



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

Seminarian Reflects on Graces Received in Omaha

By Brian Park, Seminarian, Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis

St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, “To put limits to our desires and our hopes means that we reject the infinite goodness of God.” I read this quote the first night of my eight-day silent retreat all IPF seminarians did the first week of June and, like I often do with quotes from saints, I read it and said, “O, that’s nice,” and moved on. However, the Lord was not ready for me to move on.

Throughout my retreat, I kept coming back to this quote and the truth of the infinite goodness of God. As I prayed with it, the image of an ocean kept coming to me. I sensed the Lord continually inviting me to come deeper into the depths of his love and mercy for me. I began to realize once again, as I have several times throughout my life in my walk with Jesus, that the deeper I delve into the ocean of God’s love and mercy, the more and more I begin to realize just how deep the ocean really goes. I become conscious of the fact that there are only greater depths in this ocean of God’s love. There is no bottom, because if there was a bottom, then it wouldn’t be infinite, and if it’s not infinite, then it is not God’s love.

Coming to a deeper understanding of this truth has brought me a deep sense of joy and hope, because I truly know that there is always more with God. I love Jesus Christ so much. He is my joy, my hope, my Savior, my King, my all and to know that as

much as I love him now, there is still more. That realization brings me tremendous joy and hope. Coming to this understanding has been a great grace from this summer.

Anyone who knows me knows that I really want to be a priest. And now, after spending these weeks here in Omaha at IPF, I really, really, really want to be a priest. The Scripture verse that comes to mind to describe this feeling in me that I have experienced this



Brian Park

summer is Luke 24:32, after the two disciples had encountered the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus, “Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

This summer, through classes, homilies, conferences, lectures and prayer times, the faculty here at IPF has done an outstanding job of opening up the truths of the priesthood for me, opening up the truths about the beauty of the celibate life. As these truths were

presented this summer, I had very concrete experiences of my heart burning inside me – longing, desiring to live out these beautiful truths about the celibate life and priesthood. A few times, this burning in my heart even crossed over to a physical pain. I know this is a grace from the Lord.

Throughout the summer, the Lord has increased in me this great desire to be not just a good priest, but a holy priest: A priest that is a true shepherd like Jesus, The Good Shepherd, a priest that is a humble spiritual father to his children and a priest whose heart is like that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that burns for souls. A wise priest once said, “If God is calling you to be a priest, you would be a fool to say no.” This quote has stayed with me this summer, and while I’m not a priest yet, my experience this summer has helped me realize in a deeper way just how true this quote is. I am so thankful the Lord has given me the grace to not be a fool and to say yes to this remarkable calling of the priesthood.

I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to all who support the work of this wonderful ministry. Because of the work of IPF, seminarians like me have the opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ on a deeper level and to be formed into the kind of priests who will continue to build up the Kingdom of God and set this world on fire for Jesus Christ.

**More on the summer
seminarian program on page 7.**



From Our Executive Director...

Bishops Advisory Council

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI

Archbishop of Chicago

His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap

Archbishop of Boston

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila

Bishop of Fargo

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond

Archbishop of New Orleans

Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB

Archbishop of Indianapolis

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson

Archbishop of St. Louis

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, OFM, Cap

Archbishop of Denver

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley

Bishop of Salina

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estevez

Auxiliary Bishop of Miami

Most Reverend George J. Lucas

Archbishop of Omaha

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop of Harrisburg

Most Reverend David L. Ricken

Bishop of Green Bay

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain

Bishop of Joliet

Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron

Archbishop of Detroit

Mission Advancement Council

Mr. Richard J. Bene

Mr. Chris D. Berens

Mr. James M. Carroll

Mr. Frank J. Duffy

Mr. Lawrence A. Dwyer

Dr. David E. and Mrs. Mary Anne Hoover

Mr. Robert M. and Mrs. Lisa A. Jergovic

Mr. John P. Mullen

Mr. Timothy O'Neill

Mr. Claire (Tex) Oswald

Dr. Michael H. and Mrs. Nancy A. Sketch

Mr. James A. Taphorn

Mr. Patrick K. and Mrs. Sue M. Tucker

Dr. Perry T. and Mrs. Donna M. Williams

Finance Council

Mr. Pete Jeffrey

Mr. John L. Maginn

Mr. Herman D. Weist

The Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation

Mr. P. Thomas Pogge

Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As Pope Benedict opened the "Year for Priests" on June 19th, he offered a simple yet direct message that helped inaugurate this wonderful time of grace. In the midst of that homily, he spoke some words that resonated deeply with all of us at IPF:

Certainly, to be ministers at the service of the Gospel, study and careful, ongoing pastoral and theological formation are useful and necessary, but even more necessary is that "knowledge of love" which can only be learned in a "heart to heart" encounter with Christ.



