

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION



Vol. XVII, No. 2, 2019

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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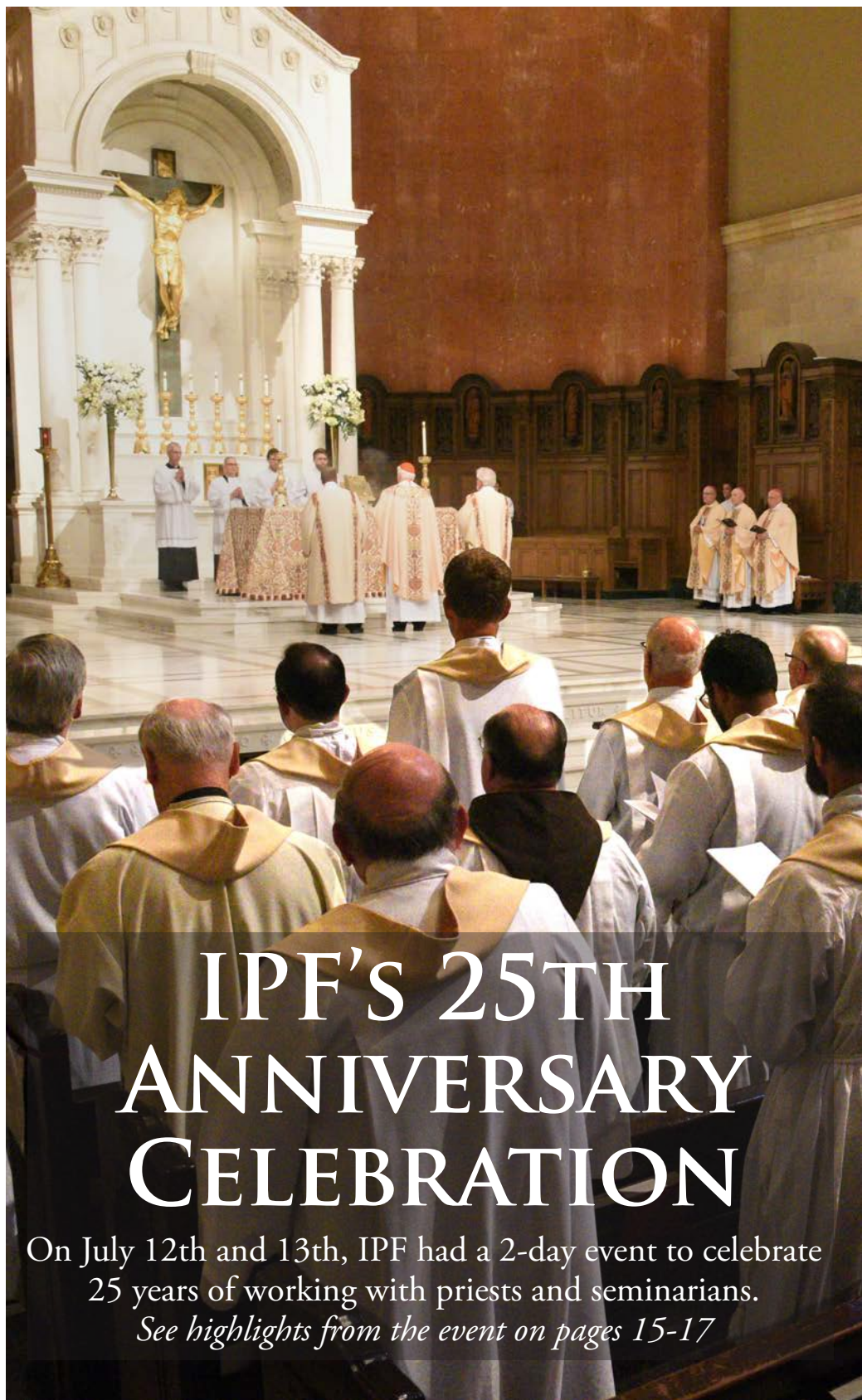
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IPF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On July 12th and 13th, IPF had a 2-day event to celebrate 25 years of working with priests and seminarians.

See highlights from the event on pages 15-17

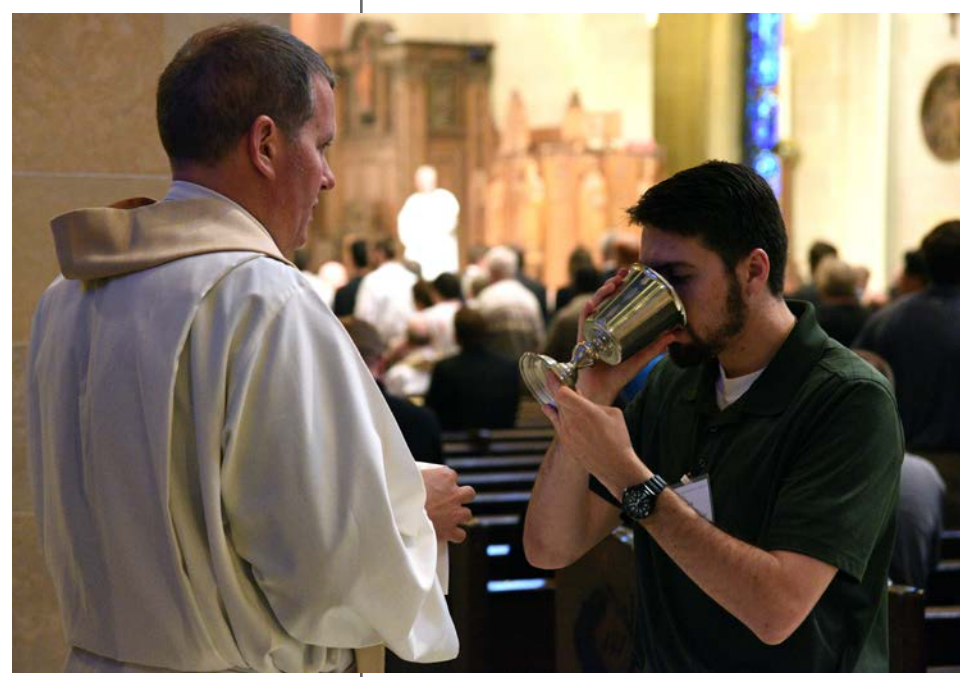


- BISHOPS ADVISORY COUNCIL
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Archbishop of Louisville
Most Rev. George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha
Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Most Rev. David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay
Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

Pictured left: Cardinal O'Brien processes into St Cecilia's Cathedral for the 25th Anniversary Mass.

Pictured right: Seminarian John Lado is pictured with Fr. Daniel Andrews at the Mass for the 25th Anniversary.

See more about the 25th Anniversary Celebration and Mass on pages 15 to 17, with additional pictures and highlights from the 3-day event.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



Dear Friends,

Recent months have been a whirlwind of activity as we welcomed summer participants to campus and celebrated the Lord's goodness to us in the 25 years of IPF's history.

This summer we hosted 177 seminarians for our nine-week seminarian program; they came from 69 different dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Vancouver, the Dioceses of Prince George and Regina, Canada, and Phat Diem, Vietnam. Six seminary spiritual directors participated in our three-week seminar; the Spiritual Exercises program hosted 5 priests and 15 seminarians.

