



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

Spring 2025

Hearts on Fire

Magazine



IPF's 2024 Annual Report

Check out IPF's 2024 Annual Report, starting on pg. 5. We share a snapshot of our expenses and revenue, as well as thank our numerous, wonderful supporters for the gifts they have given to IPF!



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

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in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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Cover Photo:

Msgr. John Cippel, an adjunct faculty member for IPF, celebrates Mass on his 65th anniversary of ordination while at the NCDVD retreat in Lutz, Florida.

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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,

"Stay close to the fire." These are the closing words from my former seminary rector speaking to new seminarians in the chapel on their first day in the seminary. The "fire," he went on, is Jesus Christ who has set our hearts on fire, and he warned them not to stray from that relationship.

Over the years at IPF, I have been privileged to see countless seminarians, priests, and bishops both renew and deepen their relationship with Christ, their hearts set on fire. You will read, in the pages ahead, how all of our work at IPF is aimed at staying close to the fire. Participants in each program receive spiritual direction from our dedicated adjunct IPF staff (hundreds of priests across the U.S. who are alumni of our programs). These adjunct staff members have been touched in a deep way by Christ and want to give back by helping for a week or two each year in our programs, while maintaining their own full-time positions in their dioceses. You will also read about our third annual IPF Hearts on Fire dinner, where we will honor Fr. Dan Andrews with our St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service. Fr. Andrews is an Omaha priest, pastor of the JPPII Newman Center, and long-time summer spiritual director in our IPF Summer program. Fr. Andrews stays close to the fire as those who know him can attest. I am genuinely honored to serve with him, and all the adjunct IPF priests, many whom you know and enjoy as your pastor or parish priest.

St. Teresa of Avila is reported to have said, "All difficulties in prayer can be traced to one cause: praying as if God were absent." The simple, and often hidden, grace that I see at work in the lives of our IPF staff, IPF adjunct staff, and our participants is that they are renewed in their prayer life by discovering God is truly present to them. Confidence, honesty, and trust develop in their relationship with God, and that becomes a source of radiance in their ministry. We are drawn to holy people because they experience what it is like to be known by God. Their heartfelt daily prayer draws them, and us, close to the fire.

God bless you,



Fr. Brian Welter,
Executive Director of IPF



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From the IPF Foundation President:



The first few months of my time at IPF have been a wonderful learning experience. I was fortunate to have a few days of overlap with Mary Buttell, our former Foundation President, before her retirement. She generously shared her wisdom and insights about leading the Foundation and, even now,

continues to offer her guidance whenever new questions arise. I'm deeply grateful for her support.

In late October, I had the opportunity to meet our dedicated board members during the IPF Corporate and Foundation Board meetings. It was inspiring to witness the exchange of ideas, financial discussions, and decision-making processes that help shape and sustain IPF's mission. With only two months left in the fiscal year, we all shared an eagerness to see strong year-end giving that would maintain IPF's solid financial stance throughout 2024.

As someone new to the role, I'll admit I was a bit anxious about meeting our goals. But you — our generous supporters — made all the difference! November and December saw an outpouring of gifts, placing IPF in a wonderful position to start the new year. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our mission.

November and December saw an outpouring of gifts, placing IPF in a wonderful position to start the new year.

In mid-January, I had the privilege of spending a few days at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake Conference Center and Mundelein Seminary with the Cohort B section of priests enrolled in our Spiritual Direction Training Program. Meeting these dedicated priests from across the country — both participants and faculty members — was a profound experience. Seeing firsthand how IPF supports their

spiritual formation was truly inspiring. I look forward to returning in April when Cohort A gathers.

Looking ahead, we are actively preparing for our largest fundraising event of the year — the **Hearts on Fire: Strengthening the Foundation Dinner** on **Thursday, April 24th**. If you are able, we would love for you to join us for this special evening.

Your prayers and generosity make all of this possible, and we cannot thank you enough. Because of you, seminarians and priests are being renewed and strengthened in their vocation. I look forward to the journey ahead and am blessed to have you as part of the IPF family.

With gratitude and warmest regards,

Angie

Angie Lohaus,
President of the IPF Foundation



Fr. Jim Rafferty offers a lecture on the Rules for Discernment at the Spiritual Direction Training Program in Mundelein, Illinois.



IPF Annual Report



INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION
Hearts on Fire for Christ



About IPF's 2024 Expenses and Revenue Charts

Elsewhere in this report, you'll find stories about how our programs are doing important work supporting the spiritual growth of seminarians, priests, and bishops. This work wouldn't be possible without the help of our generous supporters, and we want to assure you that we are also demonstrating good stewardship of the gifts we receive.

Financial results from the preliminary 2024 consolidated financial statements for IPF and the IPF Foundation are visually depicted in the pie charts below. Note that our audit is in process and will be completed in the summer of 2025, so these preliminary results are unaudited.