Yes, priests need to be formed in so many ways, but the "heart to heart" encounter with Christ is "even more necessary." The mission of IPF focuses on providing opportunities for seminarians, priests and seminary formators to experience such encounters with Christ. In this light, I want to share with you some activities of the Institute that are helping to accomplish this mission.

Once again, our summer program for seminarians welcomed a record number: 174 seminarians filled Swanson Hall on Creighton's campus for 10 grace-filled weeks. And, at the end of the summer, IPF played a prominent role in the Serra International Convention held here in Omaha. The convention allowed both local and international Serrans to hear about the mission of IPF.

It has been a busy and grace-filled fall for the IPF staff. Deacon Jim Keating hosted seminary faculty members for an academic seminar whose goal was to help faculty integrate prayer and the spiritual life with their teaching. Fr. John Horn, S. J., Kathy Kanavy and Deacon Jim Keating presented an all-day workshop at the beginning of the National Vocation Directors Convention held in Newark at the end of September. Also at the end of September, I offered a presentation on formation in chaste celibacy at a convocation which took place at St. John's Seminary, Boston. Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S. J., has taken up residence at the Gonzaga High School Jesuit community in Washington, D. C.; he is looking forward to sabbatical time to work on some new writing projects.

Looking ahead: the 2010 Symposium will be held at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, from March 11-14. Symposium talks will focus on the implications of the New Evangelization for priestly formation. Mr. Ralph Martin will be the keynote speaker.

As you read through this newsletter, we invite you to thank God for the graces we have received and we ask for your prayers for our future endeavors. At the same time we thank all of you for your continuing support of our mission. You are helping us to offer the "heart to heart" encounters with Christ that priests and future priests need if they are to help their parishioners encounter Him that way as well.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Gabuzda

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda, Executive Director

IPF's Building Plans Unveiled to Seminarians



Near the end of this year's summer program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians, participants received a parting gift in the form of a promise that IPF will offer vocational support throughout their lives as priests.

Seminarians heard the news that, as IPF draws members into its life as a Public Association of the Faithful, and its mission grows, especially with the new "forming the formators" initiatives, the expanding mission will receive a "home" in the Institute's Center for Priestly Spirituality. The one-of-a-kind international facility will assist those responsible for priestly formation, such as seminary faculty and staff, as well as offer continuing spiritual formation for diocesan priests and lay leaders who serve the Institute's mission.

That's excellent news for Dan Shaughnessy, a student at Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St. Louis who attended IPF's 2009 summer program.

"I was excited to hear of the plans for the building," Dan said.

"I've had wonderful priestly spiritual fathers who have helped to cultivate the seeds of my vocation. Many of them have told me that they crave an experience like the one I described at IPF. So many priests could and will benefit from the Center for Priestly Spirituality, a place where they could take classes, participate in an Ignatian retreat or enhance their spiritual direction skills, to name just a few."

Dan plans to use the new facility in service to the Church. "The Center for Priestly Spirituality is a natural outgrowth of IPF. God willing, after I've been ordained a few years, I'll be able to go to the Center and be refreshed. It's very encouraging to me that IPF is creating this national center for ongoing priestly formation," he said.

The building will also serve as an administrative center for the Institute and as a conference and distance learning center. The design includes facilities for the Institute's publishing initiatives and a high-tech classroom that will link the Institute to national and international audiences.

We invite interested individuals to join us in this grace filled growth of the IPF mission by supporting our expanding programs, our administrative needs, endowments and building fund. To discuss how your gift will serve the church for generations to come, please contact Fr. Rich Gabuzda or Tom Pogge at 402-546-6394 or email ipf@creighton.edu.



