

# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

### THE GIFT OF THE PRIESTHOOD

During the first week of March IPF welcomed a group of seminary personnel for an initial consultation on a new document, known as a 'ratio', from Rome, *The Gift of the Priesthood*. This document, published by the Congregation

for the Clergy, presents a vision of how priestly formation for the Church throughout the world. As the first such document published in several decades, its vision will guide the Church's approach to priestly formation for many years to come.

The purpose of the March consultation was to have an initial conversation



The group gathered in Omaha, NE during March to discuss how to apply the points of the Ratio to Seminary Formation.

about this historic document as a prelude to the March 29-31, 2019 symposium on the document. St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, will be the host for this event which will be open to all seminary personnel throughout the U.S. and beyond. A follow-up

consultation will be held in late August to firm up plans for the symposium.

The spirit of the new document is captured in one of its initial paragraphs:

"The fundamental idea is that seminaries should form missionary disciples who are

'in love' with the Master, shepherds 'with the smell of the sheep,' who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them. Hence every priest should always feel that he is a disciple on a journey, constantly needing an integrated formation, understood as a continuous configuration to Christ." Anyone familiar with the speeches and

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### Prayers Precede Summer Seminarians

Seminarians from across the country will soon be packing their computers and breviaries, along with their pillows and wardrobes, for their upcoming summer of spiritual formation in Omaha. Some may need to book flights, while others will be consulting their GPS to figure out which interstates will get them to Nebraska. Most are totally unaware of the women who will be praying for their safe arrival.

One hundred seventy-five women from the Omaha metropolitan area have asked IPF to pair them with a summer seminarian. They will soon be praying a "Hail Mary" every day for their "Spiritual Sons". Some women have prayed for specific seminarians every summer for the past ten years; others are praying for their first seminarian son. This summer's "Spiritual Moms" will soon receive a letter containing the name, diocese, age, and seminary of one of the men packing his bags. They will meet each other in July and share an evening of prayer and conversation. Other women, not only from the Omaha area, but from across the country, have asked to receive a list of all 175 seminarians so they can also pray, but for all the men, not just one specific seminarian.

In large part, due to the efforts of Spiritual Mom Coordinator, Anne Pogge, whose inspiration it was to begin the program in 2008, more than 800 women have provided a "dome

of grace" over the summer seminarian programs through their prayers. If you are interested in becoming a Spiritual Mom for the men who will soon begin their journeys to Omaha, consult the IPF website or contact the IPF office for more information.



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Dear Friends,

Even as we are making plans to welcome participants and staff to our 2018 summer programs, the Institute staff continues to work on the many other programs and projects on our calendar.

This edition's featured article highlights an exciting new project: hosting two consultations and cohosting a symposium dedicated to the Congregation for the Clergy's publication, *The Gift of the Priesthood*. Our desire is that these two meetings and the symposium may serve many seminary formators throughout the country and beyond, but also serve as a catalyst for future programming for the Institute.

On another front, with the encouragement of our Mission Advisory Council and our Bishops Advisory Council, we are making plans to engage in a strategic planning process beginning this fall. The chance

to look carefully at our mission, our programs and, especially, our future directions comes at a Providential time: we will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our founding in 2019.

As always, this edition of the newsletter focuses on all those who, through their generous sacrifices, make the mission of the Institute possible. We are deeply grateful for our benefactors, both long-time supporters and new friends. The past year saw a dramatic increase in the number of first-time donors, due in large part to the "Building the Base" initiative, which enlisted the help of our alumni-pastors to draw others to support our mission.

We are especially grateful to the many individuals and groups who have chosen to honor priests through the St. John Paul II Fund for Priests. This unique opportunity helps people show their appreciation for priests who have been of particular importance in their lives, while at the same time assisting the Institute in our mission of drawing priests and future priests into a closer relationship with the Lord.

