



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION



IPF seminarians, staff and Serrans gather at St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, NE

Record Number of Seminarians Attend IPF Summer Programs

The Institute welcomed a record 118 seminarians to this year's 10-week Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians at Creighton University; the seminarians came from 53 different dioceses, a number of which sent to IPF for the first time.

"IPF helped me to re-recognize the vital importance of a priest being completely in love with and united to the heart of Christ. From this love and union flows the charity which will fuel my priesthood."

- Seminarinan, Steve La Flamme, Diocese of Duluth, MI

The Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors hosted 14 priests serving as staff for seminaries in the United States and Canada .

"I thought the program was absolutely brilliant! I am so thankful I had the opportunity to participate in the program before beginning seminary ministry."

- Rev. Dean E. Wilhelm, St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX

The Spiritual Exercises program welcomed 14 priests and 10 seminarians for this 35-day program. Following the preparation

days, the participants prayed through this 30-day silent, directed retreat and then concluded with some final days of conversation and sharing.

"I came on the 30 day retreat praying for a deepening of my interior life and intimacy with God, and the experience exceeded my expectations by far. These days will be treasured and pondered in my heart for years to come."

- Rev. David Toups, St. Vincent de Paul, Boynton Beach, FL

As part of the Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians, IPF was privileged to welcome four priests from Uganda. These priests, following in the footsteps of others who attended in past years, came from various seminaries in Uganda to learn first-hand about our seminarians' program. These priests have been able to join IPF through the generosity of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus and the Archdiocese of Omaha Propagation of the Faith office.



From Our Director ...

Dear Friends,

When our new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI traveled to Germany in August for World Youth Day, he met with seminarians from across the globe. In his talk to them, he drew inspiration from the general theme of the gathering, "We Have Come to Worship Him," the words of the Magi who searched for and found the new-born Christ child. Pope Benedict described the mystery of vocation in terms of the deep desire which prompted the Magi to leave everything and to begin a journey. He described the experience of the call to the priesthood in this way: it is "a moment of grace which could be defined as 'falling in love.'"

"Falling in love." It's a phrase we use often with our program participants. It expresses our deep desire that seminarians and priests encounter the living Lord who calls them to service in a relationship of love with himself. It expresses our great hope that seminarians and priests experience this love through the programs offered by the Institute. It is the prayer of all those who support and pray for the work of the Institute.

In every age, people look for convincing witnesses to the power and presence of God in our midst. Only priests and seminarians who have "fallen in love" with the Lord will be that kind of witness so needed in today's world.

We thank those who continue to help us provide the time and place for seminarians and priests to "fall in love" with God in our various programs. May all of us "follow the star" who is Christ and be led securely along our life's journey until we live eternally in the presence of that great Love that is the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

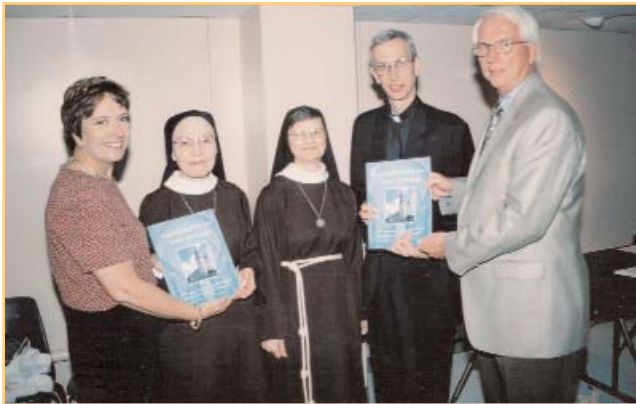
Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Gabuzda

Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Director



Father Gabuzda at the organ in Saint Cecilia's choir loft



Dr. Sally O'Neill, Sister Mary Clare, Sister Maria Hassing, Father Gabuzda, and Tim O'Neill at IPF and Serrans Gathering.

IPF and Serran Gathering Noteworthy

On July 9th the 118 seminarians spent the evening with members of the Serra Clubs of Omaha and Council Bluffs at Saint Cecilia Cathedral. They took a self-guided tour through the Cathedral Cultural Center and the Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan Museum.

After the tour, Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss presided at Mass. As partners in prayer with IPF, two Poor Clare Sisters, Sister Mary Clare, abbess, and Sister Maria Hassing, represented their community at this liturgy.