Dan Shaughnessy

New from IPF Publications

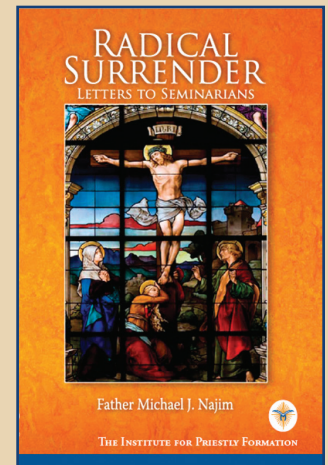


Fr. Michael Najim

We live in a culture of distraction, making it very difficult to hear God's voice and respond with courage. Fr. Michael Najim's book, *Radical Surrender: Letters to Seminarians*, will assist vocation directors and seminary formators in helping seminarians recognize the true voice of God and rightfully discern their vocation. Seminary formation must be interiorly appropriated; in other words, formation will be fruitful only if the seminarian allows Christ to transform his heart.

Radical Surrender: Letters to Seminarians is a unique resource for all interested in the spiritual and human formation of the next generation of priests. Every vocation director will want to give *Radical Surrender* to the men under his care and every seminarian will want to have a copy with him while praying in chapel or in the quiet of his room. *Radical Surrender* also will be of great assistance to the seminarian's experience of ongoing spiritual direction.

To order any item from IPF Publications, please call 877-263-1263 or order online at <http://faithmarket.net/>





IPF, Serra Celebrate Shared Missions at International Convention

At the 2009 annual Serra International convention held Aug. 27-30 in Omaha, IPF's Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Fr. John Horn, S. J., and Kathy Kanavy participated in a panel presentation titled "Projecting the Priestly Identity in the 21st Century." The convention also featured IPF's Deacon James Keating, Director of Theological Formation, who spoke on the role of priests as parishioners' spiritual fathers.

The convention, drawing more than 500 attendees from across the U.S. and twelve foreign countries, provided an opportunity for Serrans around the world to learn about IPF's work and celebrate

their shared missions. Serra International "fosters and promotes vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life, and encourages its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service." IPF's work directly supports the priesthood.

The three Omaha-Council Bluffs Serra Clubs hosted the convention. His Excellency Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, provided the keynote address and presided at the closing Mass. Archbishop Dolan encouraged Serrans to build strong families to ensure a strong priesthood.



Fr. Richard Gabuzda and Fr. John Horn, S. J., concelebrated a special Mass for the Serra International Board of Directors, pictured above, prior to the start of the 2009 convention. The group gathered at Creighton University's St. John Church.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Award Recipients

Dr. David and Mrs. Mary Anne Hoover of Omaha, members of IPF's Mission Advancement Council, and Fr. Patrick O'Kane, pastor of three parishes in the Diocese of Sioux City, are the 2009 recipients of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Award. The medallion of Our Lady,

Spouse of the Holy Spirit, is IPF's highest award.

It is granted to women and men who have given witness with their lives to the efficacy of listening for and responding to Mary's call to live Jesus' own life in our day. Pictured here are Fr. John Horn, S. J., Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S. J., Fr. O'Kane, Dr. and Mrs. Hoover, Kathy Kanavy, and Fr. Richard Gabuzda.



Seminary Theologians Gather for Fall Seminar

In the early fall of 2009, seven theologians from various seminaries around the U.S. (Kenrick-Glennon, St. Patrick's, Mount St. Mary, Pontifical College Josephinum, and St. Charles) gathered at IPF on the Creighton campus to deepen and explore their vocation as seminary professors. Pope Benedict XVI caught the crux of the theme of this seminar when he taught that:

Theology... must be joined with spirituality; indeed, only in this way could it be profound and effective. The demand for a scientific method is not sacrificed when theological research is carried on in a religious spirit of listening to the Word of God... Spirituality does not attenuate the work of scholarship, but rather supplies theological study with the correct method so that it can arrive at a coherent interpretation. Theology can develop only with prayer... This is a road that is worth traveling to the very end.
— (October 6, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI)

In this spirit, the seminar integrated both academic discussion with prayer and contemplation. The schedule of the seminar gave the participants time for silence and also time for contemplative reflection upon the research that each theologian shared. The contemplative schedule of the seminar was as important as the content of each theologian's presentation. Theological ideas were shared that deepened the themes of a previously attended IPF retreat, while keeping the critical approach to theology well grounded