These multiple forms of generosity have helped us go beyond our fundraising goal for this year. For this, we offer our humble and sincere gratitude. May the Lord bless all of you! Please continue to keep the Institute's mission in your prayers.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Garuzda

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda Executive Director



Discussions held on the publication, "The Gift of the Priesthood"

Jeff Darrey, 2017 recipient of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Award

Jeff Darrey is a valued supporter of The Institute for Priestly Formation, the 2017 recipient of IPF's Our Lady of Guadalupe Award, founder of Catholics for Cameroon, and a founding director of Trinity Café in Tampa, Florida. Jeff came to know the IPF mission through Msgr. David Toups, rector of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach. Msgr. Toups serves as an instructor in the IPF class on the prayer life of the diocesan priest. Since 2007, Jeff's staff at Marketing Associates

# THE GIFT OF THE PRIESTHOOD

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writings of Pope Francis can hear in the paragraph an echo of some of his most familiar statements about priests. Happily, the spirit of the document also resonates with the mission of the Institute, especially with our focus on the importance of helping seminarians and priests "fall more deeply in love" with the Lord. A distinguishing feature of the document, which will also figure prominently in the work of the consultation group, highlights the need for all parts of formation to be integrated, i.e., the human, spiritual

# IPF DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

have gifted IPF with designs for our main publications. Jeff and company have provided 15 beautifully designed covers. Jeff's counsel and support have also helped us as we have begun reaching out nationally seeking support for our annual fund.

Jeff strives to keep Christ first in all he does. For that reason he keeps a crucifix hanging in his office as a reminder to himself and a witness to others. He points to a loving family and the foundation that came from Catholic Education. Jeff says, "I believe with all my heart that God has a special purpose for me to serve, and if I seek him, and I am faithful in following what I believe is the direction he is giving me, then there are things that he will use me to do, and has used me to do."

Jeff and his wife Sharon have been faithful to that belief. In addition to his work with Trinity Café, their charitable work includes driving the homebound to Mass, bringing Holy Communion to the dying and a mission in West Africa, Catholics for Cameroon, that built a Church and provides for the many needs of the community of Nkambe. When asked why he was so committed to IPF he said:

"What I want to do is support where priests are growing spiritually, becoming enriched. I must know 25 priests who have benefitted from IPF. The number of lives those men touch cannot be overstated. I have the capacity to help, so I have to determine where I am going to help. IPF is one of those places that I have elected to support. The work that IPF does is worthy of support." IPF is grateful to Jeff Darrey and the many other friends and benefactors of the Institute who are living lives faithful

To learn more about Jeff's work with Trinity Café visit: www.trinitycafe.org

compassion to the world.

to the Gospel bringing Christ's love and



From left to right: Fr. James Rafferty, Fr. John Kartje, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Fr. John Horn, S.J.

intellectual and pastoral dimensions. We anticipate that the document and the symposium itself will not only

benefit seminaries but will also be a guide to future programming for the Institute.

### BLESSINGS

Received between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

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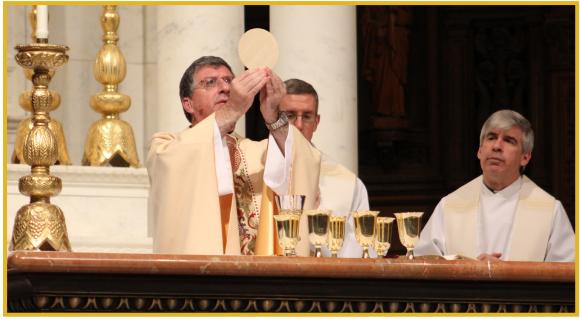
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Archbishop John Nienstedt

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Prior to Summer Programs

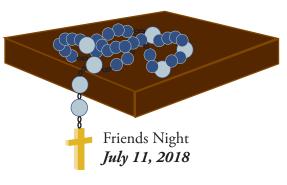
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Omaha Gives! 24 hr Charitable Challenge *May 23, 2018* 

