



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

Fall 2021

Hearts on Fire

Magazine



Receiving God

After a year away, how would the summer program for seminarians once again flourish? Fr. Chris Seith, an IPF faculty member, wrote about his own experience coming back to Omaha this summer on pg 6.



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful
in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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www.priestlyformation.org

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Cover Photo:

Seminarians at Mass this summer in St. John's Church on Creighton's campus in Omaha.

Our Mission

In collaboration with Catholic seminaries and dioceses, we form seminarians, priests, and bishops in holiness and accompany them in their ongoing spiritual growth, so they can more effectively lead others to Christ.

Our Vision

We envision a joyful and powerful renewal of holiness across the U.S. Catholic Church as more diocesan seminarians, priests, and bishops seek and commit to a personal, deep, and sustained spiritual communion with the Trinity.

Our Objectives

1. Live out our beliefs and convictions in everything we do with humility and magnanimity, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, knowing we are nothing without God.
2. Stay focused on why we exist: to serve the spiritual formation needs of diocesan seminarians, priests, bishops, and those involved in priestly formation.
3. Ensure the ongoing excellence of our programs, retreats, publications, and activities by proactively seeking input and information from others.
4. Sustain and grow funding to ensure that IPF continues its mission for generations to come.

From the IPF Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

Looking at the number of great articles in our magazine this fall, I am struck by a common thread of "wanting to be together." The return of the Seminarian Summer Program, after last year's cancellation due to Covid, brought to light the strong desire to be together, in person. Many of the participants (seminarians, faculty, staff, or friends) commented on how much impact the community had on them this summer, whether it was being together in prayer, enjoying conversations, volunteering in Omaha, or going on an early morning run. What made the summer so enjoyable was time given to the Lord, and all of us being present to Christ and to each other.

IPF's Spiritual Direction Training Program continued the thread of "being together." A record number of the priest participants extended their yearly retreat with us. In a desire to be together with the Lord in prayer, and with the other priests on retreat — a fraternity emerges between our priest participants as they spend more time in prayer and collectively in each other's presence.

Celebrating Fr. Rich's 40th Anniversary was a chance for our staff to be together. It was a simple celebration, which is what Fr. Rich desired. We celebrated Mass and enjoyed lunch together.

Many of the staff, and faculty, were looking forward to having Fr. Nicholas Cachia come on board as a new full-time IPF staff member. Fr. Cachia was preparing to move to Omaha this summer when he died rather suddenly due to the effects of cancer. He is with us in our hearts and in the memories of the many years he served as an adjunct faculty member and a member of the Priests of St. Joseph. We offer prayers for him and ask for his intercession, that he might continue to help us follow God's design for IPF.

Our popular Advent Morning of Reflection has extended its reach. The local community in Omaha has a chance to get together on a Saturday morning in Advent, but those outside of Omaha will have an Advent reflection from Fr. Rob Cadrecha. This will hopefully give everyone a chance to be led in spiritual reflection, enriching their Advent experience.

Finally, we are all united in prayer and at the Eucharist each day. You are in our prayers daily. Please remember us in yours.

With gratitude,



Fr. Brian Welter,
Executive Director of IPF



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New IPF Foundation Staff Members



Kim Russell



Tina Targy

New IPF Foundation Board Members



Mr. Tim O'Neill



Mr. Lou Oberndorf



INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION
FOUNDATION

New Faces in the IPF Foundation: Expanding the Staff



As we enter the fourth quarter of our fiscal year, we have been very blessed. The Foundation team returned to campus when the Summer Seminarian Program began this year. It was great to be back together again in the office and wonderful to be with the summer seminarians and faculty.

For the first time since December of 2019, the Foundation is fully staffed. Kim Russell and Tina Targy have joined the IPF Foundation staff. Kim will become the new Executive Assistant to the President of the Foundation. Tina will serve IPF as the Event and Volunteer Coordinator, filling the vacant position left by Kristi Coughlin, who passed away in December 2019. Linda Antonelli is planning to retire on February 2, 2022, after 14 years of dedicated service to IPF. Over the next few months, Linda will be working with Tina and Kim, teaching them the "ropes" and training them in the myriad of tasks that have kept her busy in the IPF office. We all have much to learn from Linda's knowledge and dedication to the mission of IPF. Linda is an amazing faith-filled person who brings the teachings and love of Christ in all she does. We thank Linda for her many years of awesome service.

