

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION



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A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

WHAT'S INSIDE



ANNUAL REPORT OF
DONATIONS

SYMPOSIUM: RATIO
FUNDAMENTALIS

STAFF TRANSITIONS

IPF PRIESTS OF
ST. JOSEPH

SPIRITUAL MOMS
SIGN-UPS

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:
DR. DAVID AND MARY
ANNE HOOVER

ABIDING IN CHRIST

A REASON FOR YOUR
HOPE



TWENTY-FIFTH

25

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

We can hardly believe how much grace God has poured onto our work throughout the last 25 years. Be sure to join us as we celebrate this summer! *See page 14*



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Pictured left: Bishop Hanefeldt prepares the monstrance before Adoration at the Symposium on the Ratio Fundamentalis.

Pictured right: The priest participants at the Ratio Symposium enjoy the sunshine in Florida

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



TWENTY-FIFTH **25** ANNIVERSARY

Dear Friends,

As we reach the midpoint of our 25th anniversary year, I invite you to join us in great gratitude for all that the Lord has been doing through the Institute's mission during these grace-filled years. For one who was here "from the beginning," it is difficult to grasp that we have reached this milestone!

One highlight of the anniversary year thus far has been the symposium which we co-hosted with St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary at the end of March. We were honored to have Archbishop Jorge Patrón Wong from the Congregation of the Clergy as our main speaker. The symposium focused on a landmark document on priestly formation which the Congregation published a few years ago.

While we move rapidly toward our 2019 summer programs, we continue to engage in a strategic planning process. The process, which began last fall, will continue

through this year. Coming in the midst of this historic year, we are taking a look at where we've come from and where the Lord will be leading us in the next few years.

We look forward to our main anniversary celebration to be held July 12-13 in Omaha. The celebration begins on Friday evening with Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, continues with presentations on Saturday morning and concludes with Mass and a banquet on Saturday evening. We hope to welcome many friends and, especially, many alumni to this great event.

As usual, this spring edition of our newsletter features our annual report. The many pages of names serve as a testimony to the broad, deep and ongoing support of many individuals and organizations. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who so faithfully join with us in our important mission for the life of the Church. God bless you all!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Richard J. Gabuzda

Fr. Richard Gabuzda,
Executive Director of IPF





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

An unusual introduction to the IPF mission has led to a treasured and long-standing relationship with Dr. David and Mary Anne Hoover.

“It was a normal day in my dental office that July. Little did I realize that I would be given an opportunity to be a part of history! The caller said there was a priest with a toothache who had just arrived in Omaha. I found out that the priest was a Father John Horn, SJ, from Pennsylvania. And later I found out that his mission was not to convert the heathens in this far away land, but his mission, along with Father Richard Gabuzda and Kathy Kanavy, was to establish an institute or training facility to train seminarians! That was 25 years ago.”

With these words, Dr. David Hoover of Omaha, described his introduction to the Institute for Priestly Formation. And the rest, as they say, is history! Dr. Hoover and his wife Mary Anne quickly became among IPF’s most dedicated and enthusiastic supporters and have remained so over these many years.

David, originally from Hunter, Oklahoma, and Mary Anne, originally

from South Bend, Indiana, met at Creighton University where David was in dental school and Mary Anne was an undergraduate. David practiced dentistry in Omaha until January 2018. During that time, he served for 14 years as a part time member of the faculty at the Creighton Dental school. They have been blessed with 7 children and 16 grandchildren. David describes Mary Anne as “the real rock of our family, making our children what they are today.”

The Hoover’s were among the first members of IPF’s Mission Advancement Council. As Council members they helped initiate and grow our annual Celebration of Priesthood dinner. This yearly event has brought many new friends to know and support the Institute’s mission. Mary Anne has served as a “Spiritual Mom” from the inception of that program. Reflecting on this important prayerful support to the seminarian program, Mary Anne

said, “To be a Spiritual Mom to a seminarian each year is both exciting and surprising especially when meeting for the first time at Friends Night after praying for each other all summer.”

David describes their association with the IPF mission as “a life-changing experience . . . There is no question that we are better people because of what we have learned from IPF.”

They attribute the success of IPF to the strength of the staff: “Dedicated, hard-working people who have the mission as their foremost objective!”