Direct program expenses of \$2.75 million represented approximately 76% of our total expenses, with fundraising (9%) and general and administrative

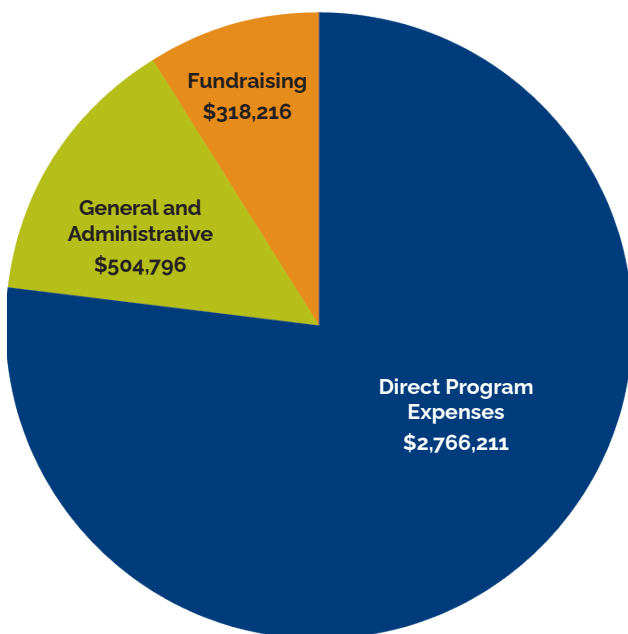
expenses (15%) bringing the total expenses to \$3.59 million.

We received approximately \$2.15 million (56% of our revenue) in the form of tuition and fees paid by program participants. Contributed support in the form of gifts and grants made up another 32%, with the remainder (12%) coming from investment earnings. The majority of those investment earnings are from assets held by our Foundation, which are used to fund grants to our programs. Total revenue was approximately \$3.84 million.

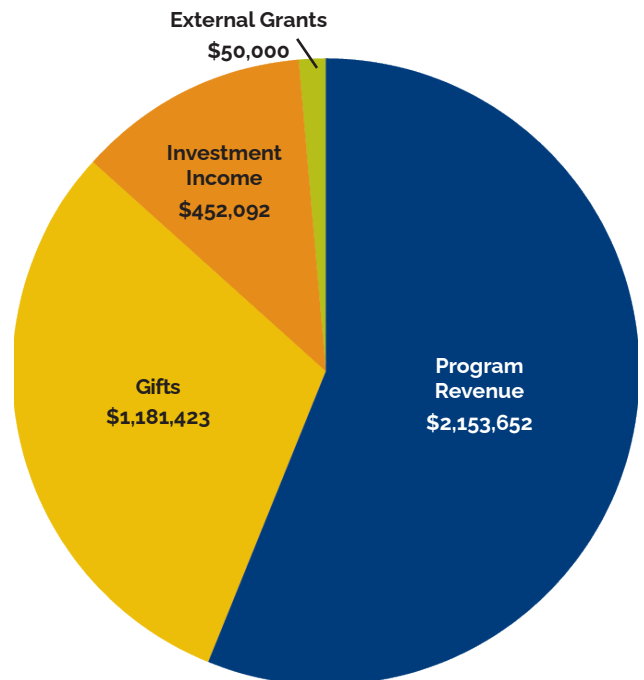
Thanks to our generous supporters and stronger-than-expected investment returns, we were able to fill the gap between program revenues and program expenses and finish 2024 with a slight surplus of approximately \$250,000. As we look ahead to 2025, we are grateful for your continued support.

2024 Expenses/Revenue Charts*

2024 Consolidated Expenses



2024 Consolidated Revenue



*All charts are pre-audit numbers. Any changes that occur as a result of the audit will be included in our fall magazine.

Blessings

Received between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

IPF regrets any errors or omissions. If you notice an error, please contact the Institute at 531-272-8476 or email ipf@priestlyformation.org.

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Priests attending the alumni retreat in February 2025 at the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Clearwater, Florida.



Daily Mass with the IPF Summer Program

- Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- Starting Monday, June 9th through Thursday, July 3rd
- EXCEPT for June 19th and days when funerals are held in St. John's (check the IPF website for updates)
- Held in St. John's Parish on the Creighton University Campus in Omaha, Nebraska

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Oscar and Lois Christensen
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Dennis and Sue Clark
Rev. Brian Clarke
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Philip and Nyla Cork
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Robert Cote
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Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

- **Every Wednesday, Evening Prayer and a Holy Hour of Adoration at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Starting Wednesday, June 11th through Wednesday, June 25th**
- **EXCEPT July 2nd (July 2nd is Friends Night, which will be held at Christ the King Parish in Omaha, NE)**
- **Held in St. John's Parish on the Creighton University Campus in Omaha, Nebraska**



The IPF Impact: Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians

In 1995, the **Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians** began with 6 seminarians attending. By the summer of 2024,

3,511

seminarians from 157 U.S. Dioceses and 27 International Dioceses have attended the seminarian program.



Blessings, continued

Dr. Michael and Mary Dulac

Mark and Ellen Duman

Janice Dumont

John and Ann Dunker

Joan Dunlap

John and Lucy Dupont

Estate of Norman Dusseault

Dr. Marv and Lynette Dvorak

Mary Dvorak

Charles and Linda Dworak

Gus and Carol Dworak

Gregory and Elizabeth Easley

Rick Echevarria

Randy and Lois Eckard

Theresa Ecker

Marlyn and Mary Eckerson

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Franci Frodyma

Kimberly Fuerstenau

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Gerald and Suzanne Ganse

Eduardo and Blanca Garcia

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Heidi Gass

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Michael and Margaret Gaughan

