



INSTITUTE for PRIESTLY FORMATION

30 | *Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ*  
Since 1994

Spring 2024

# Hearts on Fire

## Magazine



## Celebrating 30 Years in 2024

In 2024, IPF celebrates its 30th Anniversary. Check out our 'Save the Date' page on pg. 7 to learn about all of the upcoming events hosted by IPF during 2024.



INSTITUTE *for*  
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30

*Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ  
Since 1994*

## A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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## Cover Photo:

In early January 2024, IPF staff and participants attending the Pre-Ordination Retreat at the Loyola on the Potomac Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland took a group photo as they concluded the program.

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## Our Mission

In collaboration with Catholic seminaries and dioceses, we form seminarians, priests, and bishops in holiness and accompany them in their ongoing spiritual growth, so they can more effectively lead others to Christ.

## Our Vision

We envision a joyful and powerful renewal of holiness across the U.S. Catholic Church as more diocesan seminarians, priests, and bishops seek and commit to a personal, deep, and sustained spiritual communion with the Trinity.

## Our Objectives

1. Live out our beliefs and convictions in everything we do with humility and magnanimity, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, knowing we are nothing without God.
2. Stay focused on why we exist: to serve the spiritual formation needs of diocesan seminarians, priests, bishops, and those involved in priestly formation.
3. Ensure the ongoing excellence of our programs, retreats, publications, and activities by proactively seeking input and information from others.
4. Sustain and grow funding to ensure that IPF continues its mission for generations to come.



# From the IPF Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

I spent a few days after Christmas visiting my parents who are retired in Colorado. Each afternoon, I went to their local parish and prayed in the adoration chapel. I would also walk over to the church and look at the art and devotional areas in the church. Sometimes, I was the only person in the chapel or church; other times, there were several other people. Some of them I noticed praying were likely retirees, and some may have been widows or widowers. I began to think of my own parents and their weekly devotion to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I felt a great sense of gratitude welling up in me as I thought about how important churches are to the faithful, and particularly that there is a parish nearby where my parents can pray and go to Mass. I also had a deep sense of gratitude welling up in me for the pastor of the parish (whom I have met only once) and for the bishop of the diocese, that they offer up the toil of administration to care for these parishes.

With that same gratitude, I am glad that IPF will honor Fr. Dan Kampschneider, a retired priest from Omaha, Nebraska, with our second annual St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service at our "IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire" dinner in April. As I thought about Fr. Kampschneider and the steadfastness and grace with which he lived as a pastor, I am also reminded of all the pastors of our parishes who strive to hand on the faith, create a space for prayer amidst a very secular culture, and go to great lengths to care for many facets of the parish that many of us would not notice. But they notice. You can read about Fr. Kampschneider and the upcoming "IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire" event in this magazine.

Finally, similar to the pastors who quietly go about caring for their parishes, please read about one of our many regular donors whose gifts have quietly cared for the needs of IPF over many years. We are profoundly grateful.

You can read about those and other great happenings at IPF, including the conclusion of our first-ever spiritual program for bishops, in this spring edition of IPF's *Hearts on Fire* magazine.

**Blessings.**



Fr. Brian Welter,  
Executive Director of IPF

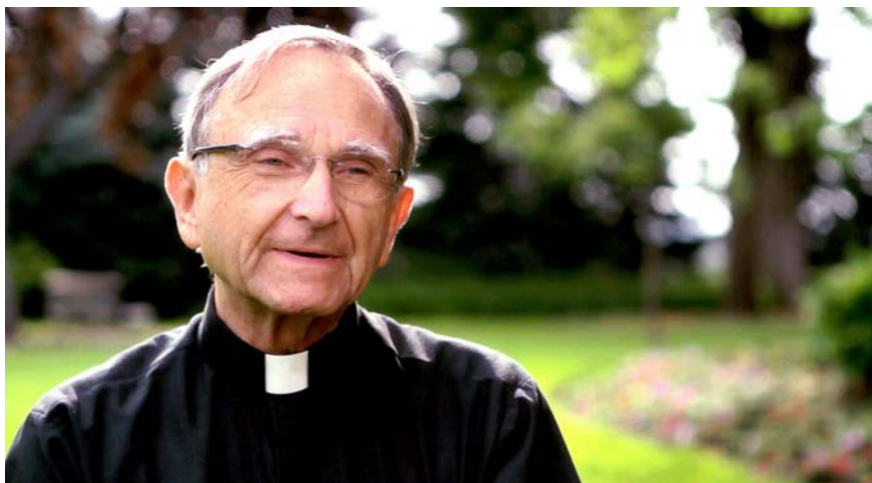


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# 30 Years of Giving in Support of IPF's Mission

