

# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha



"Msgr. Furlong became a life-long friend and spiritual advisor to our family. He has baptized most of the grandchildren and great grandchildren in the family, married several nieces and nephews, and officiated at numerous funerals of family members. We have been great friends for many years. He is one of the family."

# A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Last December, Rita Buttell passed away. Her family wanted to use some of the memorial money they received to honor her longtime friend, Msgr. Thomas Furlong, so they established an IPF Saint John Paul II Fund for Priests account.

"I know my mom would be pleased, as is our family, to start the process to have him honored. What a wonderful priest and servant of the Lord," said Rita's daughter, Mary.

Mary remembers when her uncle and Msgr. Furlong were in the seminary together. "My mom and I (I was only three or four years old at the time) took fresh baked cookies and banana bread every Wednesday (wrapped in newspaper as they were not allowed to read the newspaper) to my uncle, Bob Gorham, to share with the other seminarians.

I have fond memories of my weekly trips to St. Paul with Mom. Many of the seminarians would come to our house for dinner and football or baseball games on weekends when they had a break or holiday. When my family returned to Omaha years later, we were so pleased to find Fr. Furlong serving at the Cathedral as a priest and the principal of the high school."

Msgr. Furlong baptized family members and attended weddings and funerals throughout the years.

Mary continues to stay in touch with Msgr. Furlong, as one would with any beloved member of the family. They celebrated his birthday recently by meeting for lunch. No doubt there was some discussion of her mother and "the good old days" which perhaps included banana bread and newspapers.

# IS THERE A SPECIAL PRIEST IN YOUR LIFE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR?

Opening or adding to an existing IPF Saint John Paul II Fund account is a great way to "pay it forward".

By contributing to an account in honor of a priest of your choice, you become part of the Mission of the Institute in the spiritual formation of current and future priests while at the same time recognizing the service and generosity of a priest whom you admire and respect.

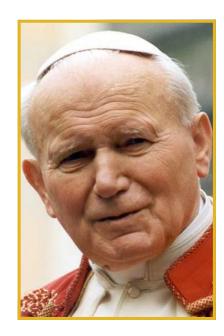
The Institute uses the monies received to help fund programs that train men in holiness, something every parishioner wants in their diocesan priests.

An account can be opened for any priest whether he is a diocesan priest or one

from a religious order, living or deceased. A brief biography of the honored priest and a list of all donors to his account are perpetually inscribed in a Book of Remembrance once the fund reaches the perpetual level of \$5000. Every summer, a Mass is celebrated in remembrance of all honored priests and their donors.

To date 106 priests have been honored with 492 donations. There is no limit as to how much can go into an account. Donors can contribute to an existing account or open a new one.

More information can be found on the IPF website, PriestlyFormation.org.



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Dear Friends,

Our 2015 Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians is well underway with 176 seminarians from 65 different dioceses. Among the dioceses represented are Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Masaka, Uganda; Phat Diem, Vietnam and Tshumbe, Congo. These 176 seminarians are seeking to grow in love for the Lord and to receive more fully their call to serve as diocesan priests.

The importance of the spiritual life for seminarians was highlighted during Pope Francis' recent trip to Naples, Italy. "I tell you one thing," he said to the gathered seminarians. "If you do not have Jesus at the center, hold off your ordination. If you are not sure that Christ is at the center, wait a bit more time to be sure. If not, you will start a path that you won't know how to finish."

For all those laboring in the mission of IPF, our deepest desire is that Jesus may be more and more at the center of

the lives of the priests and seminarians who participate in our programs. Our confident hope is that the renewed lives of priests and seminarians will then bring a deeper love for the Lord into the parishes and institutions they serve so that all People of God may rejoice in knowing Jesus at the center of their lives as well.

The pages of this newsletter offer a recap of some of our recent programs and events. This summer, as our programs continue, we look forward to July 15-16 when we will welcome new friends to the campus. Our special guest for this event will be Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The pages of this newsletter also offer an opportunity to recognize the many individuals and groups who support IPF. We thank all of you for joining in this mission and supporting us by your prayers, your love and your financial sacrifices. Our mission could not exist without you! Please feel free to pass along this newsletter to your friends and family so that they know about the wonderful things the Lord is doing in our midst.