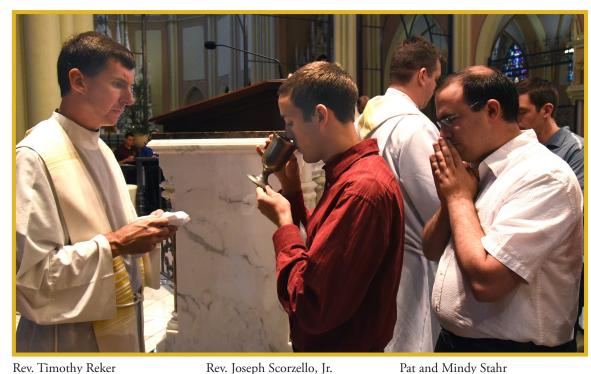
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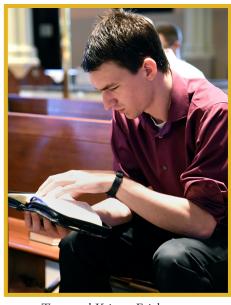
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# OMAHA GIVES: THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

The Institute for Priestly Formation is once again participating in Omaha Gives—an annual 24-hour, online giving event organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. The event will take place this year on Wednesday, May 23. The minimum donation is \$10 and there is no maximum. Prize money will be made available to amplify charitable donations.

Omaha Gives provides a unique opportunity for the friends of IPF to increase the impact of their gift. Each hour two donors are selected at random and \$1,000 is added to their gift. There

are also \$1,000 gifts given to the organization with the most donors during a given hour.

IPF is asking as many people as possible to consider making a donation between 3 and 4 p.m. CDT. This will increase our chances for that hour's gift. Moreover, additional cash gifts will be given this year due to the generosity of the event's sponsors.

This is an amazing opportunity to increase the impact of your generosity. No matter where you live, please visit www.omahagives.org on May 23rd to



nowered by the Omaha Community Foundation Support IPF on May 23rd, 2018!

donate. If possible, do so during the Hour of Mercy, between 3 and 4 p.m. CDT. Simply type Priest in the "Find Organization" box located at the upper right-hand corner of the page and click enter. Then click the IPF logo and you can make your donation. Thank you and please continue to pray for the mission of IPF!

# MARTEN LECTURE AT NOTRE DAME

Deacon James Keating was invited to give the 2018 Marten Lecture in Theology and Homiletics at the University of Notre Dame this past February. He also preached at the Mass

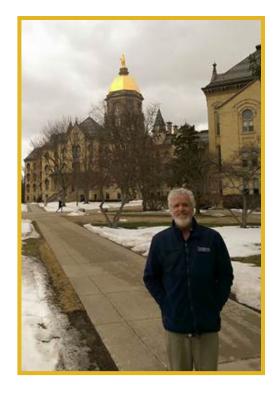


From left to right, Fr Michael Connors, C.S.C.; Director of the Marten Program in Homiletics at UND, Deacon James Keating, Fr. Gary Chamberland, C.S.C.; Director, M.Div. Program UND

preceding the lecture. The lecture was entitled, "Contemplative Homiletics: Being Carried Into Reality." The topic explored the role of the Holy Spirit in the homily at the Mass and

encouraged clergy to afford the congregation true silence within the Liturgy so that God's love may reach the receptive hearts of the worshippers. Deacon Keating was hosted by Fr. Michael Connors, C.S.C., Director of the Marten Program, and Fr. Gary Chamberland, C.S.C., Director of the M.Div. program at Notre

Dame (see photo). The Lecture is available on the IPF website as a YouTube video from the Marten Program.



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# HONORING BISHOP HANEFELDT: IPF'S CELEBRATION OF PRIESTHOOD BANQUET



From left to right: Fr. James Raffery, Kathy Kanavy, Bishop Hanefeldt, Fr. Richard Gabuzda

Most Rev. Joseph G. Hanefeldt, Bishop of the Grand Island Diocese, and former priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, was this year's honoree and recipient of the St. John Paul II Award for Priestly Service at the 15th Annual "Celebration of Priesthood" Banquet, on April 5, 2018.

"Bishop Hanefeldt has been a long-time friend of the Institute," said Fr. Richard Gabuzda, executive director of IPF. Bishop Hanefeldt is a graduate of IPF's future of the priesthood through his servant leadership," said Fr. Gabuzda. "During his time as spiritual director of the Pontifical North American College, seminarians said they appreciated his helpful spiritual direction, as well as his perspective as a priest who had served several parishes. These students all remember him as a very compassionate and generous priest.

