



# Hearts on Fire

## Magazine



Go  
Set the World  
on Fire

St. Ignatius of Loyola

### Welcoming the Eucharistic Lord

IPF staff, faculty, and participants had a chance to participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through Omaha. See photos and more on pg. 10-11.





INSTITUTE *for*  
PRIESTLY FORMATION

30

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## Cover Photo:

Seminarians, IPF faculty, and IPF staff joined in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passed through Omaha on June 23, 2024. Participants walked from the St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha to St. John's Church, Creighton University to Iowa.

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## 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 of IPF,

Writing at summer's end, I recall several moments of great hope for our Church. First, we had 121 seminarians with us this summer for the nine weeks of our IPF Summer program, which focuses on the spiritual life of the seminarian. A deep reverence for the Lord grows over those nine weeks as the seminarians, IPF faculty, staff, and spiritual directors come together on Creighton's campus for prayer and teaching. One hallmark is that the seminarians enter into an 8-day silent directed retreat in which they contemplate various Gospel passages and meet Jesus in a very profound and personal way. The central focus of our time together is daily Mass and Adoration. The homilies, especially, are geared toward the seminarians meeting the Lord in a personal way in their life as they prepare for priesthood. It is the daily focus on the Eucharist that brings me to my second point of hope.

Many of the seminarians, some faculty, staff, and spiritual directors had the chance to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July. It brought to light, for me and many others, that Christ brings order to our lives, and when we attend to Him as the center of our life, many worries are silenced. Many people at the Congress remarked on the marvel of 50,000 people in a football stadium who became absolutely still and quiet as the procession with the Blessed Sacrament entered Lucas Oil Stadium. It was a great image of the Church, with Christ as her Head, gathered together.

This brings me to my third, and final, moment of hope—meeting many parish priests this summer who quietly go about the work of the Church. They celebrate the sacraments, preach, teach, and govern in their parishes in the name of Jesus so that the Church may be kept alive, and see that the Church continues to witness that Jesus is the Lord of history, who brings order to our lives, in our homes, parishes, country, and the world. It is our privilege to serve priests through the mission of IPF.

Thank you for your support of the mission of IPF, which serves the spiritual needs of seminarians, priests, and bishops.

## Gratefully,



Fr. Brian Welter,  
Executive Director of IPF



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# INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION FOUNDATION

## From the IPF Foundation President:



As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of IPF, it is a great time to reflect on the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon the founders and the inspiration they receive from the Holy Spirit in the ever-growing mission of IPF. IPF continues to remain true to its vision to accompany seminarians, priests, and bishops in holiness, so that they may more effectively lead others to Christ.

IPF has so much to be grateful for, and I continue to be amazed at the many blessings God has given us. There are so many to thank for their prayers, volunteering, program support, and the abundant monetary gifts offered to IPF over the past thirty years.

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As the fourth quarter of the year begins, the Foundation staff are busy planning and preparing special events to raise funds for the many programs of IPF. The **Second Annual Golf Fore IPF Tournament** took place recently, on September 9, 2024. We more than doubled attendance in our second year, showing strong growth at this event. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and golfers for making it a success. A special thanks to Godfather's Pizza for being the event sponsor again this year. See pages 12-13 for more details.

Please tune in for a very special **St. John Paul II Fund for Priests Virtual Celebration** on **October 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** honoring the priests who were presented with a Saint John Paul II medallion this past year. Nineteen priests had their funds reach the perpetual level, the largest number in a single year. This award was created to recognize and celebrate the priests

who have positively impacted our lives. The gifts given in their name support the IPF mission and programs. We offer our gratitude to all the donors and organizations who gave this year and recognize Beth Wells for her tireless effort in facilitating this amazing gift to priests and IPF.

Our **Fall Speaker Series** will feature **Deacon James Keating**, who previously served the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Institute for Priestly Formation. Currently he is a professor of Spiritual Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. The presentation, entitled, "**Dying to Self by Being Remembered by Christ**", will be held **Thursday, October 24, 2024** at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and the doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will cost \$35. Check the IPF website for further details.