Rev. Andrew Gehringer

Michael and Ginny Geis

Barry and Mary Agnes Gerken

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Rita Gifford

Edward and Ellen Gilbert

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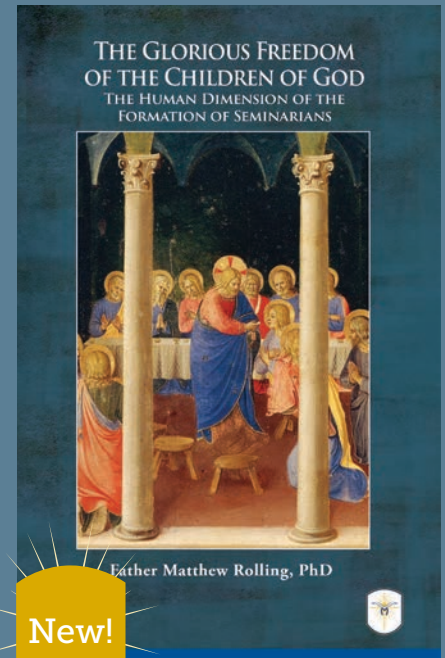
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John Gilsdorf and Jan Duffy-Gilsdorf

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 Robert and Rose Gleisberg
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 Rev. Lawrence Hoffmann
 John and Susan Hohman
 Richard Holdcroft
 Charles Holderness
 Rev. Benjamin Holdren
 Toni Holiday



The Glorious Freedom of the Children of God: The Human Dimension of the Formation of Seminarians

By Fr. Matthew Rolling, PhD

This book approaches one of the four aspects of priestly formation (as outlined in Saint John Paul II's *Pastores Dabo Vobis*), that of human formation. The book is divided into four chapters and focuses on seminarians as: 1) human beings with a shared humanity, 2) human beings that are individual and unique, 3) young men who have already developed to a degree, and 4) young men in need of further formation and development. The formation of a seminarian's human dimension is not simply that he might be disposed to receive the graces given him at his ordination but that in and through his own humanity, he would dispose others to receive the graces God wills to grant to them.

Order online at
www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9798985934588

Cost: \$14.95



The IPF Priests of St. Joseph held their annual meet-up in February 2025. Starting from left to right, they are Fr. Josh Brown, Fr. Andy Gehringer, Fr. Jim Rafferty, Fr. Jeff Eirvin, Fr. Robert Cadrecha, Fr. Jorge Garcia, and Fr. Richard Gabuzda.

Blessings, continued

Michael and Marianne Holland
 James and Sandra Hollenbeck
 Jo Holloway
 Ralph and Pat Holtmann
 Ron and Linda Hospodka
 Troy and Lisa Hottovy
 Scott and Cheryl Hove
 Mary Howard
 Dr. Robert and Theresa Howell
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Knights of Columbus Council
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Anthony Kockler
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Dr. Steven and Debra Koop
Daniel Kopczynskie
Tom and Sue Korgie
Joanne Korol
Jerry and Anne Kotlik
Dennis and Judi Koubsky
Lola Koubsky
William and Mary Kovar
Rev. Russell Kovash
Joseph and Denys Koziar
Gretchen and Timothy Koziel
Leo and Marj Kramer
Marcel and Sheila Kramer
Ron and Jan Kramer
Dr. Ralph and Carol Kramper
Dale and Melinda Kreher
Michael Krell
Joe Kreski
Joe and Susan Kreski
Phil and Denise Kreski
Glenn and Mary Krings
Mary Jo Kriz
Megan Krueger
Bob Krupa
Rick and Pam Kucirek
Kari Kudron
Richard and Cynthia Kueffer
Daniel and Nancy Kuhl
Mary Ann Kuhn
John and Deb Kukula
James and Virginia Kurzak
Steve and Carol Kuzelka
John and Susan Kwiatek
Peg Lacy
Lt. Col. Dan and Susan Lake
Msgr. Robert Laliberte
James and Beatrice Lammers
Joseph and Barbara Lamoureux
Robert Lampert
Cathy Lamperti
Judy Lane
Thomas Langan
Karen Lange

Rev. Timothy Lange
David and Brenda Langenberg
Glen and Mary Langenfeld
Charles Larchevesque
Rev. Keith Laskowski
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Dr. Paul and Louise Latzko
Dr. Scott and Katie Lauer
Richard Laufemberg
Marilyn Lawler
Rita Lawler
Les and Phyllis Lawless
Trudy Lazure
John and Mary Leahy
Mitzi LeClair
Nancy Leiber
Michael and Mary Leighton
Randy Leister
Robert and Catherine Lembke
Linus and Annette LeRoy
John and Suzie Lewandowski
Rev. Matthew Libra
Rev. Mark Lichter
Gregory and Stacey Lickteig
Sr. Faustina Lightfoot
Michael and Kathleen Lighthart
Dave and Annette Linbrunner
William and Lesa Lindsay
Jodi Loecker
Mike Lomax
Richard and Mary Lomax
Carol and Rich Lomneth
Colin Longacre
Ron and Shirley Longacre
Amy Longo
Bernie and Peg Lorkovic
Rich and Maureen Losee
Archdiocese of Louisville
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Lovell
Rev. Matt Lowry
Archbishop George Lucas
Michael and Jane Lukasina
Deacon Steve and Angie Luna
Tom and Nancy Lund
Lutz
Rev. Hoang 'Wayne' Ly
Estate of Rita Macaulay
Suzanne Macaulay
Monica Mackie
John and Carol Maginn
Paul Maginn
Kent and Lisa Maguire
Bob and Jeanne Maher
Marlene Mahlstedt
Dr. Patrick and Anne Mahoney

The IPF Impact: Alumni Retreats



Starting in 2009, IPF began to offer retreats for alumni of any IPF program. To date,

410

priests have sought out this retreat opportunity, which is offered twice a year.