Speakers and a dinner followed Mass. Tim O'Neill, chairman for the event, thanked Father Michael F. Gutgsell, rector, for his hospitality in welcoming this group of IPF administrators, clergy, seminarians, Serrans and spouses. Tim and his wife, Dr. Sally O'Neill, said 200 had gathered this year, a record number.

Bill Ramsey, past president of USA Council of Serra International, presented a historical perspective of Serra and its mission. Bill

said the three clubs sponsoring this gathering were among the 330 Serra clubs now chartered in the United States with approximately 13,000 members.

The evening concluded with an announcement that Kevin Vogt would host a pipe organ demonstration for seminarians hoping to learn more about this unusual instrument—one of only four in the world. Kevin assisted the seminarians, one-by-one, as they heard the magnificent notes ring out from the touch of their fingers.

However, when Father Gabuzda began to perform, all eyes focused on their director as his fingers flawlessly glided over the keys as he played "Introduction and Toccata" by William Walond.

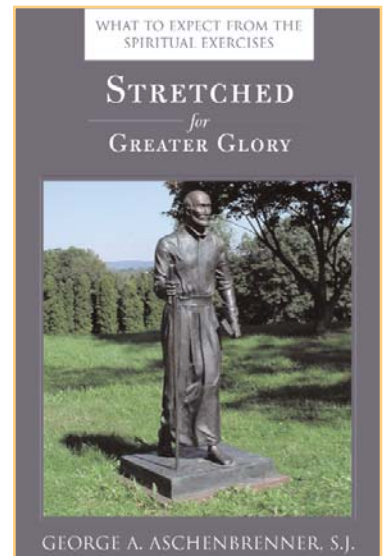
As the group descended the steps of the Cathedral to return to Creighton University, each one was smiling. Only one word could describe the amazement, joy and gratitude each one experienced: Noteworthy!

IPF Founder Publishes New Book

Father George Aschenbrenner, S.J., a founder of IPF, recently published *Stretched for Greater Glory*, a book that introduces the reader to the dynamics that are at the heart of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

First published in 1548, *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* was intended as a guide for others on their own spiritual journey. Today, almost five hundred years later, people continue to seek the heart-to-heart encounter with God through the experience of the *Exercises*.

With great passion and enthusiasm, Aschenbrenner describes what happens when one engages in the *Exercises*. His straightforward commentary and vast knowledge make this book appropriate for both the novice spiritual seeker and the experienced spiritual director. Throughout the book, Aschenbrenner shows how the *Exercises* stretch the desires of the heart and focus one's love on God and in grateful service of others.



IPF Welcomes New Employee



Kelsa Howe is the newest member of the IPF family. She began her position as Senior Administrative Assistant on the 22nd of August, the feast day of the Queenship of Mary. Prior to her full time employment, she was an intern and part time employee for the Institute while a senior at Creighton University.

Kelsa graduated in the spring of 2005 from Creighton with a bachelor's degree in Applied Communication. She looks forward to new learning experiences at her alma mater in support of the Institute's programs.



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Serving Diocesan Priests in IPF's mission as "A Light of Hope"

Father Rich, Yes I am interested in supporting the mission of IPF in the following ways:

- Sponsorship of \$1,500.** Your gift will sponsor the spiritual formation costs of one seminarian or priest.
- Donation.** Your offering will support our valuable programs serving diocesan seminarians and priests.
 - \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____
- Intercessory Prayer.** A promise to support prayerfully IPF's mission.
- Planned Giving.** Please contact me about including IPF in my financial planning.
- Please contact me.** I want to be more fully involved in providing for future program development.
- My gift is: **In memory** of the following: **In honor** of the following:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please see the enclosed envelope.

All checks should be made payable to : The Institute for Priestly Formation
IPF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Gifts are deductible to the extent of the law.



Omaha 'Gem' en route to Russia

The hardest question people ask me is: "Where are you from?" I was born in Cleveland to immigrant parents from Slovenia, raised in Milwaukee, ordained three years ago in Ljubljana, Slovenia and a member of the Russian Region of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. After a nine year "career" in the Army which began at West Point and ended in Alaska in 1992, I was sent for a year of service to Magadan, Russia as a lay volunteer. That year was the most beautiful year of my life. It was then that I discerned God's call to be His priest in Russia.

