nourishing so many vocations, especially through your prayers."

Seminarian Brian Gialanzè made the 30 day retreat. He shares, "I cannot find enough words to express my gratitude to the Lord for blessing his Church with IPF and for the generous graces I have personally received through it. IPF has bestowed on me an abundance of grace which equips me with a loving trust in the Lord leading me to follow His call, serve Him and His people."

He adds, "Supporting IPF means that you are supporting the multitudes who will be blessed by priests transmitting the wealth they have received from IPF in every aspect of their priesthood. Just imagine what a multiplier effect your generosity is yielding in forming saintly priests and winning souls for God!"

IPF has developed a wonderful relationship with the European island diocese of Malta. IPF has traveled to served the priests of the Archdiocese of Malta in 2006, 2007, and 2009. In addition, Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J. will offer continued formation in Malta during September and October of 2011.

Often times supporters ask if IPF is really making a difference. IPF's reputation now stretches across the globe. Just ask these three men from Malta.

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Dear Friends,

By God's grace, the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation continues to grow. As the number of participants and the number of programs increase, our need for a sufficient number of administrative staff members also increases.

Our newest staff member, Paul Santos, joined us in February as the Director of Finance and Operations. Paul, who has an MBA and is a CPA, brings extensive expertise to IPF having worked in both for profit and non-profit organizations. This new position will relieve Kathy Kanavy and me of some administrative burdens while assisting Amy Helms, our staff accountant, with the growing financial details of the Institute. Paul, his wife, Lynn, and their five children moved from Peoria and are now settling into the Omaha area.

This past summer, which brought both high heat and high water levels to Omaha, also provided a time for the Lord to shower his loving graces on the participants in our four summer programs. We once again welcomed 175 seminarians from 65 dioceses to our ten week program. International participants for the summer programs, including the seminar for seminary spiritual directors, the retreat for seminary theologians and the 30 day retreat, came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Malta and the Sudan.

Turning toward our fall schedule of events, in September many of the IPF 504 faculty returned to Omaha to begin a course evaluation and revision process. The group will meet again in January to complete the process which will lead to an improved and more cohesive approach to the course in the future. Each of the four summer courses undergoes a similar process on a continually rotating basis.

Deacon Jim Keating welcomed a group of theologians in September for a seminar on the integration of seminary academics, spiritual direction and the pastoral life. The weekend gathering took place in the context of prayer, with seminar participants listening to and critiquing one another's papers which all focused on various aspects of the central topic. Eventually the papers will be published as the third in our "Seminary Theology" series.

Our Spiritual Direction training program continues in Chicago with a retreat in October. National meetings will take us to Detroit (vocation directors), Newark (spiritual directors) and Baltimore (our Bishops Advisory Council and the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations).

The expansion of our staff, the graces given during the summer programs, and the additional programs and plans for the coming months are only possible because of the generosity of those who support us by their prayers and financial sacrifices. We are particularly grateful to the growing number of "sponsors" for our seminarian program and those in the "\$20/Month Club."

The building up of our annual fund remains a top priority so that we can continue to offer programs for seminarians, priests and seminary formators. Thank you for all you do in service of the IPF Mission! Please keep us in prayer so that we stay close to the Lord's heart and his desires for all those whom we serve.

Sincerely in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Gabuzda". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda
Executive Director



IPF FORMING THE FORMATORS

*Deacon James Keating Welcomes
Rector, Theologians to Omaha
for Solitude, Prayer,
and Continued Formation*

One of IPF's summer programs is a personal and professional retreat for seminary faculty members conducted by Deacon James F. Keating, Ph.D., IPF's Director of Theological Formation. The retreat led faculty into an appreciation of their vital vocation of serving the spiritual formation needs of future priests. This summer's participants represented four seminaries: The North American College (Rome), Notre Dame (Louisiana), Saint Augustine's (Toronto) and Mount Saint Mary's (Maryland) Seminaries.