*For the first time since December of 2019,
the IPF Foundation is fully staffed.*

Kim Russell joins the IPF staff after working for St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church where she was the Assistant to the Stewardship and Development Director and their Technology Specialist. Kim and her family have been members of St. Robert's Church in Omaha since 2009. Kim and her husband, Jeff, were married in 2005 and are busy raising their two wonderful sons, Alex and Andrew.

Tina Targy joins the IPF staff after working for the Bellevue Public Schools District Office where she was the Assistant to the Communications Director. Tina has worked at St. Mary's Church for many years, first as the Assistant Youth Director and currently as their ChristLife Administrator. Tina and her husband, Steve, are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bellevue. They reside in Bellevue and have raised five children: Natalie, Will, Valerie, Julie and Maggie. They also have three grandsons: Calvin, Paxton and Ambrose. Tina and Steve's son, Will, is currently attending Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. He attended the IPF Summer Seminarian Program this year.

New Faces in the IPF Foundation: Continued

In September 2021, for the first time since January 2020, the Foundation Board of Directors met in person. It was so wonderful to see everyone face to face. Two new members were added to the Foundation Board of Directors.

Two new members were added to the Foundation Board of Directors, Tim O'Neill and Lou Oberndorf.

Tim O'Neill will serve as Vice Chairman of the IPF Foundation Board. He and his wife, Sally, have two sons, Connor and Collin. Tim is a respected member of the Omaha business community and owner of J. F. Bloom and Company. Tim and Sally are very active in the Catholic community, serving on numerous committees and boards, locally and nationally, and are longtime supporters of the IPF mission.

Lou Oberndorf, from Sarasota, Florida, is the first member of the Foundation Board from outside the Omaha area. Lou and his wife, Rosemary, have been very involved in the mission of IPF and bring great expertise to the Foundation Board. Lou founded METI (Medical Education Technologies, Inc.), the first company to deliver high fidelity patient simulation to healthcare education, which revolutionized how healthcare is taught around the world. Lou is a philanthropist who supports and serves on many boards and educational institutions around the country. Lou and Rosemary are very supportive of the IPF mission.

Tim and Lou are welcome additions to the IPF Foundation Board, and we are grateful for their service.



Advent Morning of Reflection Opportunities

Advent and Lenten Mornings of Reflections have been a gift from IPF to the laity for many years. This year, there will be a return to the Mass, breakfast, and presentation format in Omaha. There will also be an opportunity for those outside the Omaha area to view an Advent presentation by Fr. Rob Cadrecha, an IPF Priest of St. Joseph.

For those able to join us in person, we will gather for an 8:15 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Church in Omaha on Saturday, December 11th. A continental breakfast will follow in the social hall. Fr. Brian Welter will offer his reflections entitled, "Advent: A Long Exposure to the Light." There will be time for quiet contemplation and prayer. The morning will conclude by noon. There is no charge for this event.

For those not able to join us for the live event, there is a second opportunity to enrich your Advent journey. Fr. Cadrecha has recorded an Advent presentation which will be accessible from our website. If parishes would like to use his talk within a parish event, they are welcome to do so. If individuals wish to deepen their Advent experience, the video is perfect for them as well.

May your Advent walk toward the birth of Christ be enriched by these IPF events.



Receiving God

Growing the Fruits of IPF's Summer Seminarian Program

Written by: Fr. Chris Seith

I went to IPF this summer with a certain amount of trepidation. It had been two years since we last had the summer program, and Covid protocols and fears threatened to overshadow what I always remembered as a summer of freedom and peace. Furthermore, I did not know how the experience of 2020 would have affected the seminarians and me. Would the summer basically be just trying to “undo” the effects of that year? Would the fear, anxiety, anger, division, and distrust that was so rampant in our country be the common theme for the whole summer? I anticipated a heavy couple of months.