Written by: Msgr. John Cippel, Priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida



When the IPF Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians began at Creighton University in the summer of 1995, I was also on the Creighton campus completing a graduate degree in Christian Spirituality. During that very first summer of IPF, I spoke several times to Fr. Gabuzda, who shared the vision of IPF with me. I also spoke with a few seminarians during that summer, and they shared their enthusiasm for being taught to pray more personally and how their personal relationship with the Lord was deepening. All this inspired me with hope and joy for these young men.

In 1995, I had already been ordained a priest for 35 years, and I knew from experience that the challenges of the diocesan priest could be effectively faced only by spending time in personal prayer with the Lord Jesus Christ. I knew then, during that initial summer, that I wanted to be part of the IPF community. The Holy Spirit stirred within me the desire to draw seminarians into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ - who was calling them to be His priests. I asked Fr. Gabuzda if I could possibly be part of the IPF experience in the future as a spiritual director for the 8-day silent directed retreat which draws the seminarians into a deep personal encounter with the Lord at the very beginning of the summer program. In the year 2000, my desires were fulfilled when I began

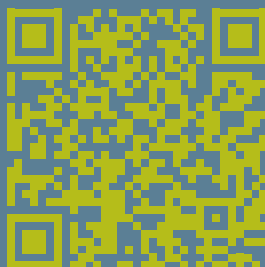
to be involved with the IPF Seminarian Program, and I have been active as an adjunct staff member in several other IPF programs since then.

However, being a pastor, I realized that the Lord's call to serve God's people also includes being a good steward. It is essential to good stewardship to share your financial resources to build the Body of Christ. I have given and continue to give a portion of my tithe to the IPF mission each month. Any gift given to further the mission of the Gospel returns sevenfold, and the Lord cannot be outdone in generosity. His call to me to be part of the IPF community began when I was forty years a priest and sixty-seven years old. What a blessing God has bestowed upon me to grow old serving young men, both seminarians and priests, who are keeping me young at heart at ninety years of age! What a blessing to have formed deep friendships from among the community of IPF Staff—those who serve full time and as adjuncts.

Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). I thank the Lord, for I have experienced His abundant life in and through the IPF community over the past twenty-five years. What a joy for me to share with you this "good news" of His gift to me.

## Offer Recurring Support for the Work of IPF

Scan the code with your phone to set up recurring donations to IPF



Recurring gifts provide IPF with a consistent and steady stream of funds to help with everyday expenses. By setting up a recurring donation, you help IPF to have a consistent cushion of funds to help provide financial support throughout the year. A gift of \$30 a month can provide an extra \$360 a year for IPF. That is about as much as it costs for books for those participating in the Spiritual Exercises or a holy water bottle for all summer program participants. Recurring gifts could also help to cover minor building expenses or travel costs for IPF staff, spiritual directors, and adjunct faculty. We treasure your conviction in the necessity of IPF's mission and promise to be good stewards of the gifts given for our continued work.



# New Cohort of the IPF Spiritual Direction Training Program



Participants and IPF staff for Section A of the 2021-2024 Spiritual Direction Training Program held at Mundelein Seminary/ University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois pose for a group photo during their final session in January 2024.

The IPF staff will soon welcome approximately one hundred and fifty priests into a new cohort of its Spiritual Direction Training Program held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary Conference Center in Illinois. The two sections of priests will begin in Spring 2024 and conclude in Winter 2027, meeting one week each spring, fall, and winter for the next three years.

The priest participants come from sixty-nine different dioceses across all regions of the United States including: Omaha, Lincoln, Denver, Chicago, Joliet, Green Bay, Austin, San Angelo, St Paul-Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Winona-Rochester, Phoenix, Orange, and San Bernadino, to name a few.

Those beyond the US come from the Latin Patriarch Seminary in Beit Jala, Israel, the United Kingdom, Belize, and Canada.