The goal of the retreat is to assist theologians and philosophers in recovering the spiritual core of seminary academics and drawing it out for seminarians to contemplate and then articulate. The retreat meets the spiritual needs of seminary



Members of this year's Retreat for Seminary Faculty were (front row) Deacon James Keating, Fr. Joe Palermo, Fr. Minh Phan, Fr. David Kelly, (back row) Fr. Joe Fowler, Fr. Jose Lavastida, Fr. Pietro Damian, Fr. Mark Robson, and Dr. Steven Smith.

professors to appropriate for the first time or to regain a sense that their "profession" is truly a call from God that carries with it not only the requisite duty of theological competency but the promise of personal intimacy with God. Participants explore how God is personally directing and influencing their teaching and scholarly vocation by means of needed spiritual direction, the imparting of methods of spiritual discernment, and guidance for integrating one's own study

and teaching of theology with prayer.

The goal is met through opportunities for solitude, guided meditation and lectures on the vocation of the seminary professor, time for silent and communal prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, fellowship, private study and leisure, and personal spiritual direction.

For more about Deacon Keating's ministry to seminary formators, or to learn more about the annual retreat, please visit www.creighton.edu/ipf.

"LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY"

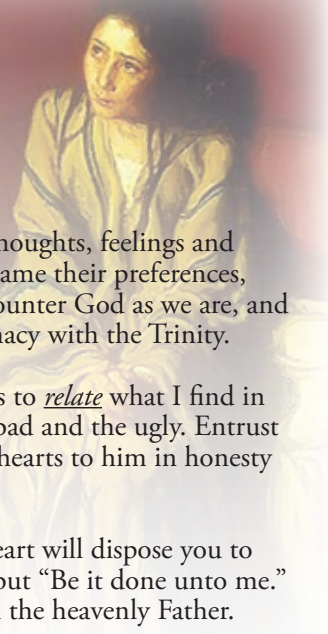
Mary has much to teach all of us. As we learn from the Blessed Mother in the Annunciation, we see four essential relational dynamics of prayer that can help each of us pray as she did.

STEP I ... ACKNOWLEDGE. This means becoming aware of, paying attention to, and naming the thoughts, feelings and desires that surface as you begin to pray. Try to grow in friendship with someone who cannot name their preferences, their likes and dislikes or their values or beliefs. It simply does not work. We are invited to encounter God as we are, and acknowledging our thoughts, feelings and desires is the first necessary dynamic of growing intimacy with the Trinity.

STEP II ... RELATE. The second fundamental relational dynamic for growing Trinitarian intimacy is to relate what I find in my heart to God, and to do so honestly and consistently. Tell God all about it—the good, the bad and the ugly. Entrust what is in the heart to God. God does not need a news update, but knows that if we open our hearts to him in honesty and trust, we will be maximally receptive to what he wants to give.

STEP III ... RECEIVE. Honest and consistent acknowledging and relating of the movements of the heart will dispose you to receive all that God desires to give. Think of the Annunciation—Mary does not say "I'll do it" but "Be it done unto me." Mary is a great model of fruitful receptivity because she is the first who receives everything from the heavenly Father.

STEP IV ... RESPOND. What we receive from God calls for a response. Our response will be free, virtuous, and fruitful if it is inspired, directed, and sustained by the grace we have received. Our response to God must be on the basis of the gift of communion received from him for, as Jesus teaches in the parable of the vine and the branches, "apart from me you can do nothing."



LONG TERM GROWTH AND FINANCIAL STABILITY: A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Getting to Know the Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation

- **What is the Foundation?**

In November 2006, the Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation (the "Foundation") was created to provide for the long-term stability and growth of the Institute for Priestly Formation. The Foundation is a Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation and has received Section 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, donations to the Foundation are tax deductible as permitted by law.

- **Why is the Foundation needed?**

As with any educational institution, IPF is not able to charge the full amount for its various spiritual formation programs. It is hoped that through earnings from the Foundation and annual donations, the Institute will continue to offer its programs at a competitive rate.