In 1993, I entered the Jesuit novitiate in Slovenia. Since then, I have been preparing myself to live and work for the Church in Russia. After Christmas 2004, I was sent by my superiors to Creighton University in Omaha, in order to prepare myself for my two assignments in Russia: to be the spiritual director of a diocesan preparatory-seminary; and to be the director of the Catholic Television Studio, "Cana."

Creighton University was the right place to come for my final preparations. The Jesuit Community at Creighton welcomed me wholeheartedly. I am deeply grateful to Fr. Dick Hauser, SJ and every Jesuit of the community. Even before coming to Creighton, Fr. John Horn, SJ very generously introduced me to the Institute for Priestly Formation.

I spent my spring semester at Creighton in two internships: one in spiritual direction with Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ; and the other with Fr. Don Doll, SJ in still and video photography. Under the guidance of these great masters I began to learn the two arts of listening and seeing.

IPF's ten-week seminarian program was the last important phase of my preparation for work in Russia. I participated in the eight-day retreat for the seminarians as a spiritual director. Also, of great value and insight was the Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors led by Frs. Joe Kelly and Vincent Fortunato, OFM Cap.

This training at Creighton was the most intense training I have had in recent years. I learned many valuable lessons and insights from fellow directors and seminarians participating in IPF's programs. Perhaps the greatest lesson I learned is the need to be constantly attentive to what is stirring in my heart. My heart is where my relationship with God is most intimate. It is where I come to the source of my life. There I am moved.

At IPF, I helped seminarians become aware of how close God is in their everyday experiences of life and prayer. In helping them become attentive to God's presence, I was helping myself become more intimately aware of God's presence in my own life. I began to realize that I am only at the beginning of understanding and living God's unconditional love for me. I am called to trust ever more deeply in this Love.

God's unconditional love is what "makes" a true priest, God's priest. This valuable insight is the "gem", the treasure, I will take to Russia. As I help future Russian seminarians discern God's voice in their hearts; and as I help to tell the story of God's great works among the Russian people I will see in new ways how God cares for His People. My deepest gratitude goes out to all who are part of the IPF, the staff and all its benefactors.

- Fr. Janez Sever, SJ

SAVE THE DATE:
IPF's Fifth Symposium

GOOD SHEPHERD:

Living Christ's Own Pastoral Authority

March 16 - 19, 2006

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/ MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

USML CONFERENCE CENTER

MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 16 - 19, 2006

FIFTH SYMPOSIUM ON THE SPIRITUALITY AND IDENTITY OF THE DIOCESAN PRIEST

GOOD SHEPHERD:

Living Christ's Own Pastoral Authority

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Nicholas Cochia, S.T.D.



Co-sponsored by:

The Institute for Priestly Formation and the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary

Held at Mundelein Seminary (suburban Chicago) • USML Conference Center

This symposium will develop aspects of the spirituality and identity of the diocesan priest suggested by the image of the "Good Shepherd." The uniqueness of the pastoral authority of priests, exercised in union with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will be considered on the basis of this familiar Biblical image.

Watch your mailbox. More information will be mailed to you in the coming months.

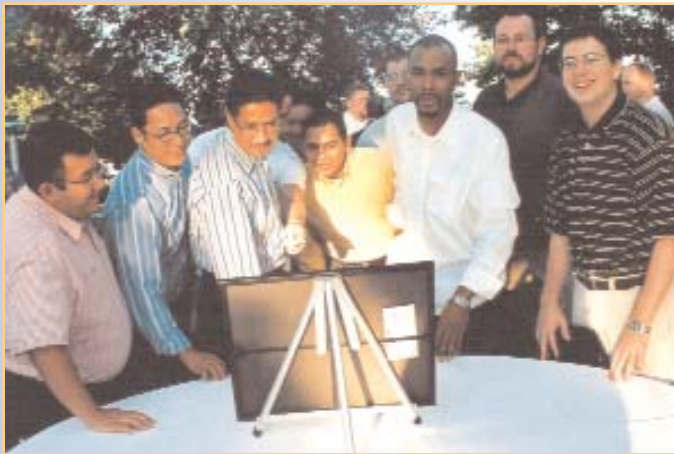
Contact: Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda • 402-546-6384 • ipf@creighton.edu

Annual Friends of IPF Night

As seminarians, faculty, staff and friends entered St. John's Church on the campus of Creighton University, they heard the Latin hymn, "O Sacrum Convivium" (O Sacred Banquet) being sung by the seminarian choir. Their inspiring rendition commenced the evening of prayer.