It is a common theme through all IPF programs and retreats to spark an awareness of the unconditional love God has for each of us by bringing us into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Trinity. It has been a powerful gift to become a small part of the mission of IPF. I am so grateful for the deepening of my own faith and prayer life.

Mary Buttell,  
President of the IPF Foundation



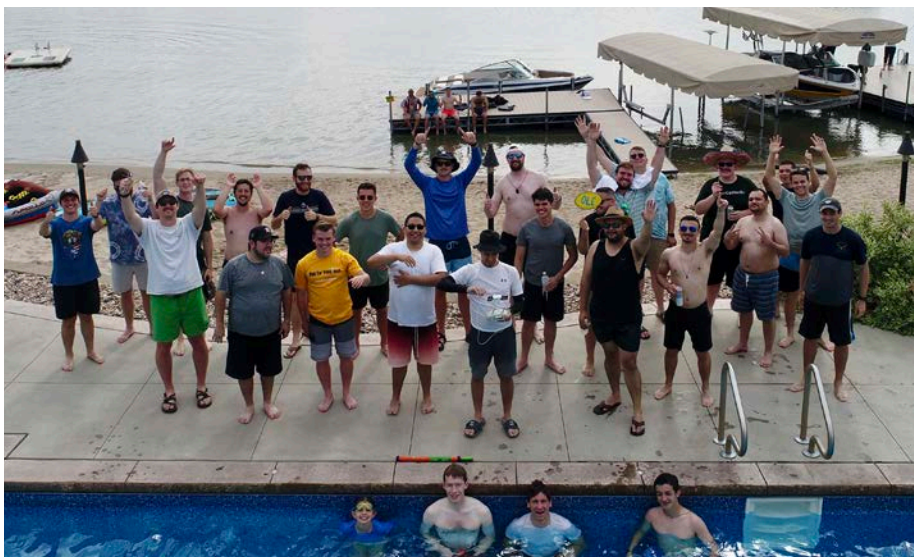


# Seminarian Summer Memories

Seminarians can share the summer pictures they take in the IPF photo contest. Here are a few of our favorites from 2024:

From the top left:

- 1) Daniel Dunn takes a quick selfie while resting on the patio chairs on Creighton's campus.
- 2) James Bryant greets a T-rex at putt-putt while Alex Paiz and Matt Smith look on.
- 3) A sunset photo of the renovated fountain in front of St. John's Church, Creighton University.
- 4) Dylan McKay, Keegan Moloney, Ozzy Franco, and Jonathan Arias scoot around on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian bridge.
- 5) Kevin Rueda, Matthew Johll, Luke Mohan, Gerry Foley, Jacob Schneider, Kyle Rowan, and Fadi Fattal take a selfie with a Union Pacific train.
- 6) Matthew Ludwig, Seth Conrad, Matthew Fichter, and Joseph Riordon enjoy some sweet treats in downtown Omaha.
- 7) Seminarians enjoy a day of food and fun at Mike and Donna Foley's lake house.
- 8) A few seminarians spend some time exploring the wilderness at Platte River State park during the 4th of July holiday.







## Deacon Keating Speaker Event

### Dying to Self by Being Remembered by Christ

On October 24th at the St. Robert Bellarmine Mainelli Center, Deacon James Keating will be the presenter at IPF's speaker event. The doors to the event will open at 6 p.m., and light refreshments will be served. At 7 p.m., Deacon Keating will offer his presentation, entitled, "Dying to Self by Being Remembered by Christ." Tickets to the event will be \$35, which includes the cost of refreshments.

Deacon Keating is an award-winning author and currently a professor of Spiritual Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Before his current job, he worked at IPF as the Director of Theological Formation. He has also received numerous honors, including being an invited speaker to deacons at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this year; delivering the J. Allan Mitchell lecture at Franciscan University in 2022; and being invited in 2016 by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization to lecture at the Vatican for the world-wide celebration of the Diaconate during the Holy Year of Mercy.