- **How is the Foundation structured?**

According to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Foundation is under the control of a Board of Directors and appointed Officers. Investments are guided by the Investment Policy Statement of the Finance Committee. The Executive Director of the Foundation is P. Thomas Pogge J.D., who also serves as Director of Mission Advancement for the Institute.

- **What is the status of the Foundation?**

Currently, there is slightly more than \$1 million in the Foundation due to the generosity of certain donors.

- **How can I get involved?**

If you are in a position to help provide for the long-term growth and financial stability of the Institute for

Priestly Formation by either a current gift or a planned gift through your Will or Trust, please contact Tom Pogge at 888.528.5668 or 402.280.3528.

- **How can my IRA help IPF?**

For 2011, Congress has authorized distributions from IRAs to charities without triggering any tax consequences. This provision allows an individual who is 70 ½ or older to make distributions from his or her IRA in the aggregate amount of \$100,000. *(It may be possible to roll funds from a 401(k) to an IRA first.)*

As the Institute continues to assist the Bishops in the spiritual formation of seminarians and priests, please keep this mission in prayer. And please support the Institute financially. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

WHEN YOU SUPPORT IPF YOU SUPPORT THE PRIESTHOOD

How can you get involved?

- “\$20/Month Club” This initiative helps support IPF’s operating budget on an ongoing basis. Think of it this way: \$20 a month is the equivalent of one specialty café latte a week or one fast food meal for the family. Give it up for the priesthood!
- “Sponsor a Seminarian” Bridge the gap between what IPF is able to charge for tuition, room, board, and fees for one seminarian and the actual costs. An annual gift of \$850 will do just that. See the enclosed reply card for more information on pledged gifts.
- Memorial and tribute gifts of any size afford an opportunity to support IPF while honoring or remembering a loved one. Think weddings, anniversaries, ordinations, births, and graduations and offer a gift in someone’s honor! Pay tribute to those who have touched your lives as a remembrance at the time of their death.
- Host an event in your area. Invite friends to learn more about IPF then become part of the mission. Ask a priest who has been involved with an IPF program and several of your friends to dine together in your home. Let him tell his story! Set up an opportunity for a priest or seminarian to give a witness talk at your parish. He’ll want to share how IPF has affected his priesthood or his life in the seminary. Become a Spiritual Mom and invite others to do the same. Gather the group together to participate in next summer’s Friends Night via the internet. Work with the IPF staff and schedule a Couples Retreat in your area of the country with IPF trained Spiritual Directors.

“WE DO NOT CEASE GIVING THANKS FOR YOU,
REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS.” *Ephesians 1:16*



*“As a married couple entering our 25th year together, we recognize that the marital relationship requires dedication, commitment and daily investment if it is to flourish and achieve the glory of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Likewise, we understand that our priests, who have chosen the Church as their spouse, must also work to cultivate and deepen their commitment to Holy Orders. In fulfilling its mission, we are thrilled that IPF is committed to **reinvigorating and recapturing in our priests the fire and passion that led them to their priestly calling.**”*

— J. V. Wulf, President-Europe, Medline Industries, Inc.

J. V. and Amy Wulf, of Columbus, Ohio, are among a growing number of the laity who appreciate and value the deepened spirituality of seminarians and priests. They understand how a couple’s commitment to the vocation of marriage and a priest’s commitment to his holy orders are profoundly similar, and how difficult it is to keep the fire and passion of the lived experience alive and flourishing. A deeply lived relationship with Christ is essential for both vocations to thrive.

Helping the priests, who in turn help the laity, strengthen their daily walk in faith is the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation. But IPF needs your help.

Whether you are a member of the clergy or the laity, we hope you will prayerfully consider how you can financially help IPF. Each year IPF relies on the generosity of friends to bridge the gap between the revenues generated from program charges and the actual costs of operating the Institute.