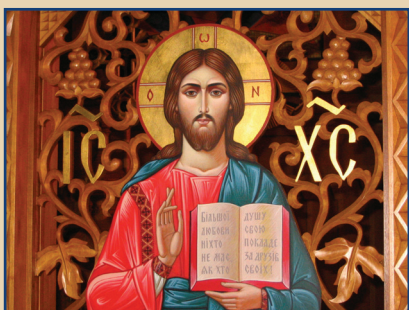


Left to right: Dr. Perry Cahall, Dr. John Gresham, Dr. Margaret Turek, Fr. Thomas Lane, Fr. Thomas McDermott, Fr. Dennis Billy and Deacon James Keating.

in a contemplative reflection upon the Paschal Mystery. The fruit of this gathering will be a book of essays that invites other seminary theologians into the dialogue. Each essay will model a theology that is contemplative and carries practical application to seminary teaching. The book will contribute to IPF's effort to concretize the Program of Priestly Formation, which envisions spirituality to be the heart of seminary formation around which all other facets must be integrated.

IPF Alumni Retreat

*"Fr. Tim Gallagher, O.M.V., and St. Ignatius Loyola's
Discernment of Spirits"*



February 1-8, 2010, or October 4-11, 2010

***The Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine
Providence, Clearwater, Florida***

Contact: Ron and Adrienne Novotny
(727) 724-9505 • cenacleofourlady@aol.com
www.divineprovidence.org

Couples Retreat Scheduled

Each year IPF offers an eight-day, silent, directed retreat as part of the ten-week summer program for seminarians. This retreat is often a transforming experience. In hopes of offering the laity a similar experience, an IPF sponsored Couples Retreat, led by Msgr. Bill Whelan, has been scheduled for March 24-28, 2010 at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska.

Retreatants will receive the tools needed to deepen their prayer life and establish habits of daily prayer through talks, personal spiritual direction, and silence. Daily Mass, time for silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and daily conferences will be available to retreatants.

A second Couples Retreat, also led by Msgr. Whelan, is being planned for September 29-October 3, 2010, in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Registration is open to couples interested in deepening their relationship with Christ. For more information on either retreat, contact the IPF offices at 402-546-6384.

Have you visited the IPF website lately?

www.creighton.edu/ipf/



Seminarian Spiritual Directors Fund



Through the generosity of Tom and Jane Werner of Omaha, the Institute has created a new “Seminarian Spiritual Directors Fund.” The photo shows the check being delivered to the Institute by Fr. Michael Gutzgell, the pastor of the Werners’ home parish, St. Cecilia’s Cathedral in Omaha. The Werners had set aside money in the care of their parish to be used for seminarians. When the Werners learned about IPF’s training of seminarians and the work of the Spiritual Directors, it was discerned that their donation would serve as seed money for the new fund.

Werner, an active member of his parish’s Council of the Knights of Columbus, is hopeful other Knights from across the country as well as their Councils will gain knowledge of the Institute and the fund and prayerfully discern to support it financially. “The Knights have always been a strong defender of the priesthood and generous supporters of seminarians in formation. My hope and prayer is that other Knights will learn about the work of IPF and will want to support the spiritual training of seminarians as I do,” Werner said.

As noted by IPF’s Executive Director, Fr. Richard Gabuzda, the one-on-one spiritual advice from spiritual directors enables the seminarians to fully receive and pay attention to the presence of God in their hearts and lives. It is the “golden thread” that weaves

throughout and binds together all aspects of the spiritual formation program.

One of the challenges of the Institute is funding the fees, travel, room and board of the Spiritual Directors from throughout the United States and several foreign countries who come to work with the participants during the 10-week Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians. This past summer, there were 174 seminarians who, during the eight-day retreat, required 59 Spiritual Directors in addition to the Spiritual Directors committed to the entire 10-week program. It is not possible to charge the seminarians and the dioceses for the full cost for the Spiritual Directors, however, it is imperative to have spiritual directors to “guide” the seminarians as they go deeper in their relationships with God, learning to pray more intently and discerning the promptings of the Holy Spirit within their hearts.