Mary Anne and David sum up their experience of IPF and its mission this way: “IPF is the only institute of its kind in the world! Its effect is not only local but international. We are indeed fortunate to have it located in our community.” And we are fortunate to have David and Mary Anne as good friends and dedicated supporters of the IPF mission!



NOW 7 PRIESTS OF ST. JOSEPH

Fr. Jorge Garcia and Fr. Josh Brown (seen in the picture to the left) entered formation to become IPF Priests of Saint Joseph when they began the first year of candidacy this spring. Fr. Rob Cadrecha is in his second year of candidacy and anticipates first profession of vows this summer. Fr. Andy Gehringer and Fr. Nicholas Cachia each made initial consecration in the summer of 2018, and they continue serving in their respective assignments as an active pastor and a seminary formator respectively.

IPF PRIESTS OF SAINT JOSEPH

Recognizing “A Call Within A Call” to serve fellow diocesan priests in their spiritual formation

The weekend of March 24th, 2019, the members of the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph gathered at Nazareth House for a time of prayer and fraternity. Since Archbishop Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha, approved the canonical statutes of the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph in October 2015, the association now includes seven members in varying stages of formation or consecration. Fr. Rich Gabuzda and Fr. Jim Rafferty are internal members serving full-time in the mission of IPF. Both have been incardinated into the Archdiocese of Omaha in view of this lifelong commitment. The other five members are external and in various stages of formation (described above). God has blessed us richly!

As IPF marks this 25th anniversary year, the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph will provide for the ongoing presence of the IPF mission for many years to come. While many generous and faith-filled priests assist with IPF programs throughout the year, some have

recognized a “call within a call” as diocesan priests to dedicate themselves to the spiritual formation of their fellow diocesan priests. By their professions of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as well as a vow of lifelong service to the interior lives of diocesan priests, the IPF Priests of Saint Joseph not only animate the work of IPF programs, but they also bring the charism of spiritual accompaniment into the local presbyterate where they serve.



Pictured above: Fr. James Rafferty reflects in his homily on the role of the IPF Priests of St. Joseph in the mission of the Church.

Pictured below, from left to right: Fr. Nicholas Cachia, Fr. Rob Cadrecha, Fr. James Rafferty, Fr. Jorge Garcia, Fr. Josh Brown, Fr. Richard Gabuzda (not pictured, Fr. Andy Gehringer)



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- Saint John Vianney

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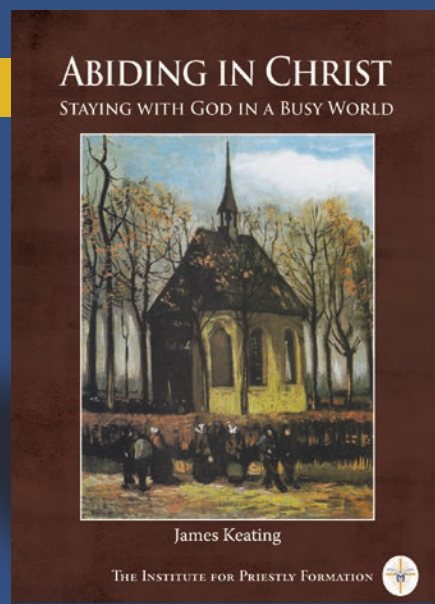
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 Knights of Columbus Council #10965
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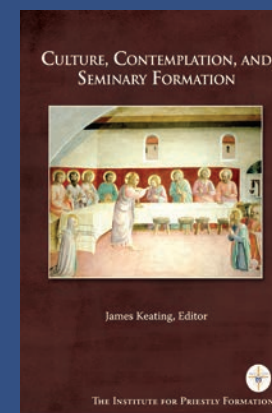
NEWEST IPF PUBLICATIONS

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Deacon James Keating's book *Abiding in Christ: Staying with God in a Busy World* is a how-to-pray resource. This book helps readers to find a quiet space wherein they can be present to God and offers suggestions of how they can be more open to God's movement within them.

Order these publications online at www.ipfpublications.org



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FOR SEMINARY THEOLOGIANs

Culture, Contemplation, and Seminary Formation is a collection of essays inviting seminary theologians to think more deeply about and, perhaps, even to reconceive the way in which they understand the intellectual formation of seminarians and the way that intellectual formation relates to the other dimensions of priestly formation.