To attend the event, please RSVP on the IPF website, or contact Dawn Sledge at [dsledge@priestlyformation.org](mailto:dsledge@priestlyformation.org) or by phone, 531-272-8498. We hope to see you there on October 24th!

# Into Your Hands, Father: Remembering Dr. Margaret Schlientz

April 1, 1939 - May 11, 2024



With sadness, but with confident hope, we note the death of a longtime and very generous staff member, Dr. Margaret Schlientz. A native of Michigan and for many years a resident of New Berlin, Wisconsin, Margaret died on May 11th of this year.

Other than those usually referred to as "founders" of IPF, no one was more closely associated with the beginnings of IPF than Margaret Schlientz. Beginning with the first program in the summer of 1995, she served as part of the faculty for over 20 years. Besides serving as a classroom instructor, she also directed the Apostolic Service opportunities for the seminarians.

Later, when the Spiritual Direction Training Program began, she became part of that original staff, as both an instructor and a spiritual director. She also served as a member of the Institute's Mission Advisory Council for many years.

With degrees in both psychology and spirituality as well as a doctorate in Psychiatric Nursing, Margaret had a unique gift of helping others appreciate the interplay of the human and the spiritual as she taught, directed, and prayed with others. Her own life of prayer displayed a beautiful confidence as she would often end her prayers with the phrase, "... and we know that what we ask for is already being accomplished."

With gratitude, we commend this great woman of faith into the hands of the eternal Father, confident in His desire to give her the reward of a good and faithful servant.

# Friends Night 2024

For the second year, Friends Night took place at Christ the King parish in Omaha, Nebraska. Spiritual moms and their seminarian sons started the evening with an hour of prayer and adoration. After spending time worshipping the Lord in the Church, everyone adjourned to the parish center.

Fr. Brian began the evening's short program with a little background on the seminarians' summer at IPF. He then invited Olivier Ndormiana, from the Diocese of Green Bay, and Ryan Both, from the Diocese of Austin, to share their IPF experience with those present. Then, Fr. Robert Scheiblhofer directed the IPF schola choir as they performed several pieces. As the program concluded, the seminarians all raised their voices to sing, "Salve Regina." Then, spiritual moms and seminarians had a chance to socialize, sharing a

little about the graces they had received this summer. Linda Carney, one of the spiritual moms, shared the following with us, "I love being an IPF Spiritual Mom! There are so many immediate benefits." She continued, "Receiving the smile of [my spiritual son] when he and I met for the first time at Friends Night, . . . he conveys how he felt the presence of prayer and his thankfulness for our newfound friendship."

We are so grateful for the prayers of all who support the programs of IPF and are thankful to all the wonderful volunteers and staff who helped make Friends Night such a special event, in particular Nancy McNulty of IPF, and longtime volunteers Linda Antonelli, and Lisa Goldsmith. May God continue to pour out His graces onto the work of IPF.





# Investing in IPF's Sacred Heart Legacy Society

The sixth article in the series on the IPF Foundation Purpose-Restricted Funds that provides more detailed information on each fund and explains why a thriving Foundation is essential.



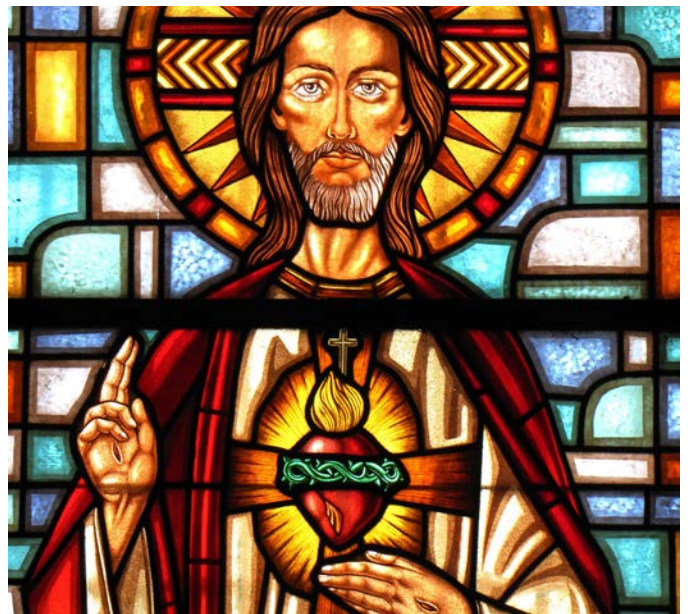
IPF Foundation Funds from the top left to the bottom right: 1) Sacred Heart Legacy Society; 2) St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund; 3) St. Ignatius of Loyola Spiritual Direction Training Fund; 4) St. Paul Communications and Publication Fund; 5) St. John Paul II Fund for Priests; 6) Blessed Stanley Rother Pre-Ordination Retreat Fund; 7) St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund; 8) Nazareth House Fund