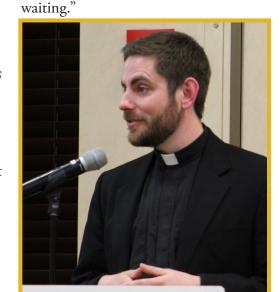
"The Celebration of Priesthood Banquet is the one time each year

the Institute honors a particular priest. For all the above reasons, he was a natural choice. He continues to bring these gifts to his ministry as Bishop now."
Bishop Hanefeldt told those in the recordbreaking crowd that IPF profoundly influenced his priesthood. During his 12th year as a priest, he said that he was

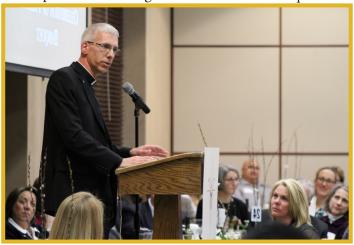
happy and successful, but felt empty. It triggered a need to "look at who I was as a priest." He found IPF and said it provided continuing education for the whole person, not just the intellect. He said the greatest lesson he learned from IPF was receptivity to God's love. "Invite God to amaze you," he

receptive to what God wants to do and then have the courage to let Him do it. Also speaking at the dinner were Fr. Scott Schilmoeller and Fr. Joseph Taphorn. Fr. Taphorn, pastor and director of the St. John Paul II Newman Center, is an alumnus of the IPF Spiritual Directors Training Program, and has served as a spiritual director for IPF's Summer Seminarian Program. He shared that he received "great grace" through IPF's Spiritual Directors Training. He said he's confident the Holy Spirit is at work in his direction when he "keeps one ear open to God and the other ear to the directee." Fr. Schilmoeller, associate pastor of Sacred Heart in Norfolk, is an alumnus of the IPF Summer Seminarian Program. A few years after his IPF summer experience, he was faced with a cross. It affected his prayer life and left him feeling like a failure, he said. He began to use the tools and resources learned in the summer program and saw that he was telling God about the things that were troubling but not letting him into those things. "It put great distance between Him and me. . ." he said adding that IPF helped him turn fully toward God. "When you turn toward Him and open, He is there

said, encouraging those present to be



Fr. Scott Schilmoeller giving his testimonial



Fr. Joseph Taphorn speaking at the Celebration of Priesthood

Spiritual Direction Training Program and has served as an adjunct spiritual director for the Institute for many years. Additionally, he serves on the IPF Bishops' Advisory Council and the IPF Mission Advisory Council.

"Bishop Hanefeldt has received from us, as well as given to IPF and the

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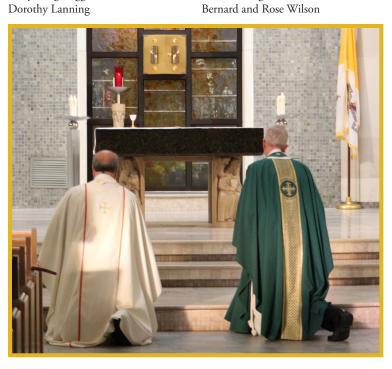
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# EXPERIENCING A TASTE OF IPF



Fr. Lorig, giving a presentation to those on the *Taste of IPF* retreat

Although I had never been to any IPF-related events before the *A Taste of IPF* retreat in March, I had been impacted by many people associated with the organization. The weekend retreat provided me education on prayer, sharing of personal testimonies, and an experience of silence.

The way the leaders, Chris Berens and Fr. Jeff Lorig, presented Ignatian

complicated. Fr. Lorig clarified the principles into a straightforward method, making prayer less daunting and calculated.