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LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION



On March 16, 2019, over 275 people gathered at Christ the King Church in Omaha, Nebraska, for IPF's annual Lenten Morning of Reflection. Beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m., the half-day retreat encouraged those in attendance to spend time in prayer and in relationship with God. Fr. Rafferty gave the main presentation of the morning, entitled, "For God so Loved the World." Kathy Kanavy followed with a brief presentation where she made several suggestions for the subsequent prayer period. There was time set aside for refreshments (provided by IPF volunteers) and socializing. After time for adoration and prayer, all returned to the parish center, where those who felt comfortable doing so were encouraged to share the graces they had received from their prayer time. The day ended around noon with a few final announcements and a blessing. Fr. Rafferty's talk can be found on the IPF website. The image used as the focal point for the morning was "Christ Carrying the Cross" by Titian.



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Above: Bill Lindsay, Rev. James Kramper and Larry Dwyer share a few moments of joy at the IPF Dinner for JPPII Fund Priests.

To the left: Bishop Andrew Cozzens prepares the monstrance for Adoration at the IPF Symposium.

Below: Archbishop Patrón Wong prepares to walk to the Chapel with Archbishop Aquila, Archbishop Lucas, Bishop Cozzens, Fr. Gabuzda and Rev. Msgr. David Toups at the Symposium.



From the top down:
 1) The JPPII Medallion, on display at the dinner event celebrating those priests honored by donations to the fund.
 2) Deacon James Keating, offering a few words at the IPF Lenten Morning of Reflection.
 3) Bishop Hanefeldt, speaking at the Symposium in Florida.
 4) Rev. Rafferty, Kathy Kanavy, Archbishop Patrón Wong, and Rev. Gabuzda at the chapel in St. Vincent de Paul Seminary.
 5) Valerie Conzett reflects in silence at the IPF Lenten Morning of Reflection.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

“A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE”

JULY 12-13, 2019



25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA BANQUET
Hilton Omaha
5:30 p.m. July 13th

25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS
St. Cecilia Cathedral
4:00 p.m. July 13th

**TALKS FROM REV. MARK TOUPS
AND DEACON JAMES KEATING**
Hilton Omaha
9:00 a.m. July 13th

**EVENING PRAYER AND
ADORATION**
St. Cecilia Cathedral
6:00 p.m. July 12th

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US BY
REGISTERING FOR ONE OR MORE OF
THESE EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PRIESTLYFORMATION.ORG**

The Institute for Priestly Formation 25th Anniversary Celebration and Gala Banquet will celebrate the past graces received and ask for continued blessings for IPF, its friends and faculty, and the many diocesan seminarians and priests it serves.

Event chairs, Tim and Sally O’Neill, are working with dozens of volunteers and IPF staff to create a gathering that celebrates this jubilee and nourishes both the mind and spirit with the mission of IPF at the center. Weekend events commence with Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration at St. Cecilia’s Cathedral at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 12th.

On Saturday, laity and church leaders will gather from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Omaha for talks from Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., director of Theological Formation at IPF, “Finding God in Everyday Life” and Rev. Mark Toups, vicar general for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and a member of IPF’s faculty, “Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing.”

Saturday morning is complimentary to all as a way of expressing thanksgiving for the support received throughout the years. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JOE PATRONE (ERIE), MAURICIO TOVAR (OMAHA), REV. JAMES RAFFERTY, MARTIN VU (ORANGE), AND KEVIN HOLLAND (ERIE). THESE FOUR SEMINARIANS WENT ON IPF’S FIRST PRE-ORDINATION RETREAT, LED BY REV. RAFFERTY, IN FLORIDA. THE NEXT RETREAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER 2019 IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.

Saturday at St. Cecilia Cathedral. The Gala Banquet will gather laity and clergy, alumni and friends back at Hilton Omaha starting with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the Gala Banquet are \$150 per person and are available online at www.priestlyformation.org or by calling Linda 402-280-3901.

“IPF and its programs have had a powerfully positive impact on the Church these last 25 years,” said O’Neill.

The July event is an opportunity to celebrate the foresight and perseverance of the founders, IPF’s advisors and early faculty members. It is also a time to thank those who have helped the Institute along the way. “We are just pausing now to celebrate at this time, knowing that the future is looking so bright,” O’Neill concluded.

IPF will be participating in Omaha Gives on
May 22

Mark your calendars and join us for this day of giving!