All were invited to join in chanting Vespers. And you could hear more than 110 strong and reverent male voices rising in unison in praise of the Trinity, Christ and his Blessed Mother. Worshippers honored the Blessed Sacrament during the Eucharistic Adoration that ended with Benediction.

The Jesuit Gardens seemed more like a paradise with shade trees and colorful blossoms in view from every angle. At 7:30 p.m., everyone gathered for a reception to meet this year's class of seminarians, faculty and staff. After a week of blistering heat, that day proved the exception with a cool breeze invigorating the evening. A special guest was The Most Reverend Elden Francis Curtiss, Archbishop of Omaha, and member of IPF's Bishops Advisory Council.



A group of seminarians admire the display table



Fr. Benedict, The Most Reverend Elden Francis Curtiss, Michael Paris and Fr. Janez Sever, S.J. (see story at right)

Tables were placed throughout the Jesuit gardens and more than 200 enjoyed desserts at the event. One table held a photo display of the seminarians taken at Saint Cecilia Cathedral earlier this summer.

Father Richard Gabuzda, Director, welcomed guests and said, "We deeply appreciate your loyal support of IPF and its 10-week summer seminarian program." Father invited three seminarians to present a brief overview of what this course had meant for them. They expressed their genuine gratitude for "...learning how to pray." They appreciated the well-balanced program of assigned apostolic work and studies offered by IPF's highly qualified religious and lay faculty.

Archbishop Curtiss thanked the founders and directors of IPF for being in Omaha 11 consecutive years. The Archbishop said, "The future of the priesthood is in good hands at IPF." He then offered a prayerful reflection and gave his blessing to all. The gifted and enthusiastic seminarians brought the day to a melodious close as they sang, "Salve Regina" ("Hail, Holy Queen").

Mission Advisory Council Inaugurated

The Institute for Priestly Formation is establishing the Mission Advisory Council (MAC) which will be the primary advisory council for the Institute. MAC will expand the work of the former Mission/Curriculum Council which advised IPF from its inception. MAC will feature several standing committees with their own chairpersons: Program Review, Program Development and Intercessory Prayer committees.

The latter committee will establish contacts with individuals and groups who wish to commit to prayer for the Institute or have been prayerfully supporting IPF through the years. It will also assure business meetings of the new Council rely on prayerful

discernment and not simply on standard business principles for its operation.

The newly formed Advisory Council will also include representatives from the Bishops Advisory Council, the Development Council and the Finance Council. In this way, all IPF's Councils will have a way of "talking with" each other and a place to receive the overall view of the Institute's life and health.

Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo and Bishop Robert Carlson of Saginaw are co-chairs of the Council. The Council will meet for the first time in Omaha on October 26, 2005.



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68178-0300

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 227
OMAHA, NE

Mission Statement

The Institute for Priestly Formation has been founded to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Working as a complement to already existing programs of seminary formation, the Institute responds to the need for a more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, the Institute's programs present a spirituality that can inspire, motivate and thus sustain the busy daily lives of contemporary diocesan priests.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION MISSION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ex-officio Members:

The IPF Founders

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

Larry Dwyer

Chairman, IPF Development Council

George Esseff

Chairman, National Development Council

Herman Weist

Chairman, IPF Finance Council

Director of Creighton University's
Christian Spirituality Program

Rev. Richard Hauser, S.J.

Members:

Most Rev. Samuel Aquila, co-chair
Most Rev. Robert Carlson, co-chair

Mark Conzemius
Karen Dwyer, Ph.D.

Msgr. John Esseff
Rev. Michael Glenn

Rev. Joseph Hanefeldt

Edward Hogan, Ph.D.

Rev. Jeffrey Huard

James Keating, Ph.D.

Rev. Joseph Kelly, D. Min.

Ralph Martin

Rev. James Mason

Trudy McCaffrey

Teresa Monaghan

Rev. John Michet

Rev. Patrick O'Kane

Rev. Robert Panke

Margarett Schlientz, Ph.D.

Rev. Scott Traynor

Please visit our web site at www.creighton.edu/ipf/