Thank you, J. V. and Amy and all of you who support IPF by offering your prayers and your financial sacrifices. Together we can be the Holy Spirit’s instruments, **reinvigorating and recapturing in our priests the fire and passion that led them to their priestly calling.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2-7, 2011

Training Program in Spiritual Direction
Mundelein Seminary
Chicago, Illinois

OCTOBER 20-23, 2011

**Federation of Seminary
Spiritual Directors Meeting**
Immaculate Conception Seminary
Newark, New Jersey

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 7, 2011

Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence
Clearwater, Florida

DECEMBER 10, 2011

Morning of Reflection
Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
Omaha, Nebraska
For the Laity and the Clergy

JANUARY 15-20, 2012

Training Program in Spiritual Direction
Mundelein Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 6, 2012

NCDVD Vocations Directors Retreat
Bethany Retreat Center
Saint Petersburg, Florida

FEBRUARY 6-13, 2012

Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence
Clearwater, Florida

MARCH 22-25, 2012

11th Annual Symposium
Kenrick Seminary
Saint Louis, Missouri

Theme

Beloved Son: Living Christ’s Own Filial Obedience
Keynote Speaker
Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, Archdiocese of Seattle

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1, 2012

Couples Retreat, Schuyler, Nebraska
For the Laity

APRIL 12, 2012

Celebration of Priesthood Dinner
Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
Omaha, Nebraska
For the Laity and the Clergy

APRIL 14, 2012

A Day with Fr. Mark Toups
Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
Omaha, Nebraska
For the Laity and the Clergy

SPIRITUAL MOMS & DADS JOIN SEMINARIANS FOR FRIENDS NIGHT

Intercessory prayer has become an important part of IPF's summer programs. Spiritual Moms pray for seminarians while Spiritual Dads pray for the faculty and staff.

Mary Stuart's Spiritual Son this past summer was Kyle Lee. Every day Mary would say a rosary, pray a Hail Mary or offer Mass for his specific needs and intentions. At Friends Night, an evening of Eucharistic Adoration followed by social interaction with the laity in Omaha, Mary and Kyle made eye contact for the first time. In the midst of the crowded room of 500 people, they immediately knew they "belonged together." Both Kyle and Mary have a very deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and concluded that she "brought them together at Friends Night."

Mary said, "Serving as a Spiritual Mom made my prayer life more fervent and prayerful. It was a very powerful spiritual walk for me and for my family as well. (Her husband, Rob, was also drawn into this effort and they continue regular contact with Kyle.) I love IPF and its mission to serve seminarians. I'm thrilled that IPF is in Omaha."

Chris Wheeler said "yes" on Good Friday of 2009 when asked after Mass to serve as a Spiritual Dad. He was paired with Msgr. Gerry McCarren, a faculty member from Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, NJ. Chris's

wife, Kathy, had served as a Spiritual Mom so he knew a bit about the expectations when asked to become an intercessory prayer partner. The Wheeler family and Msgr. McCarren have become good friends. They consider their friendship a special gift. Chris and Msgr. McCarren have maintained a prayer relationship even though they live a thousand miles apart.

Spiritual Dads are given a prayer card which they are asked to pray each day. Chris keeps copies of that card in his home, his office and on the visor of his car. Not just during the summer months, but throughout the year Chris prays for Msgr. McCarren because "he needs prayers all year long." Monsignor also offers prayers and Masses for the Wheeler family throughout the year.

"Email is a wonderful thing when you want to stay connected to someone far away and share information about your families. You begin to count on each other," Chris says.

"Priests need our support. They need to know there is someone behind them all year long. Ultimately, the faculty is trying to make a difference in the lives of the seminarians." Chris added.

IPF wishes to thank all of the Spiritual Moms and Spiritual Dads who have prayed so faithfully for the success of the IPF Summer Seminarian Program, its seminarians and its faculty members.



1 Jonathan Baggett, from the Diocese of Raleigh with his Spiritual Mom Linda Bayer.

2 Andrew Galles, from the Diocese of Sioux City with his Spiritual Mom Peggy Berens and her husband, Spiritual Father, Chris Berens.

3 Ryan Brady, from the Diocese of Manchester and his Spiritual Mom Mary Rossman bring the evening to a close as they pray together.