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Making a donation to a specific priest's St. John Paul II Fund for Priests account is a great way to celebrate a priest's birthday, say thank you, or offer encouragement.

IS THERE A PRIEST WHO HAS MADE AN IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE? SOMEONE WHO HAS ACCOMPANIED YOU THROUGH LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS?

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continued from pg. 17

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Pictured: A small group of participants in Section B of the Spiritual Direction Training Program smile for the camera. There are two sections of this program, with 126 participants in total.

REFLECTING ON THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

As we conclude the second year of the spiritual direction training program, it's a blessing to see how the priest participants have forged real bonds of fraternity with each other. It's also a grace to see how open they are to the Lord and how they speak of their experiences of the Lord's presence with them and for them both in their personal prayer and in their active priestly ministry. It's a privilege to see how deeply committed they are to God and to his Church.

I admire the vocation directors for the generosity with which they serve in a challenging ministry. When they relax into the friendship that Jesus wants to share with them personally, they find renewed joy and hope in the ministry of accompanying others in their path toward priesthood. The grace of discerning the Lord's voice is such a vital awareness in the midst of all priestly ministry, but especially those who serve in vocation work. I am very grateful to have been able to accompany them in their retreat.

- Rev. James Rafferty

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Exploring the Ratio Fundamentalis on Seminary Formation

On March 29-31, 2019 seminary formators, theologians and Bishops gathered at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, in Boynton Beach, Florida to listen to and converse with Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong of the Congregation for Clergy, Most Rev. Joseph Hanefeldt, Bishop of Grand Island, NE, Rev. Msgr. Michael Heintz, Academic Dean, Mt. St. Mary Seminary in MD, Dr. John and Nancy Cavadini of University of Notre Dame, IN, and the Most Rev. Andrew Cozzens, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN on the topic of seminary formation as it is envisioned within the Congregation for Clergy's new document, *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*.

The gathering was a watershed moment for those attending the symposium. Within the formal addresses by the presenters and

the informal conversations among the participants, a new vision of seminary formation was contemplated and considered. Key to this vision was threefold, first seeing seminary as communities where seminarians mature and develop into *disciples of Christ ready to be configured to His self-giving ministry as their own identity*. Secondly, it became clear that *an image of seminary being predominantly "school" was inadequate* to serve the needs of the Church in Western culture today. Thirdly, the symposium explored the necessity of *seminarians spending time transitioning into formation within a preparatory year* thus attaining a 'recovery', if you will, from the more superficial aspects of Western culture.

Archbishop Patrón Wong noted, "The transformation of the heart of each seminarian . . . must

necessarily be manifested in their feelings, attitudes, and lifestyle, in which it is verified that his heart is effectively assimilating to that of the same Lord, Servant and Good Shepherd. For this reason, integral formation makes each seminarian more deeply, a true Missionary Disciple."

Theologian, Dr. John Cavadini commented, "We need pastors whose lives are constantly being rooted in Jesus Christ, the Servant and Good Shepherd, moving . . . the lay faithful to dare to follow their example of a continuous attitude of docility to the Holy Spirit in the Church, even against the cultural and ecclesial environment in which they live . . . The priest is a person who is 'set apart', but set apart on behalf of the rest of humanity.



To the far left: Rev. Msgr. Troups is involved in one of the lively small group discussions.



To the left: Archbishop Patrón Wong was the celebrant for Mass on the 4th Sunday of Lent.



Above: Another small group discussion is taking place during one of the sessions.

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Pictured above:
Bobbi Matyja, who retired in January

Pictured below:

Josie Clarey, our newest IPF staff member



IPF STAFF TRANSITIONS

As we in Omaha have moved gratefully from a long winter to spring, we also note several transitions in our office staff. For the first time in our twenty-five years, two IPF staff members have retired (see the next page for the details on Tom Pogge's retirement).

Bobbi Matyja, who worked with IPF as administrative assistant for about 5 years, retired at the beginning of January. Bobbi brought great enthusiasm and wonderful dedication to the IPF mission. Bobbi was our "go to" person for various needs around the office. She would always make sure that things were always in tip-top shape and running smoothly. Somehow, she managed to carry on with her various projects amidst constant interruptions from phone calls, front door visitors,

answering questions and tending to details on behalf of everyone on staff.