Blessings, continued

James and Susan Mailhot
Don and Sue Mandel
James and Carol Mangimeli
Eileen Manhart
Nicholas and Carolyn Manhart
Joe and Mary Manley
Jessica Manske
Rick March
Barbara Marchese
Terry and Mary Kay Marshall
Angela Martin
Blaise and Carla Martinick
Rev. John Masson
Dr. Julie Masters
Thomas Matthews
Molly Mattingly
Daniel Matuella
Donald Matulek Jr.
John and Bobbi Matyja
Leo Mayhan II
Msgr. Gerard McCarren
Michael Mccarthy
Edward and Joan McCarthy
Rev. Matthew McCarthy
Kristin Vankat McCarty
Mike and Mary McCawley
Shannon and Brittany McCoy
Michael and Karen McCreery
Barry McCullough
Mike and Janet McDermott
Dan McGill
Dr. Edward and Beth McGill
Dr. James and Ann McGill
Bishop Michael McGovern
Colleen McKay
Bill and Ann McKenna
Mary McKeon
Thomas and Sara McKeon
Sheila McMahan

Theresa McMorrow
Nancy McNulty
Ed and Marguerite McQuade
Cully McVaney
Patrick and Sarah Mealey
Tom and Margo Meehan
Ken and Phyllis Meier
Rev. Xavier Mariae Meiergerd, CFR
Eugene Meinders
Eugene and Mary Ann Meister
Richardo Mejia
Janet Melchior-Kopp
Shirley Mendenhall
Haley Mendlik
Deacon Ted and Cindy Menzel
Gary and Stephanie Mercer
Charles Merkel
Rev. Michael Merkt
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Frank Merwald
Pat Meyer
Neil Michael
Rev. Edward Michellini
Fran Mignon
Bernadette Miller
Lorraine Miller
Michaela Miller
Patty Miller
Robert and Jessica Miller
Tim and Donna Milner
Dr. Vincent and Lucy Miscia
Rev. Mark Mleziva
Tom and Jan Mlnarik
Debra Molek
Robert and Marge Monaco
Rev. Timothy Monahan
Daniel and Laura Monen
Deacon Monty and Kathy Montagne

Ettsie Monteagle
Edward and Jeanne Montgomery
Kay Monzingo
Machaela Moore
Matt and Traci Moore
Dan and Sheryl Moran
Mary Morris
Mary Morrison
Jennifer Moser
Kathy Moser
Rev. Patrick Moser
DeEtt Mosher
Doug and Ann Mossberg
Susan Moylan
Ed and Mary Kay Mueller
Iva Mueller
Michael and Barbara Muellner
Mary Ellen Mulcahy
John and Carol Mullen
Roberta Mullen
Harriet Mullin
Dennis and Ellin Murphy
Peter Murphy
Brooke Mwangi
Arlene Myers
Joe and Barb Nabity
Kenneth and Judy Nanfito
Michael and Nancy Naprstek
Mike and Kim Nelson
Roy and Lucy Neneman
Ray and Patty Neppl
Joseph and Patti Neuberger
Angela Neumann
Trung Nguyen and Lan Tran
Charles and Catherine Nicholson
Mark and Kathleen Niebauer
Deacon Rick and Vicki Niedergeses
Lee Noel
Rev. Mark Nolte



The IPF Impact: The U.S. Catholic Church

Seminarians and priests from

93%

of U.S. Dioceses have attended an
IPF program.



Blessings, continued

Bishop John Noonan
 Joseph and Joan Norman
 Brenda Novak
 Adrienne Novotny
 Estate of Rev. James Novotny
 Michael and Carol Nowak
 Michael Nuschy
 Joseph Nuss
 Tammie Nussrallah
 John and Kathryn Oberg
 Charles Obermier
 Ben and Anne Obradovich
 Michael OConnell
 Michael and Martha O'Connor
 Rev. Joseph O'Connor
 John and Ann O'Donnell
 Mary Jane O'Donnell
 Rev. Ralph O'Donnell
 Sue Oehlerking
 Lois O'Gara
 Thomas O'Hara
 Rose Mary Ohri
 Sandy O'Kane
 Stephanie O'Keefe
 Craig and Kay Olson
 John and Joyce Olson
 Archdiocese of Omaha
 Rev. Timothy O'Malley
 Tim and Sally O'Neill
 Mary Jo O'Reilly
 Rev. Thomas Orlando
 Lorenzo Ortega III
 Rev. Gary Ostrander
 Tim and Annette Ott
 Jim and Shelly Otto
 Our Lady of Good Counsel
 Retreat House
 Doug Pachunka
 Rev. Joseph Paddock
 Anne Page
 John and Kristina Pakiz
 Richard Palasz
 Dennis Palma
 Msgr. Robert Panke

Donna Paolucci
 Mary Pape
 Barbara Paquette
 Cindy Parent
 Michael and Etsu Parente
 Rev. John Parks
 Paul and Mary Parr
 Dr. Angelo and Daphne Patil
 Jim and Mary Patterson
 Michael and Beth Patterson
 Jean Paul
 Mary Pat and Scott Paul
 Rev. Marc Paveglio
 Dr. Kenneth and Norene
 Pavlik
 PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
 Mary Pellettera
 Walter Pennington
 Rev. Jorge Perales
 Doug and Colleen Perry
 Deacon Russell and Patty
 Perry
 Rev. Michael Petering
 Jamie Peters
 Janis Peters
 Julie Peters
 Terry and Jill Petersen
 John and Melinda Peterson
 Paul Peterson
 Rev. Michael Petkosek
 Kevin and Cindy Pfeifer
 Gregory and Barb Pflaum
 Chris and Renee Piccolo
 Dr. Samuel Pierre
 Michael and Kari Pierson
 Judy Pilmaier
 Mark Pilon
 Pinnacle Construction
 Franklin and Elizabeth Pinter
 Dr. Sheryl Pitner
 Ken and Marian Pitz
 David and Melinda Plendl
 Bob and Kathy Podraza
 Gerald and Margaret Poepsel

Vocation Directors Retreat in Florida

Written by: Fr. Jason Kern,
 Vocation Director for the Diocese of
 Winona-Rochester, MN

For many years I have been blessed to attend the retreat for Vocation Directors that IPF leads and provides spiritual direction at. Each time I have attended the retreat I have experienced a recalibration in my spiritual life that leads to a deepening trust in the active presence of Jesus in my priesthood. It intensifies my intimate friendship and sense of calling from Jesus to live in the Father's will.