4 Michael Weisbeck, from Diocese of Bismarck, with his Spiritual Mom Amy Steinauer, her husband Nick and their children, Maddie and Will.

THE SUMMER - AT A GLANCE



WE SERVED PRIESTS

- 5 priests from 5 different dioceses participated in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 30 day retreat
- Over 70 priests from over 55 different dioceses were part of IPF's summer staff, each of them also receiving ongoing education



WE SERVED SEMINARIANS

- 175 seminarians from 65 different dioceses participated in the 10 week spiritual formation of seminarians
- 11 seminarians from 10 different dioceses participated in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 30 day retreat



WE SERVED SEMINARIES

- 8 formators from 4 different seminaries participated in the retreat for seminary faculty and formators
- 15 spiritual directors from 14 different seminaries participated in the three week seminar for seminary spiritual directors

CARDINAL GEORGE, DICK & BARB BENÉ HONORED

Our Lady of Guadalupe Award Honors Dear Friends of IPF

Three long-time friends and supporters of the Institute were honored on July 20, 2011 with IPF's Our Lady of Guadalupe Award. Cardinal Francis George and Dick and Barb Bené were this year's recipients of the annual award.

Cardinal George, the Archbishop of Chicago, has been a member of IPF's Bishops Advisory Council since its founding in 2002. He has encouraged the mission of the Institute in a variety of ways, including his support offered for our Spiritual Direction Training Program held in collaboration with Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. He also authored the forward to IPF's recently published book, *Seminary Theology: Teaching in a Contemplative Way*. Dick Bené is a founding member of the



Cardinal Francis George and Dick and Barb Bené along with Fr. Jim Rafferty, Fr. George Aschenbrenner, SJ, Kathy Kanavy, and Fr. Rich Gabuzda.

Institute's Mission Advancement Council. In the course of his Council service, which dates back to 2002, he chaired the banquet committee for several years. Barb Bené assists with the apostolic service component of the summer program for seminarians. They have been married for 54 years and are the parents of four children, with fifteen grandchildren and

two great grandchildren.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe medallion is presented to women and men who have given witness with their lives to the efficacy of listening for and responding to Mary's call to live Jesus' own life in our day, exercising in practical ways the gift of a humble faith, placed at the service of the Institute's mission.

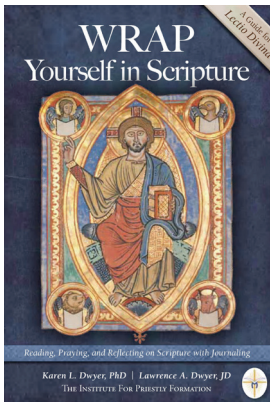


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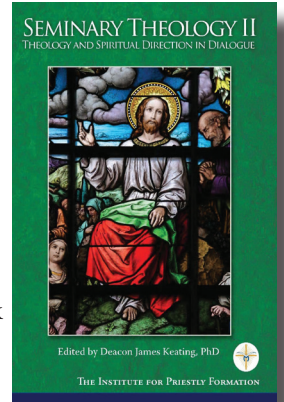
IPF Publications continues to produce resources for spiritual formation.



For everyone, we have a beautifully designed book, *WRAP Yourself in Scripture*, leading its readers into the fruitful practice of *lectio divina*. *Lectio divina* is a way of reading Scripture as prayer. Recently, Pope Benedict XVI called for more leaders in the Church to instruct others about this ancient practice of prayerful intimacy with Christ.

Lectio divina is truly “capable of opening up to the faithful the treasures of God’s word, but also of bringing about an encounter with Christ.” (*Verbum Domini*, 2010)

For seminary theologians, we will release *Seminary Theology II: Theology and Spiritual Direction in Dialogue*. This volume is the fruit of IPF’s Annual Seminar for Seminary Theologians held each fall at the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. In this book authors provide a way to integrate the mission of spiritual direction with the goals of Catholic theology in the seminary. As one reviewer of the book noted, “Seminary formation has taken an important step forward with the publication of this book.”



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For information about the Institute for Priestly Formation, visit www.creighton.edu/ipf.