The program will help the priests to strengthen their own personal relationship with God as well as their priestly identity. Teaching, seminar conversations, priestly fraternity, and practicum experiences will assist them to serve others with keener gifts of spiritual discernment for spiritual direction and throughout their priestly ministry.

One recent alumnus said, "The spiritual direction training program not only equipped me to be a more confident and Christ-centered director but has helped to revitalize my priesthood by grounding me in the love of the Trinity."

The IPF Spiritual Direction Training Program is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Denver, the Archdiocese of Omaha, and the University of St Mary of the Lake.





# INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION FOUNDATION

## From the IPF Foundation President:



We are most grateful for all the success and generosity we received in 2023. The faith-filled IPF programs that benefit and renew the seminarians, priests, and bishops are truly inspiring. By the grace of God, the generosity of our volunteers, friends, and donors helped to make the vision of IPF possible,

with priests, seminarians, and bishops seeking and committing to a personal, deep, and sustained spiritual communion with the Holy Trinity to help bring about a joyful and powerful renewal of holiness across the Catholic Church.

In 2023, we entered into the final phase of the Living Stones Campaign. The IPF Chapel was dedicated, thanks in large part to a generous anonymous donor. We thank all of our donors who pledged their support and are pleased to announce that all pledges have either been completed in 2023 or are on track to be completed in 2024! This is a remarkable statistic, and it marks the first capital campaign of which I have been a part that has had all pledges fulfilled. We are also incredibly grateful to all who have contributed, whether through prayer, financial support, or other gifts.

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*All pledges have either been completed in 2023 or are on track to be completed in 2024!*

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Some people have asked, "Is it too late to contribute to the building campaign?" The answer: **you may absolutely still contribute!** There are still a few projects that require funds to complete, and we are ever mindful of the gifts of grace that come from the prayers offered for IPF. I am humbled by the love and commitment we see for IPF around the country, and am ever amazed by how the Holy Spirit's work of inspiration provides so generously for our needs.

We launched three successful inaugural events in 2023: the "IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire" dinner, the "Golf Fore IPF" tournament, and the first of a new series of guest speaker events, a presentation on Blessed Stanley Rother. These helped to support IPF's annual budget and increased purpose restricted funds for specified programs. These events flourished, and we are planning to continue them in 2024. We will host our major fundraiser, "IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire" dinner on April 4, 2024, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish (see full details on pg. 11). Our national supporters should look for the invite to the virtual "IPF Presents" event on April 9th, 2024. Golfers can join us Monday, September 9th, 2024, for a noon tee time for the "Golf Fore IPF" tournament at Miracle Hill Golf Course. After play is finished, tournament prizes will be awarded at a dinner in the IPF offices. On Thursday, October 24, 2024, Deacon James Keating will return to Omaha to offer a presentation at our guest speaker event, which will be held at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us for these events in 2024!

I am so blessed and inspired by the care and generosity of all to IPF.

Come Holy Spirit,

Mary Buttell,  
President of the IPF Foundation





# Save *the* Date 2024

☀️ Thursday, April 4th, 2024 ☀️

*IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire Dinner*

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Kampschneider Hall  
Omaha, Nebraska

☀️ Tuesday, June 18th, 2024 ☀️

*Our Lady of Guadalupe Medallion Event*

St. John's Parish, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

☀️ Wednesday, July 10th, 2024 ☀️

*Friends Night*

St. John's Parish, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

☀️ Monday, September 9th, 2024 ☀️

*Golf Fore IPF Tournament*

Miracle Hill Golf Course, Omaha, Nebraska

☀️ Thursday, October 3rd, 2024 ☀️

*Virtual St. John Paul II Medallion Presentation*

Online via the IPF Website

☀️ Thursday, October 24th, 2024 ☀️

*Deacon Keating Speaker Event*

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Omaha, Nebraska

# Why is a Foundation Important to a Non-Profit Corporation?

The third article in the series on the IPF Foundation that will provide information regarding the IPF Foundation funds and explain why a thriving Foundation is essential.