The sixth article covering the IPF Foundation Purpose Restricted Funds highlights the Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society. This fund recognizes and honors donors, alumni, spiritual directors, adjunct faculty, and friends who inform the IPF Foundation of their intent to invest in IPF through a planned gift.

A planned gift is any charitable contribution made during your life or any bequest that takes effect upon your death. It can be as simple as an outright gift of cash or as sophisticated as a charitable trust that is integrated into a multi-faceted financial estate plan. You may consider giving a gift by making a beneficiary designation of your life insurance policy or qualified retirement plan. One such estate gift was given to be used where most needed. At the time, IPF was purchasing our current office building. That estate gift was instrumental in providing funds for needed renovations in the building. What a powerful and beautiful gift!

We understand giving to a charitable organization is a very personal and prayerful decision. Please consider remembering IPF in your end-of-year giving or contributing to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy

Society Purpose Restricted Fund. IPF and the IPF Foundation are 501 (c)(3) tax exempt entities. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.





# Responding to God's Generosity

In celebration of IPF's 30th anniversary year, we spoke with a longtime supporter from Council Bluffs, Iowa, about her experience of the IPF mission.

Elaine Hussman has been a friend and benefactor of IPF since 2003. That's over two-thirds of the lifetime of the Institute! How did it all begin?

Elaine mentioned that she met a priest who told her that, "priests don't really know how to pray." Surprised and startled by that comment, she wondered how she and others could learn to pray if priests were lacking in that area?

Sometime later, Fr. John Horn, SJ, part of the founding team of IPF, made a presentation to the Serra Club of Council Bluffs, explaining the mission of IPF. After that presentation, she said to herself, "If they need help, maybe I can help them since they're helping priests."

Elaine has many fond memories of IPF events. Over the years, she joined fellow Serrans in helping the IPF staff set up the residence hall on Creighton University's campus in preparation for the summer seminarian program.

The Council Bluffs Serrans hosted IPF seminarians for an ice cream social for some years and then began a new tradition by treating the entire group to homemade sausage and pasta as a welcome dinner at the start of the program, a tradition that has lasted through the present day.

Elaine has served as a "Spiritual Mom" for IPF since 2008. She has enjoyed praying for seminarians throughout the summer, interceding for them and the blessings they receive during those important weeks each year.

As a way of summing up her many years of support for the IPF mission, Elaine stated simply and directly, "God has been very good to me, and I try to reciprocate."

Elaine's generosity has blessed the Institute these many years, through her financial support, her help with program needs, and especially through her prayer. We are deeply grateful to have been the recipients of such great generosity!



## Introducing Jeff Gromowsky



Jeff Gromowsky

Jeff Gromowsky has joined IPF as our new Director of Finance and Administration. His strong background in accounting and easygoing personality are a welcome addition to the IPF staff. His detailed biography is provided below.

Jeff Gromowsky comes to IPF after working as a vice president and administrator at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. He grew up in Beatrice, Nebraska, and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in accounting. While there, he met his future wife, Amy, and they recently celebrated thirty years of marriage. They have two sons who graduated from Skutt Catholic High School. Matthew was married in June and is completing his final year of medical school at UNMC. Matthew and his wife, Madeleine, will learn in March where he will be completing his residency training after graduation. Josh is in his second year at Notre Dame Law School, and recently completed a summer clerkship with the Nebraska Solicitor General's office. Jeff and Amy enjoy playing board games, seeing movies, and traveling with their family. They are members of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Omaha.