Just before summer we piloted a pre-ordination retreat with four participants, hosted by the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Clearwater. We're planning for another pre-ordination retreat in December at the Pax Christi Retreat House in Corpus Christi. And as our current round of the Spiritual Direction Training Program winds toward its conclusion we are accepting applications for a new round opening in April/May of 2020.

Without a doubt, one of the highlights of the summer was our anniversary celebration held in Omaha July 12-13. Look inside this issue for extensive coverage of the events and check out our new video, "Hearts on Fire," which premiered at the anniversary banquet. You can find it on our website along with the anniversary homily and other talks.

Having celebrated God's goodness to us over these 25 years, we are also seeking his guidance in looking toward the future. With that in mind, our strategic planning process is continuing during these weeks and months. We ask your prayerful support for this important undertaking.

As always, our hearts are full of gratitude to those who continue to support our mission by their prayers and financial sacrifices. We are especially grateful to those who contributed to the anniversary celebration in the form of sponsorships and the Founder's Fund. Thanks to all of you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Richard J. Gabuzda

Fr. Richard Gabuzda,
Executive Director of IPF



THEN AND NOW

A Reflection on IPF's 25 Year History



By: Fr. Richard Gabuzda

A quick look back, and a glance at today gives us pause to wonder: what will the Lord do in the next 25 years that we cannot even imagine today?

As I reflect on 25 years of the life in the Institute, my mind goes back to the earliest days. What was it like then, and what has the Lord brought about during these years? From founding to blossoming, IPF then and now. Here are a few glimpses back in time and a look at where things have come:

Then . . . we asked ourselves what institution or diocese would welcome us to begin a program?

Creighton University did . . . and now we also partner with the University of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago, the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Clearwater and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

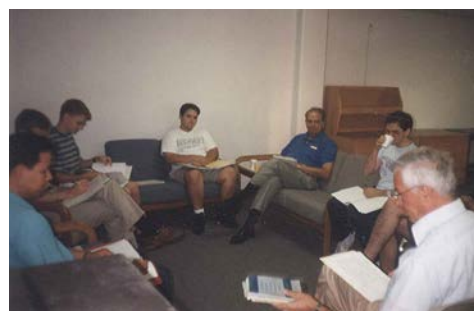
When we first walked onto Creighton's campus to discuss initial arrangements for summer, we wondered what it would be like to fill Deglman Hall (about 40 rooms). These days

during the summer we more than fill Swanson Hall with 175 seminarians plus staff, while also using two floors of McGloin Hall.

In the earliest years we often wondered if we would make it to the next year, would anyone come? These days we have a waiting list for the seminarian program. From six alumni in 1995, we now have about 4,000 alumni of just that one program.

We began with our seminarian program and the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors. Those programs continue, but we have since added the Spiritual Direction Training Program, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, Retreat for Seminary Faculty, Retreat for Vocation Directors, Alumni Retreats and the Seminar for Seminary Theologians.

In the beginning, three of us did everything. In recent years, our staff has



Above: The first 6 seminarians from the 1995 class



Above: Fr. Rafferty and Dr. Ed Hogan, circa 2002



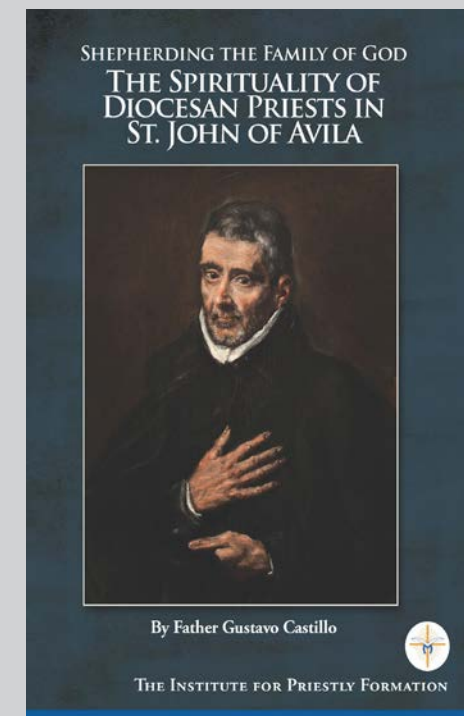
Above: The four founders posing with Our Lady

grown to 15. When we first moved to Omaha in 1996, my residence hall room was the office and my dot-matrix printer did it all (and remember that Google had not yet been founded!). After twenty-five years, we occupy multiple floors of Campion House with eight printers and multiple PCs.

Beginning with our first symposium in 2001 we would print proceedings to symposia and distribute them to participants with no thought of actually publishing materials. Beginning in 2007 we began IPF Publications with one book and now our catalogue features 30 titles.

Our original funding came from several East Coast foundations, one of which could not support us when we moved to the Midwest. We now have a steady partnership with the Knights of Columbus, Serra International and other foundations, not to mention thousands of steady benefactors and friends.

Then . . . and now. A quick look back, and a glance at today gives us pause to wonder: what will the Lord do in the next 25 years that we cannot even imagine today? Come, Holy Spirit!



\$13.95

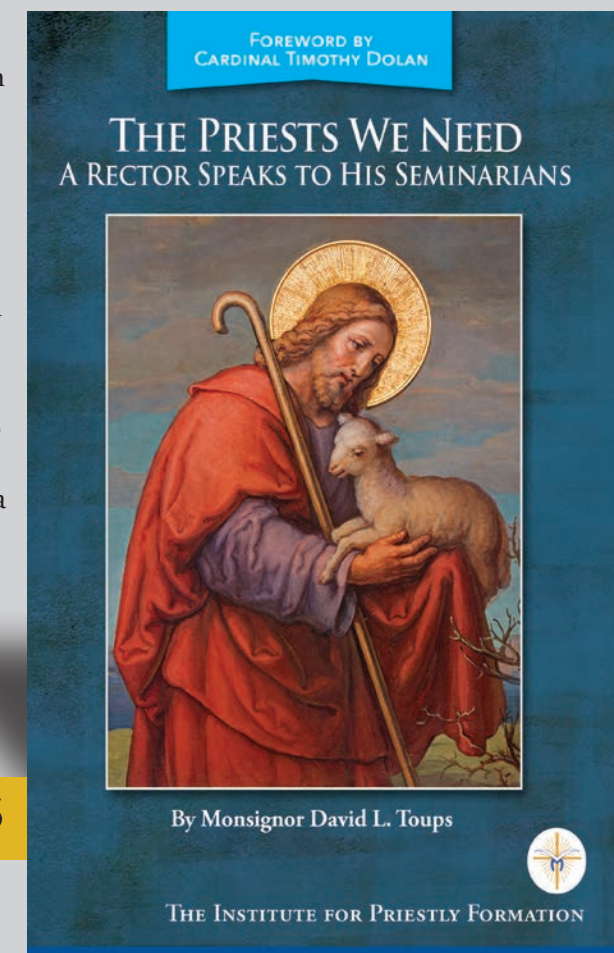
We are in a crucial moment when there is growing awareness that we are living in a time of reform and renewal in the Catholic Church. The Church in our time has troubles with striking similarities to those of St. John of Avila in pre-Reformation Europe. Pope Francis's words resonate in both time periods: "We are not living in an era of change but a change of era." As in every period of the Church's history, the key to her reform and renewal is the reform and renewal of the priesthood.