Oh me of little faith! Why did I doubt? When I arrived in Omaha, the men had just finished their first week of class in preparation for their 8-day silent retreat. And already there was a spirit of joy and freedom in many of their faces. Simply by hearing the truth of the Gospel spoken into the lies in their hearts, they were experiencing the new life of Christ and the freedom of the Holy Spirit. It was like seeing sons who knew the goodness of their Father. There was trust, hope, love, and joy. There had never been any reason for me to fear.

It is tempting to imagine that we will have to do so much work to undo the effects of 2020's turmoil. And, as always, IPF confronted that temptation in pure Marian fashion: “the most fruitful activity of the human person is to be able to receive God.” This summer was not a summer of trying to fix problems. It was a summer of receiving God's love into our hearts. Naturally, that fixed a lot of problems. But that was not the goal; it was the necessary fruit of divine intimacy. We do not have to do much to heal from 2020's barrage of hardships. No, like Mary, we have to receive God into our lives, messy and broken as they are.

Sometimes I wonder how the culture will heal from the last few years. This summer provided the answer for me. As these seminarians experienced the power of Christ in their lives, they in turn go out and direct others to receive Him. In the midst of a world overshadowed by darkness and sin, I cannot help but see the dawn of a new springtime arising before our eyes.

Photo above: Fr. Chris Seith and seminarian Gerard Gayou, [Archdiocese of Washington] look over class material together.

Remembering Fr. Nicholas Cachia

November 22, 1961 – July 28, 2021

With both grief and hope we mark the passing into eternal life of a dear friend, fellow staff member, and member of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph. Fr. Cachia went to the house of the Father following a three-year battle with cancer.

Fr. Cachia first discovered IPF through our website. As a priest of the Archdiocese of Malta (an island nation off the coast of Italy), he was searching for a program to enrich his work as a seminary spiritual director in the Archdiocesan seminary. He signed up for IPF's Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors and the Spiritual Exercises program during the 2003 summer session. From that first association with IPF, Fr. Cachia became an instructor in the IPF 504 summer course and, in recent years, also served as a spiritual director for the Spiritual Exercises program, while serving at St. Vincent De Paul Seminary in Florida.

Always mindful of his home diocese and its needs, he contributed his program stipends to a fund that allowed several Maltese seminarians to attend IPF's summer programs.

Fr. Cachia was accepted as an IPF Priest of St. Joseph in 2016 and professed his fourth temporary vows with the Association two weeks before his death. Throughout the three years of his battle with cancer, he often repeated his intention of offering his sufferings for the good of priests and, especially, for the IPF Priests of St. Joseph.

We are confident that he continues to intercede for us all, now doing so in the company of St. Joseph.



On the left: Fr. Gabuzda hugs Fr. Cachia after he renews his vows to the IPF Priests of St. Joseph in July 2021.

On the right: One of the earliest group photos of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph, in 2017.

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

St. John Paul II Fund for Priests

Annual Celebration Held on October 21st

One of the most exciting parts of recognizing a priest through the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests program are the stories contributors and organizers of an effort share about their priest.

This year's recipients have such diverse ministries and backgrounds. They include a Benedictine Abbot who became an associate pastor following his leadership at the Abbey; parish priests who have administered the sacraments to all, and especially the lost and lonely; a Cardinal who championed spiritual direction for brother priests; and a university educator who mentored thousands.

The common thread remains that all these and prior St. John Paul II Medallion recipients have left a lasting positive impression by sharing Christ's love with others.

The nine priests receiving the Institute's St. John Paul II Medallion since last year's event are Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Fr. Richard J. Hauser, S.J., Fr. Owen Korte, Fr. Tobias M. Letak, Fr. Mark J. McKercher, Fr. Ralph B. O'Donnell, Fr. Gary L. Ostrander, Abbot Raphael Walsh, O.S.B., and Fr. Wayne Watts.