Even though the practical aspect of the retreat was wonderful, the personal examples from Chris and Fr. Lorig were most striking. When I heard these men share their struggles and joys, it stirred aspects of my own life experiences.

prayer was Their stories became the springboard unique and igniting curiosity in my own desires. I revolutionary. approach prayer with a renewed sense of hope.

experience, In the silence of the retreat, I was

Written by: Brooke Choquette, IPF Retreat Participant

In the silence of the retreat, I was gently reminded of several previous encounters with God in prayer. One of the encounters led me to a joyous place, a place of celebration and healing. Most importantly, my desires with Christ were met: to have companionship with Him, to not be alone, and to feel protected. In a beautiful moment in prayer, Christ showed me the recent ways the Father was present and protecting me, loving me as his beloved daughter.

This initial exchange in prayer has led to numerous other desires and graces in the weeks following the retreat. I'm excited to continue uncovering the fruit of this retreat experience!

### **TRIBUTES**

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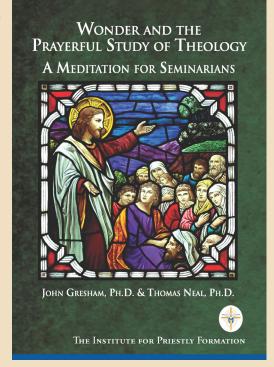
# NEW FROM IPF PUBLICATIONS

# Wonder and the Prayerful Study of Theology: A Meditation for Seminarians

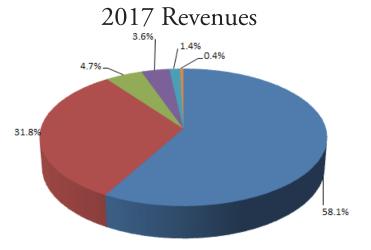
By: Dr. John Gresham and Dr. Thomas Neal (\$2.95)

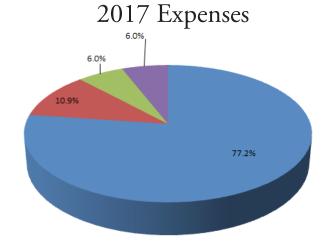
It is our hope that these two inspiring essays will be a gift to seminarians to be read with each new academic year. The authors, two seasoned seminary theologians, and academic deans encourage the hearts of seminarians to anchor their study in the Spirit, in wonder, and in the living truths that theology endeavors to prayerfully and rigorously explore.

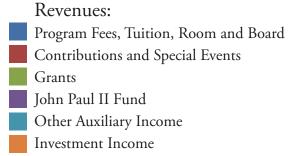
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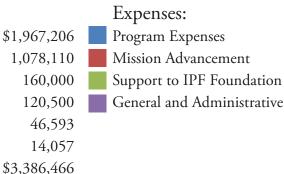


# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION 2017 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES









\$2,480,103	
349,226	
192,000	
191,301	
\$3,212,630	

# A NEW VISION, NEW OPPORTUNITY

As IPF approaches its twenty-fifth anniversary year, we have been reflecting on our history and where the Lord seems to be leading us in the future. For many years we had envisioned hosting more programs during the September - May period in Omaha with the consequent need to build a structure that could house overnight guests, an IPF Center, here in Omaha. As we have watched the Lord move us forward in mission, especially

with the emergence of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph, we see the Lord providing opportunities for programs outside of Omaha throughout the year. In keeping with this movement, the IPF leadership has decided to discontinue the plans to build a center in Omaha and instead to devote time, energy and resources to these newly emerging programs while maintaining our summer programs on the Creighton University campus as usual. In

keeping with good accounting practice, resources which had been already spent on the building project and which were carried as a "work in progress," must now be shown as an asset loss. This does not represent a loss of cash, but allows our bookkeeping to note that the funds already spent will not be part of an ongoing project. We remain grateful for the ongoing support we receive from all of our friends.





THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

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# A GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

Everyone talks about leaving a legacy, but have you considered how you can leave a lasting impact on the priesthood today and well after you have entered into Eternal Life?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society was established for donors, alumni, and friends of The Institute for Priestly Formation who have informed the Foundation of their intent to invest in the mission of IPF through planned gifts

made during their lives or to take effect upon death through their wills or trusts.

Let your name and the names of your loved ones live on with a Living Perpetual Gift dedicated to the support of the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests.

It is easy to do. For more information, contact Tom Pogge, Executive Director of The Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation, 402-280-3528 or ptpogge@creighton.edu.