## IPF Foundation Purpose-Restricted Funds

IPF Foundation Funds from the top left to the bottom right: 1) St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund; 2) St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund; 3) St. Ignatius of Loyola Spiritual Direction Training Fund; 4) St. Paul Communications and Publication Fund; 5) St. John Paul II Fund for Priests; 6) Blessed Stanley Rother Pre-Ordination Retreat Fund; 7) Sacred Heart Legacy Society; 8) Nazareth House Fund

To recap, the focus of this series in the *Hearts on Fire* magazine is to define the purpose of the IPF Foundation Corporation. It is "exclusively to support and benefit the Institute for Priestly Formation . . . and it adopts IPF's Mission Statement as its own." The IPF Foundation provides donors with additional ways to give in a manner that reflects the donors' giving preferences.

Represented by the photos above, the purpose-restricted funds in the IPF Foundation support many IPF programs. Donations made to these funds provide for specific programs' needs. IPF can request money from the funds via grants to provide additional funding for specific programs as needed. In past issues, we highlighted the Blessed Stanley Rother Pre-Ordination Retreat Fund for seminarians and the Nazareth House Fund, which supports the upkeep of the house for the IPF Priests of St. Joseph. The third fund in this series is the St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund. This fund was established by the Rev. James Schwertley Estate to provide for the Spiritual Formation Program for Bishops, covered in detail on pg. 9.

## St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund



Established by the Rev. James Schwertley Estate

Donations can be made to this fund at any time, as a one-time gift, recurring gift, or a gift through a will or trust.

If you wish to open a named fund within the purpose-restricted fund for the Bishops program, a minimum gift of \$25,000 is required.



# About the IPF Bishop's Program



Group photo of the 2021-2024 IPF Spiritual Formation Program for Bishops.

This February, we concluded our inaugural three-year spiritual program for bishops. Our initial cohort of ten bishops met for two weeks each year, for the past three years. All of us are left with deep gratitude that this program has impacted our ten bishops and also affects all the faithful members of each bishop's diocese. Our desire, three years ago, was to bring IPF's long history of providing spiritual direction, silent retreats, and education in the spiritual life to the life and ministry of bishops in a more intentional way. This inaugural program for bishops focused on the spiritual life as the heart of the bishop's ministry to help him shepherd from the depth of his communion with God.

We also desired that the bishops find deepening communion with the Lord, develop ways to find balance in the midst of their busy mission, experience deeper joy in their ministry, amplify their courage to be with Jesus at the crosses that have come and will come, and cultivate a deeper fraternity and spiritual friendship among themselves. From the sharing of graces as we listened to the bishops at the end of this program, we have certainly met these desires and more.

We have a dedicated fund in our IPF Foundation to support this very important new program for bishops. It is the St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund, as St. Charles is the patron saint of bishops.



Learn more about the St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops Fund



## Pre-Ordination Retreat



IPF provided a pre-ordination retreat for sixteen men preparing to be ordained priests or deacons at the Loyola on the Potomac Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland, from December 28 to January 6. The men entered into silent prayer with the Lord each day for four distinct holy hours. They also gathered for Mass. Each day, the group observed retreat silence, with no conversation, no outside communication, and no access to digital media, to help the men be entirely present to the Lord.

Fr. Jim Rafferty, Fr. Josh Brown, and Fr. Innocent Montgomery, CFR, served as spiritual directors, meeting with retreatants individually each day to accompany them in their prayer. The participants received beautiful personal encounters with the Lord. One collective grace that they shared was the blessing of praying alongside each other in silence throughout the week. They felt personally connected to one another even though they did not know each other before the retreat, and they were not conversing during the days. Being united in prayer drew them together into deeper fraternity.

# Lenten Reflections from IPF



On March 2nd, IPF held its annual Lenten Morning of Reflection. The title of the morning's reflection was, "We Would Like to See Jesus," and it was led by Fr. Brian Welter. The event began with 8:15 a.m. Mass at Christ the King. After Mass, those attending were invited to enjoy a light breakfast and social time. Following a few brief announcements, Fr. Brian offered his reflection on Palm Sunday and verses 20-21 from John, chapter 12. At the conclusion of the presentation, time was set aside for personal prayer and silent reflection. The morning finished as attendees shared the graces they had received from the event.