They were recognized by people from across the country on October 21st during the virtual St. John Paul II Fund for Priests Annual Celebration. You can still view the virtual program on the website at www.priestlyformation.org. Mass was celebrated in October for all perpetual priests and their donors by IPF priest leadership prior to the event.

People said they found great joy in using the St. John Paul II Medallion to show their gratitude for a particular priest's vocation.



Additionally, every contribution to the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests supports the Institute's mission of working in collaboration with Catholic seminaries and dioceses to form bishops, priests, and seminarians in holiness and accompany them in their ongoing spiritual growth so they can more effectively lead others to Christ.

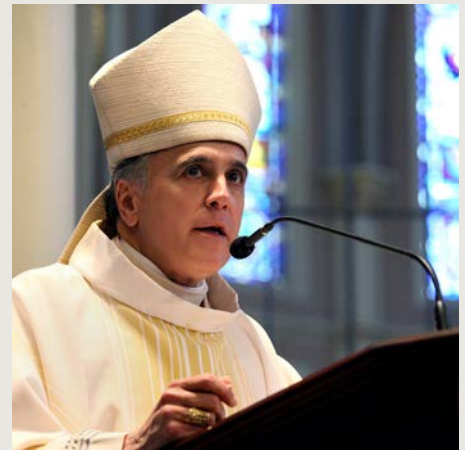
Donors are both supporting IPF's work for a strong Church and sending a vibrant thank-you to a particular priest. Individuals, parishes, and other organizations have worked with the Institute to create efforts that simply and quickly fund their priest's tribute to the minimum \$5,000 level and beyond.

If you would like to donate to the St. John Paul II Fund or receive more information about how to make this opportunity available to your parish or organization, email elizabethwells@creighton.edu for more information.



On previous page
 Top right: Fr. Richard Hauser, S.J.
 Bottom: Fr. Gary Ostrander and
 parishioners.

Current page starting from top left:
 Abbot Michael Liebl receiving a
 medallion in memory of Abbot Raphael
 Walsh and joined by Fr. Tom Weisbecker
 (left) and Greg Schweitz; Fr. Tobias
 Letak; Fr. Ralph O'Donnell with Fr. Brian
 Welter; Cardinal Daniel DiNardo; Fr. Mark
 Mc Kercher receiving his medallion with
 Dennis Podjenski, Fr. Steven Stillmunks
 and Mary Buttell; Fr. Wayne Watts; and Fr.
 Owen Korte receiving his medallion from
 Knights of Columbus and parishioners.



Our Heartfelt Thanks

Dr. Margaret Schlientz - A Heart for the Priesthood



Other than the names of those usually referred to as the "founders" of IPF, there is no name more associated with the full-length of the Institute's history than that of Dr. Margaret Schlientz. As we mark her retirement from active service, we want to express our deepest thanks for her generosity and expertise experienced in so many ways.

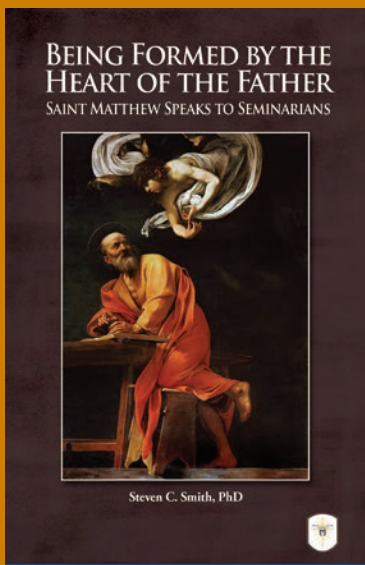
Even from before the launching of the seminarian program in 1995, Dr. Schlientz was "all in." Always

wanting to be known just as "Margarett," there was no task, no matter how involved or humble, that she wouldn't undertake with her characteristic joy and faith. Margarett served on the faculty/staff of the seminarian program from its beginning in 1995. In addition to classroom teaching and praying with participants, she directed the apostolic service dimension of the program.

Similarly, she was a major contributor to the Spiritual Direction Training program from its beginning in 2002. Margarett served on the Institute's Mission Advisory Council for many years, as well as its Board of Electors.