NEWEST IPF PUBLICATIONS

Order these publications online at www.ipfpublications.org

Msgr. David Toups's newest book is a selection of presentations that he has given to his seminarians over the course of his tenure as the Rector of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. This book is about the hope, transparency, integration, freedom, spirituality, and selflessness necessary for a man who is called to the very real and demanding life of priesthood.

\$9.95



By Monsignor David L. Toups

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

BEING LED BY GOD

A reflection from Fr. Chris Seith, who has been engaged with IPF Programs as a seminarian and a priest

Over the last few years, I have had the pleasure of intensely studying the work of a brilliant 20th century philosopher, Josef Pieper. Last year I came across a quote of his that fits in so well with the mission of IPF. He wrote:

Wherever a “new generation” takes up the attack against the resisting forces of evil, or against a tense obsession with a security which clings to the delusion that the disharmony of the world is fundamentally curable by cautious and correct “tactics”, it is above all necessary to maintain a lively and vigilant awareness that such fighting can only reach beyond sound and fury if it draws its strongest forces from the fortitude of the mystical life, which dares to submit unconditionally to the governance of God.

Pieper wrote these words in Germany in the 1930s as the Nazis were overwhelming his beloved homeland. In the midst of very real, tangible expressions of evil, he was firmly convinced that to resist it, what was needed was more than mere “tactics” or changes of structure. What was needed was a soul capable of being led by God.

I was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington in 2014. Prior to that, I participated in IPF’s Seminarian Summer Program in 2010 and remember learning of the absolutely essential need for a priest to be rooted in prayer, to find his identity in his relationship with the Father. At the time, I certainly believed IPF’s mantra

and tried my best to live accordingly. But it wasn’t until last year that I fully appreciated what IPF gave me. As news of the Church scandal continued to surface and as the Archdiocese of Washington became something of the epicenter of it all, I felt like the Enemy of human nature was screaming at me, drawing my attention to his chaotic power. The heaviness of it all and the temptations to despair were overwhelming.

I wish I could say that I remained rooted in prayer and simply kept my eyes on Christ in joyful expectation of his victory. I did not. St. Peter is my confirmation saint for a reason. Like Peter, I was distracted by the wind and waves around me. But calling out to the Lord for salvation, He answered by inviting me to serve as a spiritual director for the seminarians at IPF. I had already taken IPF’s summer spiritual direction course and was planning to continue my training at the program in Mundelein. But this past summer, as I became aware of God’s life within the hearts of these seminarians, I realized the truth of Pieper’s words. I remembered, existentially more than intellectually, that the real power to overcome evil comes from a life wholly governed by God’s love. When a man becomes capable of receiving God into his heart, evil simply has no power over him. Like our Blessed Mother, it is the person who submits unconditionally to the governance of God who tramples Satan underfoot.

WHEN A MAN BECOMES CAPABLE OF RECEIVING GOD INTO HIS HEART, EVIL SIMPLY HAS NO POWER OVER HIM.



“In the midst of very real, tangible expressions of evil, he was firmly convinced that to resist it, what was needed was more than mere ‘tactics’ or changes of structure. What was needed was a soul capable of being led by God.”
- Fr. Chris Seith, Archdiocese of Washington

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF IPF PROGRAMS



Since the beginning of IPF, 51 different international dioceses have sent participants to various programs. This summer we were privileged to welcome seminarians and priests from 9 international dioceses.

In the seminarian program, three Canadian dioceses were represented: Prince George, Regina and Vancouver. Another seminarian, currently studying in St. Louis, is from the Diocese of Phat Diem, Vietnam. Seminar participants came from the dioceses of Anse-à-Veau and Miragoâne, Haiti; Lugazi, Uganda; and Vancouver, Canada. The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (30-day retreat) was especially blessed with many participants from our neighbors to the north. A total of eight priests and seminarians from Kingston, Ottawa and Toronto were with us for those weeks.

We were also blessed to have faculty and staff from various countries join us for parts of the summer. Father Éamonn Bourke, Archdiocese of Dublin, served as a spiritual director for the eight-day silent retreat for seminarians. Fr. Éamonn, chaplain at University College, Dublin, first encountered IPF through the annual vocation directors’ retreat in Florida and has been with us in past summers as well.

Father Nicholas Cachia, a priest of

the Archdiocese of Malta, currently teaches at St. Vincent De Paul Seminary, Boynton Beach, Florida. Having completed the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors and the Spiritual Exercises with IPF, he served as an instructor for the IPF 504 course (The Mystery of the Liturgy: Receiving in Celebration and in Life) and as a spiritual director for the Spiritual Exercises program. Father Cachia is also a member of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.

Sister Gill Goulding, CJ, a native of Scotland, is a professor of theology at Regis College in Toronto. At IPF Sister Gill has directed the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for many years. Fr. Bernard Messier, a Companion of the Cross based in Ottawa, is completing the Spiritual Direction Training Program and served as a spiritual director for the eight-day silent retreat for seminarians. Fr. Paul Simms from British Columbia completed the Spiritual Direction Training Program and returned for a second year to teach in the IPF 503 course (Prayer and Priestly Identity).

The presence of these visitors from beyond the United States greatly enriched and blessed our summer weeks. We hope and pray that their time with us was a blessing for them as well.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 17-20, 2019
Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors
New Orleans, LA

OCTOBER 24, 2019
St. John Paul II Fund Mass and Dinner
Christ the King Parish, Omaha, NE

OCTOBER 30, 2019
Mission Advisory Council Meeting
Omaha, NE

NOVEMBER 4-11, 2019
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine Providence, Clearwater, FL

NOVEMBER 9, 2019
Bishops Advisory Council Meeting
USCCB Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

DECEMBER 14-23, 2019
Pre-Ordination Retreat
Pax Christi Retreat Center, Corpus Christi, TX

Continued on the next page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, CONTINUED

DECEMBER 14, 2019
Advent Morning of Reflection
 Christ the King Parish,
 Omaha, NE

JANUARY 12-17, 2020
Spiritual Direction Training Program - A
 Mundelein Seminary,
 Mundelein, IL

JANUARY 19-27, 2020
NCDVD Annual Retreat
 Bethany Center, Tampa, FL

FEBRUARY 9-14, 2020
Spiritual Direction Training Program - B
 Mundelein Seminary,
 Mundelein, IL

FEBRUARY 17-24, 2020
Alumni Retreat
 Cenacle of Divine Providence,
 Clearwater, FL

MARCH 14, 2020
Lenten Morning of Reflection
 Christ the King Parish,
 Omaha, NE

SO MANY BLESSINGS

Little did she know that when she said “yes” to the invitation to become IPF’s Spiritual Moms Coordinator it would be accompanied by so many blessings. Lisa Goldsmith said yes because she had served as a Spiritual Mom and continues to value the relationships with her seminarian “sons” even after their ordination. She said yes because she welcomed the opportunity to become more involved with IPF. But most importantly, she said yes because she realizes the importance and impact prayer can have. She appreciates, as do so many other women who have prayed for IPF seminarians during their summer in Omaha, how much the men who are discerning their vocation need prayer. “We need to ‘double down’ on prayer for seminarians and priests, especially now during this difficult time in the Church,” she said.

Lisa was blessed by many conversations with Spiritual Moms this summer, her first as the coordinator of the apostolate. One interaction in particular stands out.