Please keep the mission of IPF in your prayers!

Gratefully in the Lord,

Richard J. Gatuzda

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda



2014 Summer Program Seminarians enjoying an afternoon away from campus.

# BLESSINGS

Received between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014

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"IPF is like a swiss army knife. Each time you think you've got it figured out another cool thing pops up."

> Colin Priest, Seminarian Diocese of Des Moines

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Pope Francis, in an address to the seminarians at the North American College

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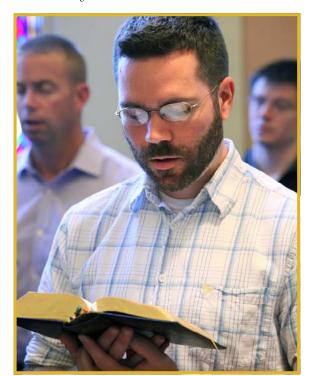
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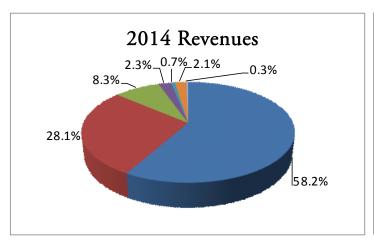
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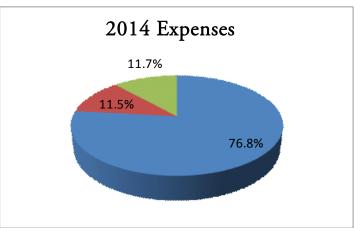
"Priests are called to be men of prayer. IPF gives seminarians the necessary tools to become men of prayer."

Timothy Grimes, Seminarian Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana



# THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION 2014 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES





#### Revenues:

- Program Fees, Tuition, Room & Board
- Contributions & Special Events
- Grants
- Iohn Paul II Fund
- Contributed Services
- Other Auxiliary Income
- Investment Income

#### Expenses:

- Program Expenses
- Mission Advancement
- General and Administrative
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- 353,247
- \$3,013,795

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865,143

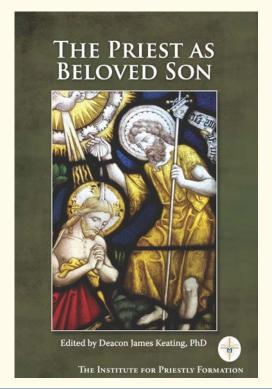
256,302

71,500

20,986

64,756

9,331 **\$3,079,943** 



#### The Priest as Beloved Son

Edited by Deacon James Keating, Ph.D.

The Priest as Beloved Son is a compilation of essays that were written to expound upon one of the five priestly identities, that of Beloved Son. Edited by Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., these essays explore such areas as the Scriptural foundations for the identity of Beloved Son, as well as discussions of affective maturity of priests as sons of God. Together, the essays provide descriptions and details of how a priest truly is a beloved son of God and how he can effectively live out that role as he fulfills his vocation to the priesthood.

To order an IPF Publication, contact Catholic Word at Catholic Word.com, 800-932-3051 or Team@Catholic Word.com

## **RECENT IPF EVENTS**

## **ALUMNI RETREATS**



Any alumnus from an IPF program is invited to attend alumni retreats at the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Clearwater, Florida. The eight-day retreat features one daily morning conference presented by a member of the IPF Faculty, a silent atmosphere, daily spiritual direction and healing prayer. The next scheduled retreat is November 2-9, 2015. For more information, consult the IPF website, priestlyformation.org.

# MORNINGS OF Reflection

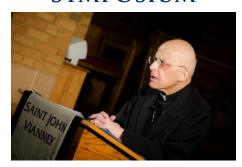


On a Saturday morning during Advent and Lent, Omaha area supporters are offered a "mini retreat" on relational prayer directed by the IPF staff. A beautiful piece of artwork is used as a focal point at the gatherings which offer an opportunity for the laity to experience the IPF charism used in the spiritual formation programs. Record numbers attended this past year's "Mornings of Reflection".