Margarett's educational and personal background blended a wonderful combination of attentiveness to human needs through skilled counseling and spiritual direction, together with a confident faith in the God who desires to heal all our ills. That confidence was always displayed as Margarett often concluded her prayer by saying, "And we know, Lord, that what we have asked for is already being accomplished."

Many hearts have been touched and drawn into deeper union with the Lord through her labors over these many years. All of those hearts are joined together in offering a "thank you" to her and to the Lord who has made it all possible.



Being Formed by the Heart of the Father: Saint Matthew Speaks to Seminarians

By Dr. Steven Smith

In his book, *Being Formed by the Heart of the Father: Saint Matthew Speaks to Seminarians*, Dr. Steven Smith examines the areas of priestly formation (human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral) and illustrates how the life and teachings of Christ apply to each of them. Seminarians and their formators will find this book both helpful and inspirational.

Order online at www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9781734283167

Cost: \$8.95



Summertime Memories

Photos from the 2021 Summer Seminarian program. From the top left: Daily Mass in St. John's Church (Fr. Vincent Fortunato presiding); Seminarians in their 'Prayer and Priestly Identity' class, taught by Fr. Rafferty; Seminarians coming together to take a photo for the IPF photo contest; Seminarians Chris Beran, Thomas Whiteford, Michael Scanga, Dane Dickinson, Luke Dagher, and Michael Boris visiting the Holy Family Shrine; Group photo of all 155 seminarians who attended IPF this summer.

40 Years of Priesthood

Fr. Rich Gabuzda Celebrated His Ordination on Sept. 27th

September 27th marked the 40th anniversary of Fr. Rich Gabuzda's ordination to the priesthood. Ordained in the diocese of Scranton, PA, and in his home parish on this day in 1981, he celebrated his First Mass in that same Church on the following day. Kathy Kanavy directed the music at both the ordination and First Mass.

Fr. Rich's first assignment was to St. Boniface parish in Williamsport, PA, where he served for three years before being sent to Rome for further studies. After his studies, he was assigned to St. Pius X Seminary, a college seminary in the Diocese of Scranton, which was affiliated with the University of Scranton. While at the seminary, he served in various capacities: theology instructor, academic dean, director of music and formation advisor. During that time, he met Fr. John Horn, S.J., who served as adjunct spiritual director at the seminary. One of the seminarians he taught was Mr. James Rafferty!

While on the seminary faculty, in the summer of 1992, Fr. Rich made a 30-day retreat in Omaha together with Kathy Kanavy, under the direction of Fr. Horn. From that experience and together with the help of Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J., the elements of what would become the Institute for Priestly Formation were brought together. Fr. Rich became its Executive Director, the position he held for over 25 years.



Much fruit has been born through IPF from Fr. Rich's saying "yes" to God — from the time of ordination to the present. On behalf of Fr. Rich, we believe a quote from Psalm 40 is appropriate: "You, yes you O Lord, my God have done many wondrous deeds! And in your plans for us there is none equal to you. Should I wish to declare or tell them, too many are they to recount!" We look forward to recounting them with you Fr. Rich. Happy Anniversary!



IPF Staff gathered to share an Italian meal and celebrate Fr. Gabuzda's 40th Ordination Anniversary. From left to right: Tina Targy, Linda Antonelli, Kim Russell, Fr. James Rafferty, Andrea Walther, Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Fr. Brian Welter, Mary Buttell, Susan Wilson, Kathy Kanavy (not pictured: Kelsa Brazell, Anna Drvol, Michelle Funke, and Paul Santos).