“An elderly woman called and left me a message letting me know that due to her declining health she was not going to be able to pray for a specific seminarian as she had done in the past but would like to receive a list and

“I CAN’T SPEAK WELL, BUT I CAN PRAY WELL.”

pray for all of them. In the message, which is still on my phone, she said in a faltering voice, ‘I can’t speak well, but I can pray well’. That simple sentence blessed me tremendously.”

Lisa recalls a phone call from a couple who are not Catholic but

occasionally visit a Catholic church in the area. They saw an announcement in a bulletin and asked to receive a list of all the seminarians so they could pray for them. They, too, understand the efficacy of intercessory prayer as do all the 300 plus moms who signed up this summer to pray during the nine-week program.

IPF wishes to thank Lisa for her many hours of answering phone calls and email messages related to her role as coordinator. May the blessings of her “yes” continue for Lisa, for the Spiritual Moms, and for their seminarian sons for many summers to come.



So many happy, smiling faces at Friends Night! From top left to bottom right: 1) Seminarian Peter Schirripa spoke about his experience this summer. 2) Seminarian Jacob Mezzacapa and Kathy Andreason, his Spiritual Mom. 3) Spiritual Mom Katie Keller and seminarian Augustine Onuoha. 4) Spiritual Mom Jean Schneiderwind and seminarian Hao Tran. 5) Spiritual Mom Peg Ricketts and seminarian Daniel Perez. 6) Seminarian Anthony Barranco with Spiritual Mom Denise Bierma and her husband. 7) Spiritual Mom Carol Andress and seminarian John Lado. 8) Seminarian Luis Rodarte, also spoke about his summer experience.



“I BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF!”

Mark 9:24

By: Fr. Jeff Eirvin
Current Participant in the 2017-2020 Spiritual Direction Training Program

In January of 2015 I attended an 8-day Winter Retreat for Vocation Directors offered through the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) and staffed by IPF spiritual directors. The retreat was life changing. In particular, my spiritual director helped me understand, and claim, an experience of God that pointed my heart toward priesthood.

Prior to seminary I worked as a graphic designer in Portland, Oregon. My heart was restless. On a still morning in 2005 I found myself alone in Eucharist Adoration. Not realizing it at the time, I began relating everything on my heart to Jesus fully present to me in the Eucharist. I was suddenly overcome by the love of God. It was a love that was total, unconditional - a pure gift. The only response I could muster was a total gift of myself in return which culminated in a strong desire to enter seminary and discern a priestly vocation.

Ten years later, on that Winter Retreat for Vocation Directors, my spiritual director unpacked that experience of God with me. He did so with such clarity, boldness and authority that it removed lingering doubts about that personal encounter with God. I now understand, and am able to claim, a simple truth – this is how God loves me. It’s a love that is constant and so profoundly personal. I believed, but I needed someone to “help my unbelief!”

Continued on page 14

25 YEARS OF PRIESTLY FORMATION



TWENTY-FIFTH

25

ANNIVERSARY

A 25 YEAR TIMELINE OF HIGHLIGHTS

From the humble beginnings, with Fr. John Horn S.J. directing Kathy Kanavy and Fr. Richard Gabuzda on retreat, to today, God has blessed the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation. Behind this page is a timeline of the highlights and important steps taken throughout the years to develop the seeds that God has planted. From publications to programs, the work of IPF has grown and flourished in serving priests, seminarians and bishops throughout the United States and beyond. Turn the page and take a look at the graces received throughout the past 25 years.



OPEN HERE



1994-2019: 25 YEARS OF IPF



1992
30 DAY SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT
Fr. Richard Gabuzda and Kathy Kanavy make a 30 day retreat on the campus of Creighton University, directed by Fr. John Horn, S.J.

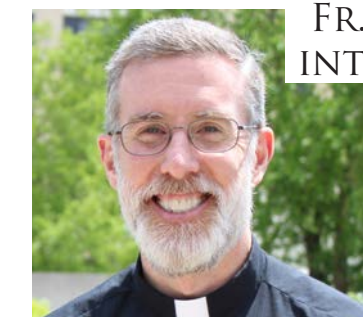
1993
THE FOURTH FOUNDER
Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J. is approached with the program ideas. The ideas echo something he had asked seminaries to consider founding 10 years ago. He joins the work in helping to found IPF.



PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI
In 2014, IPF celebrated 20 years by going on pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with several staff members and friends of the Institute.



IPF PRIESTS OF ST JOSEPH BEGIN TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY
Fr. Gabuzda and Fr. Rafferty begin living together in community in Omaha, as they begin a process of discernment, leading to the formation of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.



FR. RAFFERTY IS INCARDINATED INTO THE OMAHA ARCHDIOCESE
In 2017, Fr. Rafferty was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Omaha and was able to commit himself fully to the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.

THE FIRST CLASS
6 seminarians come to Omaha, NE, to take part in the first summer program.

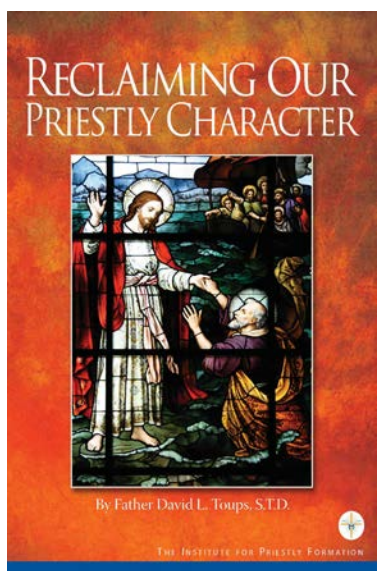


IPF BEGINS TO OFFER THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES
As the summer seminarian program continues to grow, reaching over 100 enrolled in the summer of 2000, IPF also added the 30-Day Spiritual Exercises as a program for seminarians and priests to deepen their relationship with the Lord.

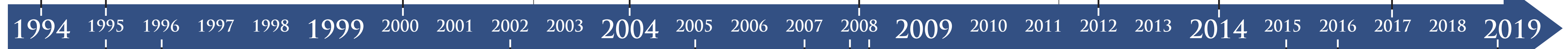
IPF VISITS ST JOHN PAUL II
IPF Staff and Friends visit Rome on Pilgrimage during IPF's 10th anniversary, meeting Pope John Paul II and presenting him with a booklet from one of IPF's Symposia.



THE FIRST PUBLICATION
The first IPF book, "Reclaiming Our Priestly Character", written by Msgr. David Toups, is published and made available as a resource in the mission of IPF.

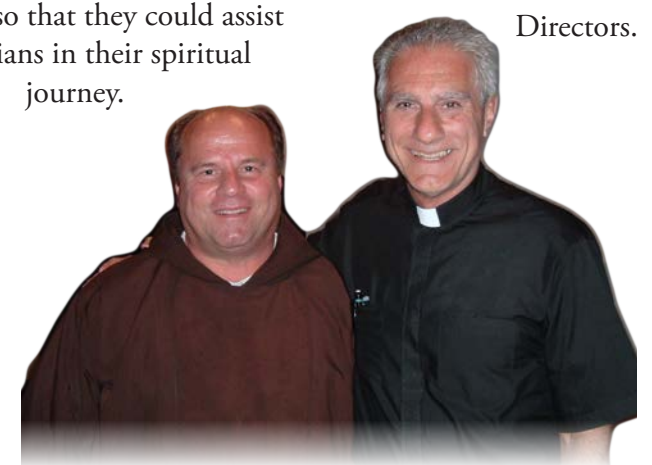


IPF BEGINS



FIRST SEMINAR FOR SEMINARY SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS
Led by Fr. Joe Kelly, the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors taught diocesan priests the fundamentals of spiritual direction, so that they could assist seminarians in their spiritual journey.