"Words are not enough to express the tremendous and life-changing gift I have received through the Spiritual Exercises at IPF."

Fr. Matthew Wertin Diocese of Pueblo

#### **SYMPOSIUM**



Cardinal Francis George was the keynote speaker at the IPF Symposium held in February at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver. It was his last public speaking appearance prior to his death. Cardinal George was a close friend of the Institute.



The focus of the symposium was to show the interrelationship of human and spiritual formation while respecting the appropriate limits of each forum, demonstrate how growth in communion with Christ can be fostered, spoken of and integrated within human formation and to offer a model of how such growth can be evaluated in the external forum (cf. PPF 280b).

## **ANNUAL BANQUET**



The annual Celebration of Priesthood Banquet held in Omaha in April saw a record number in attendance. Fr. Don Shane, beloved priest of the Archdiocese, was presented with the JPII Award for Priestly Service. Bishop Felipe Estévez from the Diocese of St. Augustine was the keynote speaker. IPF wishes to thank those in attendance for their support and prayers.

#### **FYI**

IPF Alumni and friends may be interested to know about an online M.S. in Psychology from the Institute for Psychological Sciences.
Check it out at: ipsciences.edu



"IPF was a needed summer because it brought me back to the heart of my vocation. I met God again and fell in love again."

> John Horan, Seminarian Diocese of Joliet

#### TO SEE PETER

Written by Larry Dwyer, Pilgrim

"We are off to see Peter." With these words, 25 excited pilgrims led by Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Fr. Jim Rafferty and Kathy Kanavy left the States on a pilgrimage to Rome –the See of St. Peterto celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Institute for Priestly Formation.

At our first Mass, Fr. Dan Kampschnieder explained that we were not embarking on a vacation but rather on a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage to see Peter. St. Augustine described a pilgrimage as "a journey to visit places hallowed by events in the lives of saints and martyrs" (City of God XXII). We were not going just to see beautiful paintings, sculptures and centuries old churches, which we did of course, but to see where Peter lived and where his successor Pope Francis now resides.

In Rome we realized we were surrounded by evidences of our Catholic faith as we celebrated Mass at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, saw the incorrupt bodies of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Catherine of Sienna, gazed in wonder at the Pieta, saw the master paintings of Michelangelo, Raphael, Caravaggio and Fra Angelico. Everywhere we looked, we saw beauty.

In St. Peter's Square we joined 60,000 other pilgrims from around the world to listen to Pope Francis's beautiful message and pray with him for the welfare of our Church. Never before have I felt the universality of the church as I did that morning. The rain held and we celebrated in joy and gratitude being together with each other and with Peter's successor.

Coming home and sharing with my fellow pilgrims the blessings received on our journey made me realize that the City of Rome is a unique and special place. Nothing can compare to it in all the world. We journeyed to Rome to see Peter and came home to find our faith strengthened and renewed. May our journey of faith continue together as we fall more deeply in love with God.



The 20th Anniversary Pilgrims posed together during a side trip to Assisi.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM



In May 2006, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the clergy of Warsaw and said, "The faithful expect only one thing from priests: that they be specialists in promoting the encounter between man and God. The priest is not asked to be an expert in economics, construction or politics. He is expected to be an expert in the spiritual life."

Responding to the Holy Father's two-fold call for priests to be "experts in the spiritual life" and "spiritual directors" the Institute for Priestly Formation developed a Spiritual Direction Training Program.

Furthermore, in May of 2011, the Holy Father said, "As she has never failed to do, again today the Church continues to recommend the practice of spiritual direction, not only to all those who wish

to follow the Lord up close, but to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly his baptism, that is, the new life in Christ. Everyone, in fact, and in a particular way all those who have received the divine call to a closer following, needs to be supported personally by a sure guide in doctrine and expert in the things of God."

Year Two of the three year program began in May with 138 participants. 251 priests have completed the certification since the inception of the program.



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