A Positive and Stable Masculine Identity: Directions in the Formation of Seminarians

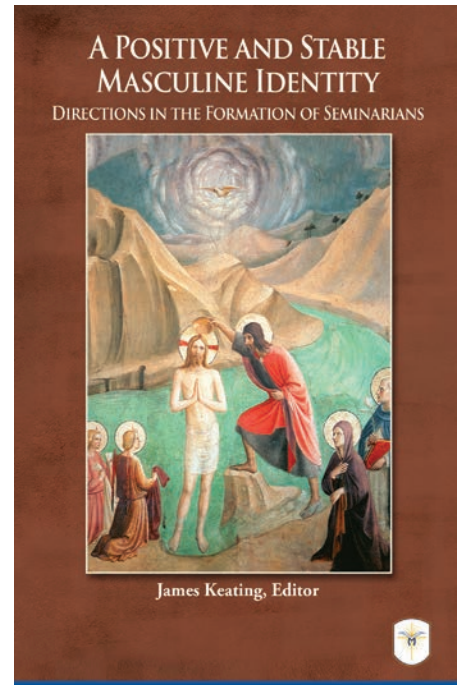
Edited By James Keating, Ph.D.

The general understanding of what it means to be male and female is in flux in both academia and in contemporary Western culture. If seminary formators want candidates for the priesthood to have a “positive and stable sense” of their own “masculine identity,” they have work to do in interpreting what genuine masculinity is and then applying that interpretation to clerical formation. Any sound interpretation of masculinity will include an understanding of it as both a gift and a task. It is a gift of being an embodied person in communion with others, but it also is a task to love appropriately in the context of these roles. The goal of this book is to facilitate a conversation among seminary staff on the true nature of a masculine priest.

Order online at www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9781734283181

Cost: \$13.95



IPF's Spiritual Direction Training Program

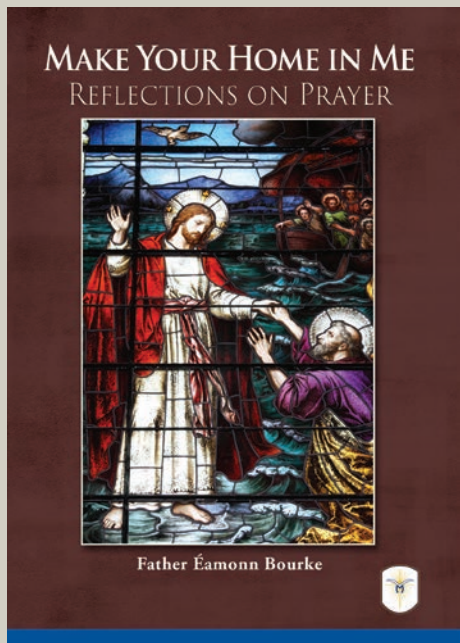
Extending Silence to Deepen the Encounter with Christ

The fall session of the Spiritual Direction Training Program invited the priest participants to enter an Ignatian-style retreat. At the spring sessions, which were held in April and May at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Kathy Kanavy encouraged the priests to extend the built-in 5-day retreat, making it a full 8-day silent retreat. In past sessions, around one-third of the men (around 60 priests) extended their retreat allowing them to stay in

the silence with the Lord a little longer. The staff was thrilled when more than two-thirds of the men (around 100 priests) in the current sessions signed up for retreat extensions. This boost in the desire for staying in the silence is such a beautiful testimony that these men are making great sacrifices to fill themselves up in order to return to their flocks more spiritually refreshed. Please pray for these 154 priests as they continue in this three-year program.

Make Your Home in Me: Reflections on Prayer

By Fr. Éamonn Bourke



Fr. Bourke's book takes the sometimes elusive process of prayer and presents it in easily accessible terms. Because of this gift for clarity in the author, this book makes prayer inviting and attractive. Each chapter provides insight into creating a closer relationship with God and ends with some thought-provoking questions and a simple prayer.

Order online at
www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9781734283174

Cost: \$10.95

End of Year Donations

Support for the Mission of IPF

As we enter the fourth quarter of our fiscal year, we have much to be grateful for. Your support, financially and spiritually, is deeply appreciated. One such gift was an estate gift in the IPF Foundation. Planned gifts, such as this one, help us secure the future of IPF.

IPF relies on the generosity of our donors in order to offer programs to seminarians, priests, and bishops which will deepen their holiness and spiritual growth. Not unlike colleges and universities, the costs associated with the programs are more than the individuals or dioceses can pay. Your donations help us cover 40 percent of the program costs.