The Institute also trains priests to become Spiritual Directors. For a number of years, the Institute has conducted Training Programs in Spiritual Direction in Austin, Texas, and presently at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago. Three one-week intensives are offered each year for three years. There are currently 73 priests in formation to become Spiritual Directors with others registered for the next three-year cycle which will begin in 2011. During the summer, the Institute also runs a course to refresh previously trained Spiritual Directors.

If you would like additional information about the fund or to make a donation, please contact Tom Pogge at 402-280-3528 or ptpogge@creighton.edu.

Limited Window to Make IRA Distributions

IPF is grateful for the many generous donors who support the Institute through their financial gifts. The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA directly to IPF without claiming this transfer as income. The withdrawal must come from the IRA administrator. Gifts must be completed by December 31, 2009. For further information or to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact your financial planner or Tom Pogge, 402-280-3528 or ptpogge@creighton.edu.



© Marek Czarnecki

Year for Priests... a chance for priests to grow in intimacy with Jesus.

— Pope Benedict XVI,
June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010

Spiritual Mothers Meet Their Sons

St. John's Church on the Creighton campus was filled with summer program participants and friends of IPF for Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of St. Bonaventure, July 22nd. The 287 Omaha area women who had offered daily prayers for a seminarian son had the opportunity to meet their sons at a reception following the holy hour. If you live in the Omaha area and would like to "adopt" a 2010 summer seminarian, contact the IPF offices at 402-546-6384.



Taj Glodd from the Diocese of Lafayette, thanks his Spiritual Mother, Kathy Lovell, and her husband, Dennis, for their prayers.



Rita Hermsen gets contact information from her spiritual son Matt Bozovsky from the Archdiocese of Chicago.



John Norman, seminarian from the Archdiocese of Omaha, receives advice from his Spiritual Mother, Toni Holiday.



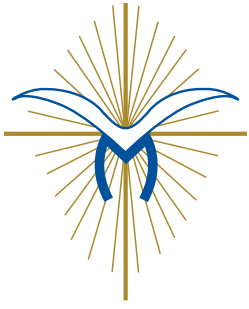
Nancy Ryan greets her spiritual seminarian son Dennis Dorner from the Diocese of Atlanta.



Rita Hughes meets her seminarian, John Hetland from the Archdiocese of Chicago, for the first time.



Spiritual Mother Joyce Duffy poses with her son Corey Nelson from the Diocese of Bismarck.



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68178-0207

NON PROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 227

OMAHA, NE

We invite you to visit our website at
www.creighton.edu/ipf/whygivetoipf

Mission Statement

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) was founded to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. The Institute responds to the need to foster spiritual formation as the integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, this spiritual formation has as its goal the cultivation of a deep interior communion with Christ; from such communion the priest shares in Christ's own pastoral charity. In carrying out its mission, the Institute directly serves diocesan seminarians and priests, as well as those who are responsible for diocesan priestly formation.

The Institute for Priestly Formation Mission Advisory Council

IPF Founders

Fr. George A. Aschenbrenner, S. J.
Fr. Richard J. Gabuzda
Fr. John P. Horn, S. J.
Kathleen A. Kanavy

Chairmen

Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila, Co-Chair
Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Co-Chair

Ex-officio Members

Lawrence A. Dwyer, J.D.
Chairman, Mission Advancement Council

Mr. George J. Esseff

Ex Officio Member

Mr. Pete Jeffrey

Chairman, Finance Council

Fr. Richard J. Hauser, S. J.

*Director of Christian Spirituality Program,
Creighton University*

Members

Mr. Mark C. Conzemius

Karen L. Dwyer, Ph.D.

Msgr. John A. Esseff

Fr. Michael G. Glenn

Edward M. Hogan, Ph.D.

Fr. Jeffrey H. Huard

Deacon James F. Keating

Fr. Joseph J. Kelly

Mr. Ralph C. Martin

Fr. James Mason

Mrs. Trudy McCaffrey

Teresa Monaghan, A.O.

Fr. Patrick J. O'Kane

Msgr. Robert J. Panke

Margarett A. Schlientz, Ph.D.

Fr. David L. Toups

Fr. Scott S. Traynor