It is a special grace to have a retreat with other Vocation Director's from around the country because it provides an opportunity to realize that my work as a Vocation Director is not a numbers game of how many seminarians I can get, nor is it just a time of life where I am pulled in many directions with the various tasks entrusted to me. Rather, my life as a priest is one that has been firmly given to me by Jesus, and He asks me to say a continual 'Yes' to Him at every moment. I learn to allow Him to work in me so that others might hear the call from God to respond to His love and initiative in their own life. Each time I leave the retreat, I feel not only renewal, but a deep gratitude for having been called and a greater desire to call others to follow our great Lord and God.

Lenten Reflections from IPF



On March 15th, IPF will hold its annual Lenten Morning of Reflection. The title of the morning's reflection is, "Encountering the Divine Thirst," and it will be led by Fr. Jim Rafferty. The event begins with 8:15 a.m. Mass at Christ the King. After Mass, you are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and social time. Following a few brief announcements, Fr. Rafferty will offer his reflection for the morning. At the conclusion of his presentation, time will be set aside for personal prayer and silent reflection. The morning will finish with attendees sharing the graces they receive from the morning event.

Fr. Brian Welter recorded a Lenten reflection entitled, "Inward Communion with the Lord." It launched on Ash Wednesday and can be watched by scanning the QR code below with the camera 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. Brian's
Lenten
Reflection!

Blessings, continued

Tom and Anne Pogge	Kris Reicks
Brent and Michele Pohlman	Deacon Jay and Mary Ann Reilly
Tim and Mary Pojar	Ed and Kathy Reiman
Elizabeth Pokorny	Bill Reineke
Kathleen Popelka	Rev. Timothy Reker
Kaci Postma	Joseph and Lois Ricceri
Cathy Potter	Emil and Sue Richter
Delmer and Mary Jane Powell	Shaun and Emily Richter
Jerry and Lorraine Prael	Patrick and Margaret Ricketts
Msgr. Patrick Pratico	Larry and Florence Ridder
Rev. Joseph Prévite	Melissa Ridder
Joann Pribyl	Pam Ridder
Julianne Pribyl	John and Nadine Ries
Michael and Susie Price	Kent and Karen Riesberg
Dr. Elizabeth Prigge	Dennis and Ruth Riesselman
Vernon and Jill Prinster	Margaret Righter
The Printery House at Conception Abbey	Kevin and Mary Riley
Rev. Arthur Proulx	Randy Rinicella
Gary and Judy Puetz	Cheryl Rippey
John and Mary Pulick	Stephen Rippey
Janet Pulte	Rev. Charles Ritter
Queen of Peace Catholic Church	Robert and Mary Riviere
Jamie Quinlan	Rev. Michael Roach
Doug and Margaret Quinn	Jack and Judy Robak
Robert Rader	Sandra Robare
Rev. Jonathan Raia	John and Robbyn Roberts
Dan and Vicki Ramaekers	Robertson Family Foundation
Patrick and Shirley Ramaekers	Marilyn Roche
Rich and Colleen Ramm	Patrick and Teresa Roche
Enrico and Maria Ramos	Dan and Susan Rock
Jerry and Sandra Randell	Rev. Danny Santos Rodrigues
Mary Rankin	Roberto Rodriguez
Diocese of Rapid City	William Rogers
Dorothy Rasgorshek	Richard Rokusek
George and Dorothy Rasmussen	Florian Rolfzen
Nick and Margie Rasmussen	Lois Rongisch
Col. Edward Rausch	Rev. John Rooney
Robert and Linda Rausch	Mary Fran Root
Anne Raynor	Michael Root
Laurence and Mary Pat Raynor	Jack and Suzanne Rose
James Reardon	Brian Rosenberg
Mary Ellen and Drew Reckmeyer	Richard Rossi
Benjamin and Margaret Redding	David and Mary Rossman
Rob and Stacie Reed	Louis and Kathleen Rotella
Robert Reed	Don Roth
Dan and Janelle Reeder	Tim and Donna Roth
Joan Reese-Giesman	Alan and Kathi Rowch
The Regan Group, Inc.	Rev. Andrew Roza
Matt Rehberg	Ralph and Jo Roza
Timothy and Martha Reichert	Dr. Susan Hersker Rubinstein
	Charles W Rush
	Tom and Kathryn Russell
	Lloyd and Betty Russo
	Alice Ryan
	Rev. Peter Ryan, S.J.