Bobbi worked closely with Dr. Margaret Schlientz arranging summer apostolic placements for our seminarians. As hospitals and other service institutions became ever more concerned that volunteers should be well prepared and qualified (including health screening and background checks), the work for this one part of the summer program increased dramatically. Bobbi was able to gather all the parts together and make for smooth running of this important part of the summer program.

Though we will miss her we are grateful that she now volunteers for IPF once a week. We are happy to welcome Josie Clarey who has come on board in Bobbi's place.



WITH GRATITUDE FOR TOM POGGE

We are both delighted and disheartened to announce that Tom Pogge, Executive Director of the IPF Foundation has retired as of February 28, 2019.

Tom joined the IPF team in 2006 taking the helm of the then fledgling Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation and leading the broader development efforts of the Institute. During Tom's tenure the fundraising capacity of IPF more than doubled.

"Having lived through all the changes from Vatican II and the confusion that came out of it, I think we're seeing a renewal of the Church and what the Council Fathers were really calling for starting to emerge," Tom explains. "To renew the Church, we need strong, spiritually healthy priests. And when people learn about what IPF is doing to serve this holy purpose, they're excited — and rightly so."

Tom's evangelistic fervor for IPF was instrumental in broadening the base for support and positioning the Institute to respond to the growing needs of the Church he so loves. Tom's capable guidance was instrumental in enabling IPF to increase the capacity of both the seminarian and spiritual director training program and enabling IPF to expand its reach by providing programming for seminary personnel and launching IPF Publishing that

now boasts over 25 titles.

Tom brought invaluable experience and strategic vision to IPF. Tom had a 33-year career as a lawyer, which included a tour of duty with the U.S. Army JAGC Corps and 20 years as partner in a national law firm. He also served as executive vice president and general counsel of a high-tech company and vice president and general counsel of a large international corporation.

Tom is a longstanding member of Legatus and Serra Club. He played a key role in launching the Holy Name Housing Corp and held leadership roles at St. Leo the Great, St. Pius X/St. Leo School, Creighton Prep, Duchesne Academy and Creighton University and served as president of Spirit Catholic Radio's board.

More recently, Tom served as a lieutenant for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Having served with distinction, in 2018 Tom was appointed vice governor general of North America for the order. His new responsibilities prompted his decision to step down from IPF.

We offer Tom our deepest gratitude for his years of service to IPF and pray for his continued success as he moves into yet another stage of retired life.

Pictured below: Rev. James Rafferty, Kathy Kanavy, Tom Pogge, Linda Antonelli and Rev. Richard Gabuzda smile for a picture taken at Tom's farewell luncheon.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 21, 2019
Evening of Adoration,
Prior to Summer Programs
St. John's, Omaha, NE

MAY 22, 2019
Omaha Gives
24 Hr Charitable Challenge
Omaha, NE

MAY 26, 2019
2019 Summer Seminarian
Program Begins
Creighton, Omaha, NE

JULY 12-13, 2019
25th Anniversary
Celebration
Creighton University,
Omaha, NE

JULY 17, 2019
Friends Night with
Spiritual Moms and Sons
Creighton University,
Omaha, NE

SPIRITUAL MOTHERS AND SONS

A mother's prayers for her son are special. An IPF Spiritual Mom's prayers for her summer seminarian "son" are similarly special.

For the past twelve years, every seminarian in IPF's summer program has had women praying for him. The women are told their son's name, his age, his diocese, and his current seminary. The seminarian is given his "mother's" name and is invited to pray for her as well. One Hail Mary a day. That's it. But the graces from

those simple prayers create a "dome of grace" which the faculty has said makes a difference in the receptivity of the hearts and minds of the seminarians.

Women who are matched "one-to-one" come together at the end of the program and meet their sons. The evening is magical. The Spiritual Moms have been praying for a man they've never met, and the sons have been made aware that someone is praying for them, by name, every day. Then they meet. It's an evening of

shared joy.

Others outside Omaha are also invited to pray for IPF summer seminarians. They receive a calendared list with every seminarian's name and can pray for them a few at a time. By the end of the summer, they've prayed, by name, for each man.

If you are interested in becoming a 2019 Spiritual Mom, you can learn more and register online at priestlyformation.org or send an email to ipfmoms@gmail.com.



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THE FOUNDERS OF IPF

Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Kathy Kanavy, and Fr. John Horn, S.J. are pictured below at the March Symposium in Boyton Beach, Florida at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. The fourth founder, Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J., is not pictured.