A SECOND SEMINAR LEADER
Fr. Vincent Fortunato, O.F.M. Cap., joins Fr. Joe Kelly in teaching the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors.

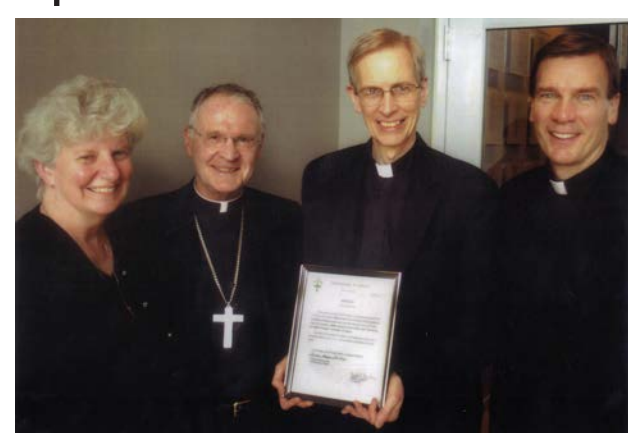


SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS
University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary welcomes the first group of diocesan priests attending IPF's 3 year Spiritual Direction Training Program.



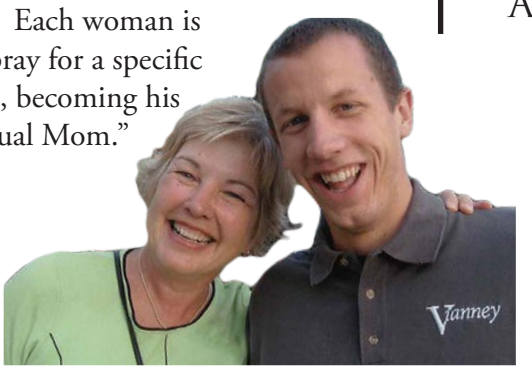
THE MISSION ADVISORY COUNCIL IS CREATED
A group of advisors, from across the nation, is formed to help advise IPF about future endeavors and current concerns as the Institute grows.

IPF FOUNDATION IS CREATED
The IPF Foundation, created to provide for the Institute's long-term financial stability, begins with Tom Pogge serving as the Foundation's Executive Director.



IPF BECOMES A PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF THE FAITHFUL
In March of 2008, Archbishop Elden Curtiss signed a decree that recognized IPF as a Public Association of the Faithful - an officially recognized body in the Church which receives a mission from the Church to achieve the purposes of its charism (the gift given by the Holy Spirit).

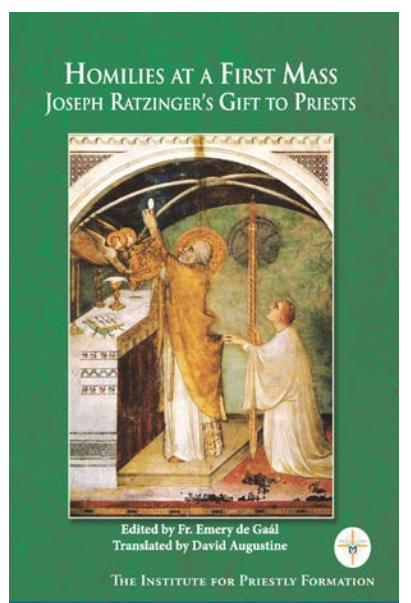
SPIRITUAL MOMS BEGIN TO PRAY FOR SEMINARIAN SONS
Local women begin to pray for summer seminarian participants. Each woman is assigned to pray for a specific seminarian, becoming his "Spiritual Mom."



IPF PRIESTS OF ST JOSEPH IS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED
In October of 2015, Archbishop George Lucas approved the community and statutes of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph, allowing it to grow and recruit new members.



IPF SYMPOSIUM ON THE RATIO FUNDAMENTALIS
Held at the St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Florida, the Symposium on the Ratio Fundamental, a document written on *The Gift of the Priesthood*, allowed seminary faculty to come together and discuss how the ideals in the document could be applied to seminary life.



THE 20TH PUBLICATION
IPF Publications has been busy producing resources for priests, seminarians, seminary faculty and the laity. The 20th publication, "Homilies at a First Mass: Joseph Ratzinger's Gift to Priests" was published in 2016.

We offer great thanksgiving for the graces of the last 25 years, and look forward to the future!

“I BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF!”

Continued from page 9

In February of 2020 I will complete the three-year Spiritual Director Training Program through IPF. I enrolled in the program partially because I was attracted to the way in which my spiritual director was able to sift through my experience of God and hold it up to me as a spiritual fact that cannot be doubted. If this is how God relates to me, then I can trust it fully and orientate my life around this relationship in great freedom. So many of us move through life held captive by lingering doubts about our experience of God. A well-trained spiritual director assists Jesus in setting captives free.

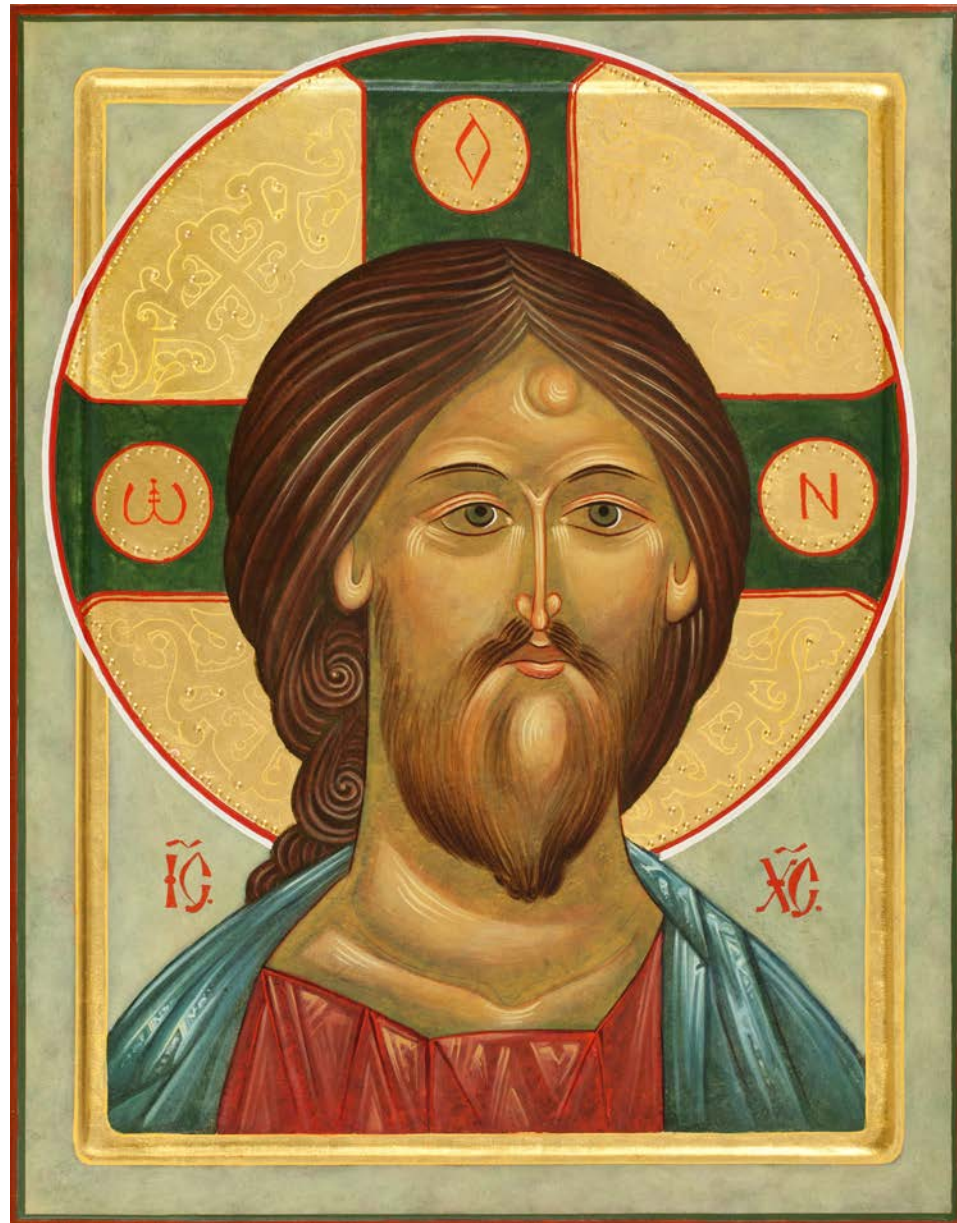
Because of the Spiritual Direction Training Program, I am now better equipped to help others understand, and claim their own personal experience of God so they can respond in freedom to God's call. It is a great privilege to assist the discerning heart, with Jesus, as it cries out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