Blessings, continued

Robert Ryan
Lisa Rybar
Monty Sabin
Caroline Safford
James and Marlene Safford
Pat and Jeanne Salerno
Sr. M. Rosella Salvato, I.H.M.
Dr. David and Dr. Liz Sambol
Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate
John and Diane Saniuk
Paul and Lynne Santos
John Sargent
Michael Scahill
Mike and Shelly Schaeffer
Greg Schatz
Rev. Rob Scheiblhofer
Dan and Pat Schekirke
Jerry Schenkelberg
Mark and Lisa Scherer
Sara Scheunemann
Rev. Matthew Schiffelbein
Rev. Scott Schilmoeller
Msgr. Bernard Schmitz
Randy and Trixy Schmitz
Edeltraud Schoenherr

Joseph and Mary Scholl
Jonathan and Jennifer Schopp
Gary and Dottie Schott
Mel and Susan Schrader
Ernest and Joanne Schreiber
John and Toni Schroeder
Larry and Debbie Schroer
Robert and Louann Schropp
Kelly Schukei
Stephen Schumacher
Theresa Schumacher
Joe Schwaller
Greg and Mary Lynn Schwietz
Mark Scobey
Deborah Scott
Teresa Seale
Gary and Marty Sehn
Marcella Seitz
Rev. Joel Sember
Delbert and Vicki Sempek
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Rev. Donald Shane
Maurice and Pat Shanley
Debbie Shea
James and Elizabeth Shea
Russell and Victoria Sheaffer
Susan Sheeren
Ann Shelden
Dave and Patty Shinbara
Terry and Kathy Sibbernson
Donna and Tom Sigman
Lynne Silbernack
Rebecca Silke
Alice Simmel
Matthew Simmons
Colleen Simonsen
Tom and Jan Simpson
Garrett Sims
Dave and Joanne Sjostedt
Msgr. Dennis Skonseng
Barbara Skradski
Marlene Skradski
Thomas and Mary Ann Sladek
Mary and Bernard Slowik



The IPF Impact: Spiritual Direction Training Program

In 2002, the **Spiritual Direction Training Program** had its first session with 45 participants. Demand for the program grew, and in 2014, IPF began to offer two sections at a time. Currently,

664

priests have completed this IPF program and another **153** are current participants.

Blessings, continued

Cathy Smith
Cece Smith
Donald and Betty Smith
Dr. James and Marguerite Smith
Joan and Gary Smith
Dr. John and Susan Smith
Kyle and Theresa Smith
Leo and Mary Jo Smith
Mike and Lucy Smith
Suzanne Smith
Estate of Kathleen Smithberg
Carrie Smoots
Bruce and Mona Snider
Jay and Tricia Snow
Karen Snyder
David Sobilo
Michelle Sobota
John and Joyce Sobotka

Rev. Georges Sokpo
Rev. Daniel Soltys
Butch and Kelly Songcuan
Greg Sosso
David and Shannon Spargo
James and Anna Marie Spargo
Doug Spellman and Kathi Curry
Gene and Marilyn Spence
Walter and Joan Sperzel
Loretta Spesia
Donald Spetzman
Bishop Dennis Spies
Verl Squire
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic
Church
Rev. Kenneth St. Hilaire
Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Mary's Ladies Guild
St. Vincent De Paul Elementary
School
Rev. George Staley
Gigi Stamp
Gregory Stangler
Kathy Stanzel
Deacon John and Kelly Starman
Raymond and Beverly Starman
Msgr. Michael Steber
M. Paula Steffan
Joni Steffensmeier
Rev. James Steffes
Ann Stein
John and Renae Steinauer
Eric Stelzer
Robert and Sandy Stier
Dick and Mary Stieren



2024 Pre-Ordination Retreat

During the Christmas break, a group of seminarians dedicated eight days to silence and prayer as a period of spiritual preparation for ordination to the priesthood or diaconate this spring. The Church stipulates that prior to ordination, each candidate should step away from the normal activities of school and service to be with the Lord in a dedicated time of retreat. To assist with this important time leading up to the man's self-gift at ordination, the Institute for Priestly Formation offers a retreat specifically for those men in formation who will become priests or deacons in the following months.

This year's ordination retreat took place at Grand Coteau Retreats in Louisiana and each participant observed silence, prayed four dedicated holy hours daily, and met one-on-one with a spiritual director each day. The focus of the retreat is the man's personal encounter with the Lord and his desire to deepen his relationship with God, not only on retreat, but throughout his life of priestly ministry. Because the time leading up to ordination is so significant, the Lord often uses the retreat as an occasion to reaffirm the man's call to the priestly life but also to establish the man in a more intimate and unique bond with Him. The Lord shows the candidate how important he is in God's eyes and how committed the Lord is to accompanying him in all that he does. This profound personal friendship with the Lord is the wellspring from which he draws strength. His service to the Church flows from this closeness to the Heart of Christ.

Blessings, continued

Mark and Michelle Stinson
Richard and Trudy Stodola
Stoppini Foundation
Harry and Debra Strack
Scott Stramel
Rev. William Straten
Christopher and Sarah
 Stravitsch
Linda Stryker
Raymond and Laurie Stuart
Robert and Mary Stuart
Dennis Stulc
Paul and Mary Stultz
Alfred and Patricia Suarez
Kathryn and Thomas Sudyka
Anita and Mike Sullivan
John Sullivan
Rev. Paul Sullivan
Florence Summers
Mollie Sundermeier
Bob and Jane Supenski
Matt and Carol Svehla
Diane Svehla
Omar and Donna Svensson
Lawrence and Judith Svoboda
Margaret Swanson
Rev. Michael Swanton
Morris and Kris Sweat
Bob and Joanne Sweeney
Mike and Paula Swerczek
Dave Swierczek
Tom and Irene Switajewski
Irene Sysel
Stanley and Marie Szafraniec
Eva Szymanski
Dr. Paul and Judy Tamisiea
Joan Taphorn
Steve and Tina Targy
Donn and Barbara Tassemeyer
Daniel and Kathleen Taylor
Jose Dennis Tenorio
Mary Lynn Tesar
James Theis
Jerome and Margaret Mary
 Thoendel
Michael Thomas
Kevin and Angelica Thompson
Larry and Frances Thompson
Marcy Thompson
Sam and Joan Thompson
Jerald and Linda Thomsen
Lawrence Thummel
Ann Thurmond
Catherine Tierney
Deacon Norm and Joyce
 Tierney