We understand giving to a charitable organization is a very personal and prayerful decision. We are truly grateful for all of the support you have given to IPF this year, and with your generous end of the year donations, we hope to meet our budget.

End of year donations can be sent to the IPF office or made online from our website www.priestlyformation.org. They can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or cherished priest. Funds donated to IPF "pay it forward" in the accompaniment of current and future priests as we present programs that will help them grow spiritually.

Thank you for your prayers and support of IPF and the IPF Foundation.

Contact Mary Buttell at marybuttell@creighton.edu or 402-280-2903, with questions or for more information.



Fr. Brian Welter receives a check from the Serra Club of Omaha when attending the Serra Conference in October 2021.

Help Wanted: IPF Spiritual Dad Coordinator



Spiritual Dads pray each year for the IPF summer programs' faculty and staff members. They commit to daily prayer for an assigned individual and are encouraged to attend at least one of the weekly Hours of Adoration. There is no financial commitment. This is strictly a prayer apostolate.

Many of the men who have served in this role in the past have enjoyed praying for and getting to know their assigned teachers and spiritual directors, those who minister to the men attending the summer programs held on the Creighton campus.

We are in need of a volunteer to coordinate this program. If you feel called to help keep this ministry going, please contact Tina Targy in the IPF office at 402-280-2002 or email her at tinatargy@creighton.edu.

The Discerning Priest: Ignatian Wisdom for Daily Life in Priesthood

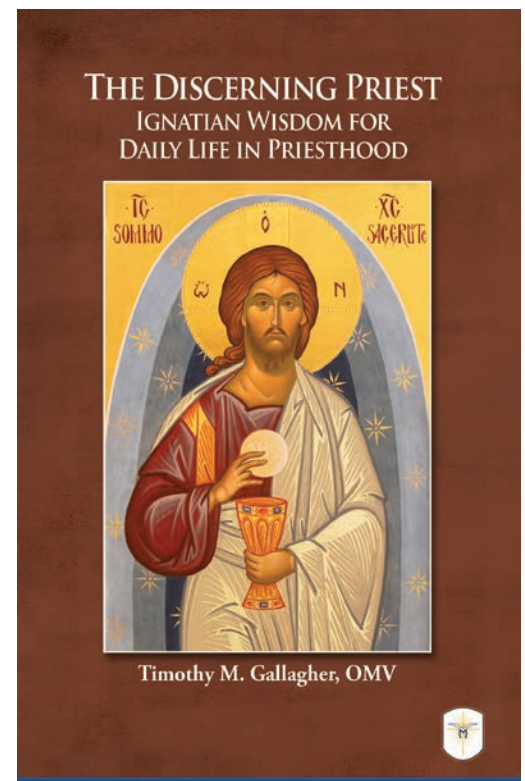
By Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V.

This book applies St. Ignatius of Loyola's classic fourteen rules for discernment to the daily life of the diocesan priest. It describes those alternations of spiritual energy and spiritual discouragement that every priest experiences and supplies spiritual tools for responding to them. Chapter by chapter, the reader follows the story of "Fr. Tom" — a parish priest who stands for every priest in active ministry — and through his experiences, perceives how St. Ignatius' rules apply to his own daily life. Above all, the reader will find in these rules a proven path to freedom from discouragement and into the joy of his priestly vocation.

Order online at www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9781734283150

Cost: \$10.95





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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ▶ November 8 - 15, 2021
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine Providence,
Clearwater, FL
- ▶ November 14, 2021
**Bishops Advisory
Council Meeting**
- ▶ December 11, 2021
**Advent Morning of
Reflection**
Christ the King Parish
- ▶ Dec 28, 2021 - Jan 3 (6), 2022
Pre-Ordination Retreat
Pax Christi Retreat Center,
Corpus Christi, Texas
- ▶ January 9-14, 2022
**Spiritual Direction
Training Program, Sec. A**
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ January 23 - 31, 2022
NCDVD Annual Retreat
Bethany Retreat Center,
Tampa, FL
- ▶ February 6-11, 2022
**Spiritual Direction
Training Program, Sec. B**
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ February 14 - 21, 2022
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine Providence,
Clearwater, FL