Fr. Brian Welter carries the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament for part of the journey between St. Cecilia's Cathedral and St. John's Parish on June 23rd.

# Welcoming the Eucharistic Lord

This past summer, the seminarians and staff of IPF had an opportunity to play a part in the massive National Eucharistic Revival pilgrimage. On the way to the large gathering in Indianapolis in July, the St. Junipero Serra Pilgrimage Route, which began in San Francisco, arrived in Omaha in late June. On Sunday, June 23rd, following Mass at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, pilgrims accompanied the Blessed Sacrament in procession from the Cathedral to the Creighton University campus.

Pilgrims were ushered into St. John's Church on the University campus where IPF seminarians welcomed them and then led them in praying Midday Prayer. The

singing of this portion of the Liturgy of the Hours was followed by an extended time of prayerful silence. Having concluded the prayer time with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, pilgrims continued on through the city to the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge which crosses the Missouri River. At that point, those Catholics in Iowa met and received the monstrance containing Our Lord from Nebraska Catholics and continued the pilgrimage from there.

For those unable to participate in the larger event in Indianapolis, it was a unique opportunity to share in this initiative designed to increase reverence and love for the Blessed Sacrament.



Pilgrims walk across the Missouri River from Nebraska to Iowa to continue the route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.





- From the top left:
- 1) A drone shot of the pilgrimage walking up the mall on Creighton's campus into St. John's Church.
  - 2) The St. Junipero Serra Route processes up the hill toward St. John's Church.
  - 3) Midday Prayer and Adoration takes place at St. John's during the pilgrimage.
  - 4) The pilgrimage crosses the highway and enters onto the Creighton campus as participants walk from St. Cecilia's to St. John's.
  - 5) Two seminarians take part in the procession on the Iowa side of the Missouri River.





The champions of the best ball tournament, Shelly Ruwe, Jason Gustafson, Ray Bennett, and Nereus Sutko take a brief break from their top tier golf performance to smile for the camera.

## IPF's Golf Tournament

On September 9, Miracle Hill Golf Course played host to the 2nd Annual Golf Fore IPF Tournament. Godfather's Pizza was the Event Title Sponsor. The sun was shining; the greens were in immaculate condition, and spirits were high as participants teed off for a day of camaraderie and sport.

Golfers enjoyed a series of exciting moments, from long drives to precise putts. The event not only highlighted the sport's competitive spirit but also fostered a sense of community among participants and attendees. Miracle Hill Golf Course once again

proved to be a perfect venue, offering both challenge and beauty.

The day concluded back at the IPF offices with dinner, raffles, and awards for those who had performed well on the course. It was wonderful to see everyone come together in support of IPF and offer their "best shot" to boost the strength of IPF's mission

Congratulations to Shelly Ruwe, Jason Gustafson, Ray Bennett, and Nereus Sutko on winning this year's best ball tournament.

### Event Title Sponsor



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# Photos from IPF's Golf Tournament

Thanks to Godfather's Pizza for being the Event Title Sponsor for "Golf Fore IPF" on September 9, 2024.

From the top left:

- 1) Fr. Mike Swanton, Cathy Haurahan, Jack Couch, and Charlie Benak keep cool with their hats.
- 2) Golf team members smile for the camera before heading onto the golf course.
- 3) Nick Winfrey, Brian Carlin, Will Buttell, and Tim Buttell pause for a group photo.
- 4) John and Betty Kampschneider and James and Teri Heim offer a big smile after finishing.
- 5) Mary Buttell says a few words of thanks before dinner and prizes are handed out.
- 6) Fr. Ryan Lewis, Chris, Holly, and Kathy Wheeler enjoy the sunshine.
- 7) The team from EG offers a quick smile before heading onto the back 9 at the golf course.
- 8) Tristan Trost, Tobin Spangler, Mike Corrigan, and Jake Barry take a quick break in the shade.