Margaret Tigges
Rev. Paul Timmerman
Mary Lee Tisdale
David and Nadia Titora
Kurt and Ann Tjaden
Bonnie and Gary Todorovich
Joseph Tometich
Ariel Tompsett
Steve and Cecelia Tonn
Beverly Toups
Rev. Mark Toups
Dr. Jim and Susan Tracy
Joseph Tran
David and Wendy Treinen
William Treu
Mark and Sherry Trupp
Mark and Mary Anne Truxillo
Carol Tschampl-Diesing
Dr. Dean and Dorothy Tuma
Judy Turek
Roman and Vera Uhing
Ann Underriner
Janice Underriner
Charles and Linda Vacanti
Theresa Vacek
Rev. Benedetto Vaghetto
Deacon Eric and Kathleen
 Vande Berg
Rev. Jon Vander Ploeg
Jay and Amy Vankat
Jutka Varhegyi
Steve and Deb Vencil
Mary Ann Versaw
Bishop Gerald Vincke
Joe and Jeanne Vlock
Rev. Joe Vogel
Larry and Nell Votruba
John and Clostina Vrbka
John Vrdolyak
Rev. Martin Vu
Ken and Beth Vyvlecka
Bill and Sherry Wachtler
Don and Rita Wall
Rev. James Wallace
Rev. Christopher Walsh
Denis Walsh
Doug and Betty Walsh
Marilyce Walsh
Shannon Walsh
Terry and Chris Walsh
Randy and Andrea Walther
Margarita Wanek
Joseph and Helen Wardian
Keith and Megan Warnke
Gina Waters
Very Rev. Joseph Waters

» In 2019, IPF launched a retreat for seminarians who were about to be ordained. That first year, there were 4 seminarians. As of Feb 2025,

115

seminarians have completed the **Pre-Ordination Retreat** with IPF.



Blessings, continued

Charles and Janice Wear
Richard Webber
Rev. James Weeder
Susan Jo Weekly
Carla Wehling
Alice Weimer
Francine and Jerry Weisbecker
Ellen Weist
David and Lynn Weist
James Weist
John Weitl
John and Kathy Welbes
Thomas and Lynn Welch
Rev. David Wells
Donald and Angie Wells
Lori Wells
Rev. Brian Welter
William and Margaret Welter
Dan and Carol Werner
Tom and Jane Werner
Marcella West
Paul and Peggy Weston
Richard and Ginny Weston
Gary and Restie Wever
Rev. Timothy Whalen
Chris and Kathy Wheeler
Holly Wheeler
Rebecca Wheeler

Diocese of Wheeling - Charleston
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Daniel Whitehead
Warren and Nancy Whitted
Linda Wiater
Thomas and Diane Widhalm
Ann Wieberg
Christopher and Stefanie Wiedenfeld
Dennis and Claudia Wier
Joe and Lily Wier
Cynthia Wilhelm
John and Kathy Wilhelm
Barry Wilkinson
Patrick Willard
Chad Williams
Diane Williams
Donna Williams
Bob and Mary Fran Williamson
Bernard and Rose Wilson
Lily Wilson
Susan Wilson
Angie Wingert
Jay and Carol Wingler
Katie Winkler
Janet Wintle
Thad and Jill Wolfe
Wes and Janelle Wolfe
Janet Wolken

Carol Wood
Lisa Woods
Rev. Tom Woost
Mark and Crystal Wray
Mary Wright
Randy and Veronica Wright
James and Mary Wurgler
Jared and Rachel Wyzinski
Carole Yanovich
Dr. Anthony Yonkers
Wilda Ysusi
Joseph and Mary Zaborowski
Josh and Kelsey Zach
Liz and Eric Zdyb
Frank Zelazny
Sandra Ziccardi
Joseph and Denise Ziegler
Christine Zieno
Douglas and Pauline Zima
Rev. James Zimmer
Donald and Ann Zimmerman
Rob and Katie Zimmerman
Lawrence and Rita Ziska
Marilyn Zotti
Rev. Carl Zoucha



Memorials, Tributes, and St. John Paul II Donations

The lists of 2024 memorials, tributes, and St. John Paul II donations can be found online on the IPF website. You can also scan the QR code to view these lists on your phone.



Scan the QR code with your phone to view the lists of 2024 memorials, tributes, and St. John Paul II donations on the IPF website.

Concretely Encountering the Lord: A New Cohort of the IPF Bishops Program

In early 2024, we completed our inaugural three-year Bishops Program with ten bishops. We met with the bishops two weeks each year (during the Fall and Winter) over the course of three years. The goal of the Bishops Program is to help the bishop root all his shepherding decisions in the relationship he has with Jesus Christ. An essential part of the three-year program is the winter component, which is an eight-day silent directed retreat. Each bishop prays four distinct hours each day, meditating on various passages from the Scriptures, and meets with a spiritual director each day to see how he and the Lord are entering into a deeper relationship. The bishops also gather for daily Mass and adoration. Otherwise, silence is maintained for the eight days, which allows the voice of God to be heard in a deeper way.