A GIFT OF GREAT BEAUTY

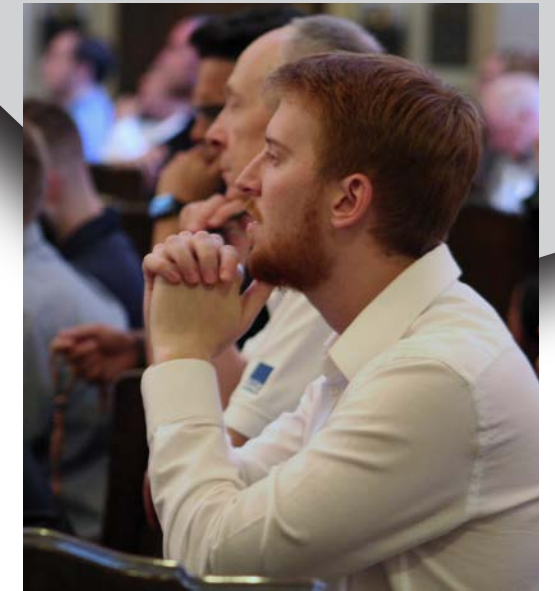
Dr. Perry Williams commissioned the icon of Christ the Pantocrator (Lord of the Universe), seen to the right, specifically for the Institute for Priestly Formation. The icon was written by Jane Tan Creti. She has also written two other icons for IPF, including one of our patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe. We sincerely wish to thank Dr. Williams for his generosity in commissioning this beautiful icon.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2020-2023 SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

Contact the IPF office at 402-546-6384, to learn more.



SYNOPSIS OF IPF'S 25TH CELEBRATION

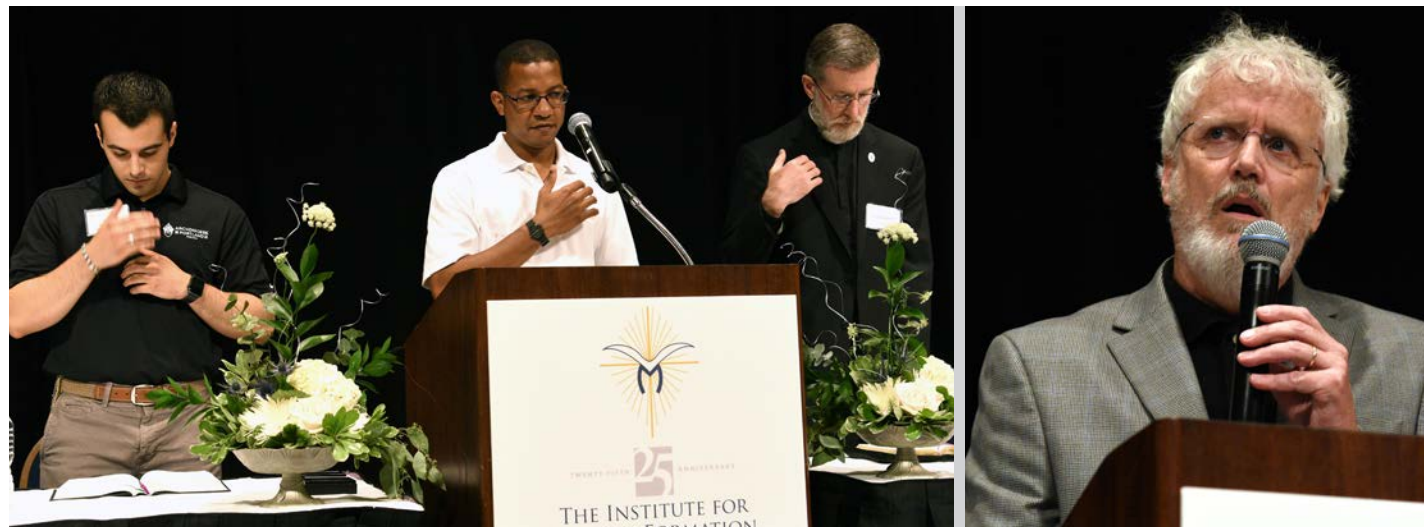


IPF began the event on Friday evening with Adoration and Evening Prayer at St. Cecilia Cathedral. After Adoration, the Serrans hosted an event for out-of-town guests and IPF summer faculty. IPF was grateful to have Archbishop Lucas, Cardinal O'Brien and Bishop Nickless join us, as well as local council members and several executives from Serra International.



SYNOPSIS OF IPF'S 25TH CELEBRATION, CONTINUED

Saturday morning began with prayer, led by Fr. Rafferty, seminarian Justin Echevarria and seminarian Sean Crepin. Then, Deacon James Keating spoke about being "In the Midst of the Ordinary". After a short break, Dr. Tom Neal began his presentation on "Kindling the Servants of Divine Fire." Both morning presentations can be found on the IPF website (www.priestlyformation.org). IPF presented the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" award to Mrs. Rosemary Sullivan, Executive Director of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors and Msgr. Ed Griesedieck, a priest from St. Louis who is also a member of the IPF summer staff.



Saturday evening, Mass was held at Omaha's Cathedral with Cardinal O'Brien as the main celebrant (see more on his homily below). After Mass, a banquet was held at the Hilton Omaha, where the "Hearts on Fire" video (made in honor of IPF's 25th) was shown.