Fr. Josh Brown, an IPF Priest of St. Joseph, recorded a Lenten reflection entitled, "At the Foot of the Cross." It launched on Ash Wednesday and can be watched by scanning the QR code below with the photo app on your phone. We pray that these Lenten reflections enhance your spiritual journey to Easter.



Scan the code with your phone to view Fr. Brown's Lenten Reflection!



## Propaedeutic Year Symposium Webinar

As a follow-up to IPF's March 2023 Symposium on the Propaedeutic Year, IPF hosted an online webinar on March 14, 2024.

The original symposium gathered over one hundred participants at the Conference Center of Mundelein Seminary. Participants and speakers came from a variety of dioceses and seminaries. The program featured a combination of keynote speakers, panel presentations, and small-group discussions.

The symposium focused on the still-new addition to priestly formation known as the Propaedeutic Year. The Propaedeutic Year precedes the scholarly and philosophical study of seminary and focuses on prayer and preparation. Although this year has been in place in many countries throughout the world for some time, it has been less prevalent in the United States. The purpose of this year, which is to be the first year of the formation process, is to help new candidates develop spiritually and humanly so that subsequent periods of formation can be more fruitful.

The Symposium webinar was open to those directly involved in the Propaedeutic Year, but it was also available to all seminary formators and vocation directors. It featured brief presentations by three panelists followed by an open conversation with participants. The panel members were: Fr. John Floeder, St. Paul Seminary (Archdiocese of St. Paul); Fr. Paul Hoising, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (Archdiocese of St. Louis); and Fr. Brady Wagner, St John Vianney Seminary (Archdiocese of Denver).

The discussion, moderated by Fr. Brian Welter, focused on two questions: How are the men who participate in the Propaedeutic Year responding to the experience? What are we, as formators, learning from these initial years?





INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION



*Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ*  
Since 1994

# Hearts on Fire

## April 4th, 2024

### St. Vincent de Paul Parish Kampschneider Hall

We are delighted to announce the upcoming "IPF Presents: Hearts on Fire" dinner event at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 4, 2024. As IPF celebrates our 30th anniversary, we wish to express our gratitude for past generosity, rejoice at the graces provided in the present, and lay out our hopeful expectations for the future of IPF's mission. Join us as we raise funds for two IPF programs: the Pre-Ordination Retreat program, which offers spiritual accompaniment and direction for men preparing for ordination to the priesthood, and the Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians, which focuses on deepening prayer life and giving seminarians tools to strengthen their encounter with the Lord. These programs speak to the heart of IPF's mission to provide lifelong formation that renews and prepares faithful seminarians, priests, and bishops for their spiritual journey, setting their hearts on fire for Christ.

The St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service will be presented at the dinner to Fr. Daniel Kampschneider, a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Named for the patron saint of priests, this award

recognizes priests whose lives and mission reflect the priestly heart of St. John Vianney. Fr. Kampschneider has shown his dedication to priestly service in a variety of roles, and IPF is pleased to present him with this honor.

For further inquiries or to register to attend this heartwarming evening, go online at [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org) or call 531-272-8498. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you!



Scan the QR code  
with your phone to  
register for the  
"Hearts on Fire" dinner



Fr. Daniel Kampschneider



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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ▶ April 4, 2024  
**IPF Presents:  
Hearts on Fire Dinner**  
St. Vincent de Paul, Omaha, NE
- ▶ April 9, 2024  
**IPF Presents: Virtual Event**  
Online only, [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org)
- ▶ April 14-19, 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training  
Program, Sec. A**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ April 28 - May 3, 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training  
Program, Sec. B**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
- ▶ May 1, 2024  
**Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving**  
Archdiocese of Omaha  
Online Giving Day
- ▶ May 26 - July 27, 2024  
**Summer Program for  
Diocesan Seminarians**  
Creighton University  
Omaha, Nebraska
- ▶ June 7-28, 2024  
**Seminar for Seminary  
Spiritual Directors Program**  
Creighton University  
Omaha, Nebraska
- ▶ June 18, 2024  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Medallion Presentations**  
St. John's Parish, Omaha, NE
- ▶ June 23 - July 29, 2024  
**Spiritual Exercises of St.  
Ignatius of Loyola**  
Creighton University  
Omaha, Nebraska
- ▶ July 10, 2024  
**Friends Night**  
St. John's Parish, Omaha, NE