What occurs for the bishop, and really for anyone who has made a retreat in this fashion, is that the

retreatant meets the Lord in a very personal and profound way. The surprise is the concreteness of the details when encountering God the Father in prayer. The Father moves the retreatant away from thinking in abstractions about prayer and meets him in their deepest desires and matters of the heart. The retreatant discovers how near and real God is in his life. During these weeks of silent retreat, the bishops' spiritual lives are deepened, and a significant fraternal bond develops among the bishops. This affects, in a positive way, how each bishop goes about his daily tasks as shepherd of his diocese.

We are grateful to start a new cohort of the Bishops Program (which began in Fall 2024) with five new bishops. We have also invited our "alumni" bishops from the first cohort to take part, again, in the annual silent retreat this winter. It is a great honor to accompany the bishops in their spiritual lives.



IPF Foundation and You: Making the Mission Possible

For those familiar with Catholic education, the concept of a **"tuition gap"** — the difference between the actual cost of education and what is covered by tuition — is well known. Fundraising is essential to bridging that gap. This reality applies to the **Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF)** as well.

With a dedicated but lean team of just 14 staff members, the **Institute and Foundation** rely on the generosity of many to sustain our mission. Our work is strengthened by a **Corporate Board, Foundation Board, Finance Committee, and Investment Committee** — all composed of strong Catholic leaders, both clergy and lay, who volunteer their time and expertise to serve IPF. Additionally, many **priests, bishops, and other spiritual leaders** graciously contribute as adjunct faculty and spiritual directors, ensuring the depth and richness of our programs.

Despite our commitment to **good stewardship**, the reality is that **costs continue to rise**. IPF remains steadfast in keeping programs reasonably priced for participants, which means fees collected from dioceses and individuals do not fully cover operating expenses. In fact, **every program we offer — to seminarians, priests, and bishops — operates at a deficit**.

The Role of the IPF Foundation

As the **fundraising arm** of IPF, the **IPF Foundation** plays a crucial role in closing this financial gap. More than just raising funds, we **build relationships** — connecting and reconnecting with seminarians, priests, faculty, volunteers, and supporters. Through **personal visits, phone calls, emails, hosted events, and our publications**, we invite others into the mission.

We work closely with donors to ensure they understand IPF's needs and see the impact of their generosity. Their support is not just financial; it is a **practical and empowering way** to sustain the mission, ensuring IPF can continue forming priests in holiness and strengthening them in their vocation.

Join Us in This Mission

There are many ways to **partner with us** in this vital work of **collaborating with Catholic seminaries and dioceses** to form and accompany seminarians, priests, and bishops in their ongoing spiritual growth. Their formation strengthens not only their own spiritual lives but also their ability to **lead others to Christ**.

We are deeply grateful for those who already support this mission, and we invite you to continue walking with us. Together, we can **set hearts on fire for Christ**.





INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION

Hearts on Fire

Strengthening the Foundation Dinner

Thursday, April 24, 2025
St. Vincent de Paul,
Kampschneider Hall

The Institute for Priestly Formation, along with this year's **honorary chairs, Pat and Mary Corrigan**, are excited to announce planning is underway for the annual IPF Hearts on Fire Strengthening the Foundation Dinner. On Thursday, April 24, 2025, IPF supporters, sponsors, and honored guests will gather in Kampschneider Hall at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Omaha to celebrate IPF's mission and impact during the Hearts on Fire Dinner.

The goal of the event is to raise funds that support the Summer Seminarian Program and the Seminarian Pre-Ordination Retreat program.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service. **This year's honoree is Fr. Dan Andrews**, Pastor and Director of the St. John Paul II Newman Center in Omaha.

Come and receive inspiration from the testimonials of the priests, seminarians, and bishops who have strengthened their relationship with the Lord by

attending an IPF program. Partner with us as we work for a joyful and powerful renewal of holiness across the U.S. Catholic Church.

Tickets and sponsorships are available for purchase on the IPF website or by scanning the QR code. If you have questions about the event, please contact Dawn Sledge, the IPF Foundation Special Events Coordinator, at dsledge@priestlyformation.org.



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



Fr. Dan Andrews



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION
Hearts on Fire for Christ

11626 Nicholas Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

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Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InstituteForPriestlyFormation>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 
- ▶ **March 15, 2025**
Lenten Morning of Reflection
Christ the King Parish
Omaha, Nebraska
 - ▶ **March 27, 2025**
IPF Corporate Board Meeting
 - ▶ **March 28, 2025**
IPF Foundation Board Meeting
 - ▶ **April 24, 2025**
**Hearts on Fire:
Strengthening the
Foundation Dinner**
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
Omaha, Nebraska
 - ▶ **April 27 - May 2 , 2025**
**Spiritual Direction Training
Program, Sec. A**
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
 - ▶ **May 7, 2025**
Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving
Archdiocese of Omaha
Online Giving Day
 - ▶ **May 11 - 16, 2025**
**Spiritual Direction Training
Program, Sec. B**
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
 - ▶ **May 25 - July 5 , 2025**
**Summer Program for
Diocesan Seminarians**
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska
 - ▶ **June 8 - 16 , 2025**
Summer Alumni Retreat
Creighton University
Omaha, Nebraska
 - ▶ **June 18, 2025**
**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Medallion Ceremony**
St. John's Parish, Omaha, Nebraska
 - ▶ **July 2, 2025**
Friends Night
Christ the King Parish,
Omaha, Nebraska