FIND BOTH MORNING PRESENTATIONS ON THE IPF WEBSITE:

priestlyformation.org



CARDINAL O'BRIEN'S HOMILY FOR IPF'S ANNIVERSARY

One of the highlights of our 25th Anniversary celebration was Mass held at St. Cecilia Cathedral on Saturday evening, July 13th. The large crowd was led in prayer by His Eminence Edwin Cardinal O'Brien, Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Having served terms as the rector of both St. Joseph's Seminary in New York and the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, Cardinal O'Brien spoke as one who knows the process of priestly formation from the inside. Cardinal O'Brien also visited

IPF during the summer of 2015 and so had been aware of IPF's mission for some time.

The Cardinal's heartfelt homily focused on the Gospel of that Sunday celebration, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus' directive at the end of the parable, "Do this and you will live," Cardinal O'Brien stated, was an invitation to "God-like, Christ-like charity, a totally dispossessive love, which all Christians, and especially every priest is called to imitate."

His words revealed the challenges that priests of today face, challenges

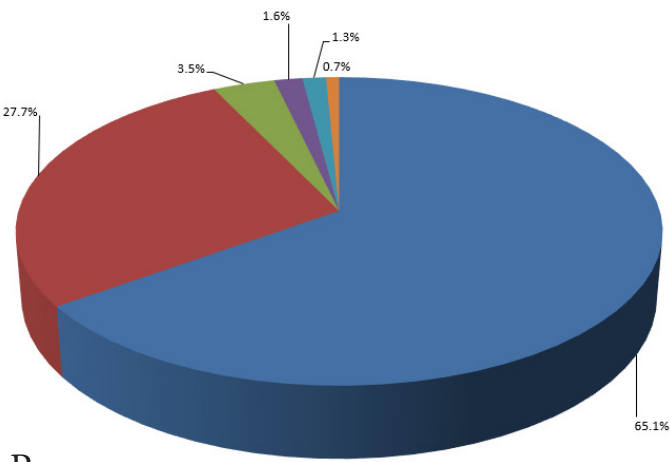
to living that total, self-sacrificing love lived by Jesus, the Good Samaritan. He then turned to the importance of priestly formation. Cardinal O'Brien referred to the strength of seminary programs throughout the United States and situated the Institute within that framework by noting, ". . . And this unique and heaven-sent Institute for Priestly Formation is their ideal and heralded complement."

Listen to Cardinal O'Brien's inspiring words on the IPF website: priestlyformation.org

2018 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

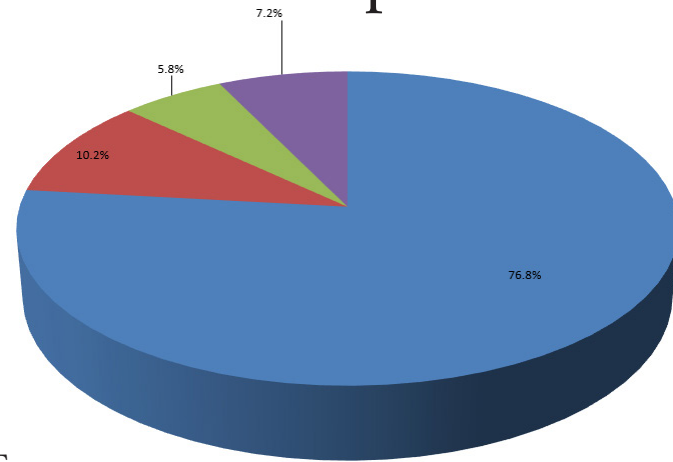
THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

2018 Revenues



Revenues:	
Program Fees, Tuition, Room and Board	\$2,033,401
Contributions and Special Events	865,469
Grants	110,000
John Paul II Fund	50,000
Other Auxiliary Income	41,651
Investment Income	23,220
	\$3,123,741

2018 Expenses



Expenses:	
Program Expenses	\$2,531,776
Fundraising	336,107
Support to IPF Foundation	192,032
General and Administrative	238,753
	\$3,298,668

A NOTE TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Thank you! IPF could not continue to impact the lives and ministries of seminarians and priests without the faithful support of our generous benefactors. Resources, programs, retreats and seminars are all made possible because of our faithful partners in mission who continue to give so generously to IPF.

The new tax code, crisis in the Church, and economic discontent

combined to make fundraising in 2018 particularly challenging. Although we met many of our goals (particularly with regard to new donors and an increase of regular monthly donations), we did not meet the full budgetary need of the Institute. Fortunately, the previous year's surplus equipped us to enter 2019, the 25th anniversary year, on solid financial footing.

As we celebrate all that God has

accomplished over the last year, we look with expectancy for His financial provision in the coming years. Again, please know our deep gratitude for those whose heart for the priesthood led them to give so generously to The Institute for Priestly Formation. Please continue to keep IPF in your prayers and may God grant you every grace you need to embrace His call to discipleship.

GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT

Tim and Sally O'Neill, accompanied by Tom Pogge and Larry Dwyer, presented a check for \$125,000 to the founders of IPF, establishing a Founders Fund intended to promote awareness of the mission so dear to their hearts. Fr. Rich Gabuzda and Kathy Kanavy received the gift with humble gratitude. Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J. and Fr. John Horn, S.J. were not able to be present, but later expressed their joy and surprise. The funds were raised as an expression of gratitude from local people who were impacted directly, or indirectly by the founder's desire to do something good for our Church.



SUPPORT OF THE IPF MISSION

The impact of the Institute for Priestly Formation in the lives of bishops, priests and seminarians over the last twenty-five years is a profound reason for hope. Who would have thought that a small little initiative in the middle of the country would grow to affect the priesthood across the United States and the world?

To continue the mission, IPF is dependent upon charitable support. Each year, tuition and fees account for just over 2/3 of the budget and the rest comes from people like you - our donors. That means to continue operations we must raise \$1.3 million a year. Moreover, every time a resource or program is added that number grows. Add in inflation, and the situation seems daunting.

Yet, God continues to faithfully provide for the needs of the Institute through our many benefactors. This year's 25th anniversary event, *A Reason for Your Hope*, is just such an example. Hosting a conference to acknowledge what God has made possible by bringing people together from across the last 25 years to give thanks for the graces received through IPF, was simply not in the budget.

Knowing that it was the right thing to do, we reached out to our alumni and friends and asked them to help. Sponsorships were made at

"As a priest, I longed for a place where my spiritual desires could be complimented and deepened by my theological desires. I have found that synthesis in IPF, and it continues to enrich me daily as a priest."

- Rev. Walter Oxley, Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State



the gold, silver, and bronze level as well as opportunities for refreshment underwriting, program ads, and table and priest attendance underwriting. Included among the gold level sponsors were the Archdiocese of Omaha, St. Timothy's Catholic Church, Lutz, FL, the Knights of Columbus and a long-time benefactor. At the silver sponsorship level, there were two individual families, the Diocese of Grand Island and the Queen of Peace Catholic Community, Gainesville, FL. The bronze level sponsors included the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Diocese of Phoenix, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, and four benefactor families. Altogether, 112 individuals and organizations helped sponsor the anniversary celebration with gifts totaling just over \$100,000.