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# 2024 Virtual St. John Paul II Event

As the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests medallion recipients grow, we are reminded of how Jesus spoke of the many parts of the Body of Christ coming together to make it whole.

The 19 priests who received their medallion during the past year are each unique in many ways – how they came to their vocation – their talents and gifts – the ways they have served through the years. And yet, each priest uses whatever he was given and wherever he is called to ultimately bring Christ to others through the priesthood. This year we honor the following priests: Fr. Mark Beran, Fr. Michael Delcambre, Fr. Justin Fulton, Fr. William Jarema, Fr. Silverino Kwebuza, A.J., Fr. Timothy Lannon, S.J., Fr. Lydell “Dell” Lape, Fr. Gerald Melchior, Fr. Michael Mukasa, Msgr. Stephen Orr, Fr. Jayabalan “Jay” Raju, Fr. Leo Rigatuso, Msgr. Kenneth Seifried, Msgr. Josph Suneg, Fr. Robert Tabbert, Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, S.J., Fr. Joseph Vogel, Fr. Brian Welter, and Fr. Michael Young. To learn more about each of these priests, visit [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org) to join us for the Virtual Event, on Oct. 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

The St. John Paul II Fund for Priests and the medallions are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and thank our priests for the way each ministers to the Body of Christ in answer to God’s call. Contact Beth Wells at 402-880-0510 for information on how this can be accomplished.



Scan the QR code with your phone to watch the virtual St. JPII event.



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- From the top left: 1) Fr. Mark Beran with his St. JPII medallion.
- 2) Fr. Michael Delcambre speaking in church.
- 3) Fr. Justin Fulton and several Knights of Columbus.
- 4) A photo of Fr. Silverino Kwebuza in his vestments.
- 5) Fr. William Jarema preaching.
- 6) Fr. Timothy Lannon, S.J., poses with his medallion.
- 7) A large group assembles to celebrate Msgr. Stephen Orr by giving him his medallion.



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From the top left: 8) Fr. Mark Thibodeaux joyfully celebrates a baptism in his parish.  
 9) Fr. Robert Tabbert prepares the altar.  
 10) Fr. Michael Young takes a photo with parishoners.  
 11) Parishioners at St. Matthew's present Fr. Rigatuso with his St. JPll medallion.  
 12) Fr. "Jay" Raju offers the Eucharistic prayers at Mass.  
 13) Fr. Gerald Melchior smiles while receiving his medallion.  
 14) Msgr. Suneg celebrates his 40th anniversary of ordination in 1963.  
 15) Fr. 'Dell' Lape holds his JPll medallion.  
 16) Fr. Michael Mukasa smiles for a picture.  
 17) Msgr. Seifried smiles as he shares his St. John Paul II medallion.  
 18) Fr. Joseph Vogel blesses a statue of our Blessed Mother.







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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ▶ Sept. 29 - Oct. 4 (8) , 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training Program, Sec. A**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ October 3, 2024  
**St. John Paul II Event**  
Virtual Event on the IPF website
- ▶ Oct. 13 - 18 (22), 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training Program, Sec. B**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ October 24, 2024  
**Deacon Keating Speaker Event**  
St. Robert Bellarmine Church  
Omaha, Nebraska
- ▶ October 31, 2024 (Morning)  
**IPF Corporate Board Meeting**
- ▶ October 31, 2024 (Afternoon)  
**Joint Meeting with IPF Corporate and IPF Foundation Board**
- ▶ November 1, 2024 (Morning)  
**IPF Foundation Board Meeting**
- ▶ November 4-11, 2024  
**Alumni Retreat**  
Cenacle of Divine Providence  
Clearwater, Florida
- ▶ November 9, 2024  
**Bishops Advisory Council Meeting**
- ▶ December 14, 2024  
**Advent Morning of Reflection**  
Christ the King Church, Omaha, NE