In many ways, the financial continuation of IPF is as much a miracle as the spiritual transformation that takes place in the lives of the men

who participate in our programs and the many people who deepen their encounter with Jesus because of what is brought home to their parishes. We give thanks daily that so many of you see IPF as a reason for hope in our Church. We are deeply grateful to God, that He has raised up so many with a heart for His priests. Your generosity is as vital to the work of IPF as the efforts of the many spiritual directors who come from across the country to guide men towards deeper intimacy with the Trinity.

The mission of IPF is perhaps more relevant today than it was 25 years ago. The world desperately needs shepherds with Christ's own heart for the people. Continue to pray for IPF and share with others how the mission of IPF trickles down to bless the lives of people in the pews. Please, remember IPF in your year-end giving. May God, the giver of all that is good, hold us all close.

OBEDIENCE AND FEAR: DEEPENING OUR THEOLOGY AND HEALING OUR MISTRUST

In September seven theologians and deans met at the Institute for Priestly Formation on the campus of Creighton University. The invited theologians came from various institutions across the country. The goal of the Seminar was to engage theologians in conversation and prayer about the role of obedience in priestly formation.

The popular and political culture has defaced the authentic understanding of obedience, limiting our recognition of its truth, and stunting our capacity to trust God and offer ourselves to Him in freedom. Seminary formation entails the deepest of personal surrender on the part of the seminarian to both God and his bishop. How can seminary formators introduce seminarians into the true heart of obedience, one that frees and gives life? Alternately, how can formators reduce any fear in seminarians so they truly reveal their hearts to their bishops, trusting that in doing so their true vocation will be manifested?

The research conducted by the theologians will constitute the contents of an IPF Publications book to appear in 2020, serving the ongoing formation needs of seminary faculty worldwide.

The 2019 Seminar for Seminary Theologians participants, pictured below from left to right, include: Christina Lynch, Staff Psychologist at St. John Seminary in Denver; Msgr. Michael Heintz, Professor of Theology and Academic Dean at Mount St. Mary

Seminary; Melanie Barrett, Professor of Theology at Mundelein Seminary; Dan Burns, Academic Dean at St. Joseph College Seminary in Louisiana; Peter Nguyen, SJ, Professor of Theology at Creighton University in Omaha; Bishop Andrew Cozzens from the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St Paul; Peter Ryan, SJ, Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit; and Deacon James Keating, Director of Theological Formation at IPF.



VISITING THEOLOGIAN

Msgr. Michael Heintz, Ph.D., Academic Dean at Mt. St. Mary Seminary in Maryland was the 2019 Visiting Theologian for IPF this past summer. He lectured on how the Church Fathers engaged the topic of theology and how this approach has relevance for seminary formation today.



“Intellectual formation, as distinct from academics, is concerned with forming the mind of the man in accord with the revealed truth about the way things are . . . and to deepen [seminarians] transformation and configuration to their Lord. It’s a far cry from filling their heads with data.” Msgr. Heintz led the summer faculty of theologians and spiritual directors in a lively dialogue about the role theology plays in priestly formation and the need to resist reducing seminary too narrowly to being ‘school.’ “The contemporary seminary . . . would benefit enormously . . . from a reengagement with the way the Fathers ‘did’ theology. Theology that is at once ascetical, biblical, liturgical, sacramental, catechetical and pastoral is thereby also ecclesial and integrated. Seminary formators need to assure that seminarians not only integrate the four dimensions of their formation, but that intellectual formation itself becomes more integrated.”

Each summer IPF hosts a Visiting Theologian to update its summer faculty on some aspect of intellectual formation that touches upon the spiritual life of the seminarian. The previous two Visiting Theologians were Fr. Jacques Servais, SJ of Casa Balthasar, Rome; and Dr. Mary McCaughey, STD, Theologian at Oscott Seminary in England.

THE IPF PRIESTS OF ST. JOSEPH: TAKING VOWS

During the past months the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph have celebrated the gift of a new member in initial consecration. Fr. Rob Cadrecha of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, FL, professed first vows on Saturday, July 6, 2019, in the chapel at Nazareth House, the community house in Omaha. Even as diocesan priests, the Priests of Saint Joseph profess vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, as well as a fourth vow of lifelong service to diocesan priests and seminarians in their spiritual lives. Members make temporary profession each year for five years, after which time they are eligible to make permanent profession as members of the Priests of Saint Joseph.

In addition to Fr. Cadrecha, the newest member, the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph consists of Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Moderator of the association, and Fr. Jim Rafferty. Both are permanently professed members serving full-time at IPF in Omaha. Two other members of the association, Fr. Andy Gehringer of the Diocese of Allentown, PA, and Fr. Nicholas Cachia of the Archdiocese of Malta, made their first consecration last summer in Omaha and renewed their vows this summer.

Fr. Cachia assists in the summer program for seminarians as an

Pictured below: Fr. Rob Cadrecha of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, Florida, professed his first vows with the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.



instructor in a three week course, and also serves as a spiritual director in the Spiritual Exercises Program - the 30-Day Retreat. Fr. Cachia renewed his consecration in the community chapel in July. Fr. Cachia serves on the faculty of Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. Fr. Andy Gehringer regularly helps as a spiritual director with the seminarians’ eight-day silent retreat in the summer.

In celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Institute for Priestly Formation, several of the IPF Priests were able to make an annual silent directed retreat in Assisi in August. Following retreat, they were blessed to be able to celebrate Mass at the altar of Saint John Paul II, who wrote an Apostolic Exhortation on Saint Joseph, *The Guardian of the Redeemer*, as well as an Apostolic Exhortation on priestly formation, *Patores Dabo Vobis*. On that occasion, Fr. Gehringer was able to renew his profession of vows before the altar of Saint John Paul II, whose priestly witness and writing have been so foundational for the mission of IPF. To be so near to the tomb of Saint John Paul proved a grace and a privilege!

Also this year, the Lord has moved two priests to begin formation toward consecration as IPF Priests of Saint Joseph with their bishops’ permission. Fr. Jorge Garcia of the Diocese of San Bernardino, CA, and Fr. Josh Brown of the Diocese of Grand Island, NE, both began the two year formation process toward membership in the association. Fr. Garcia serves in seminary formation with the college seminarians at Junipero Serra House of Formation. Fr. Brown is a pastor in western Nebraska where he serves four churches in the area of North Platte.

During the formation period the priests read about Saint Joseph, the



Pictured above: Fr. Rafferty, Fr. Gabuzda and Fr. Gehringer at the tomb of Saint John Paul II, where Fr. Gehringer renewed his vows in August of 2019.

consecrated life, and the particular rule of life of the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph. In addition to their own personal prayer with these texts, the priests enter into regular fraternal conversation about their awareness of this “call within a call” to be a consecrated diocesan priest.

In total the Lord has blessed them with seven priests to date who have offered to dedicate themselves to the spiritual growth of their brother priests. Serving brother priests in their ongoing friendship with Christ for the sake of their ministry to others first attracted each of the Priests of Saint Joseph even before the association came to be, as though the Lord created the desire for this vocation in their hearts even before the structure came to exist in the Church. The association of priests provides a way of living this commitment to Christ and to brother priests that always seemed to be part of his priestly vocation.

Please pray for the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph that they would continue to grow exactly as the Father desires and that they would remain faithful to the Father’s will.



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SUMMER IPF PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION:

Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. showed off his ping pong skills in one of the tournaments put on by the seminarians this summer. There was also a spelling bee and numerous other group activities arranged by the men in leisure time outside of their times for prayer and study.

