

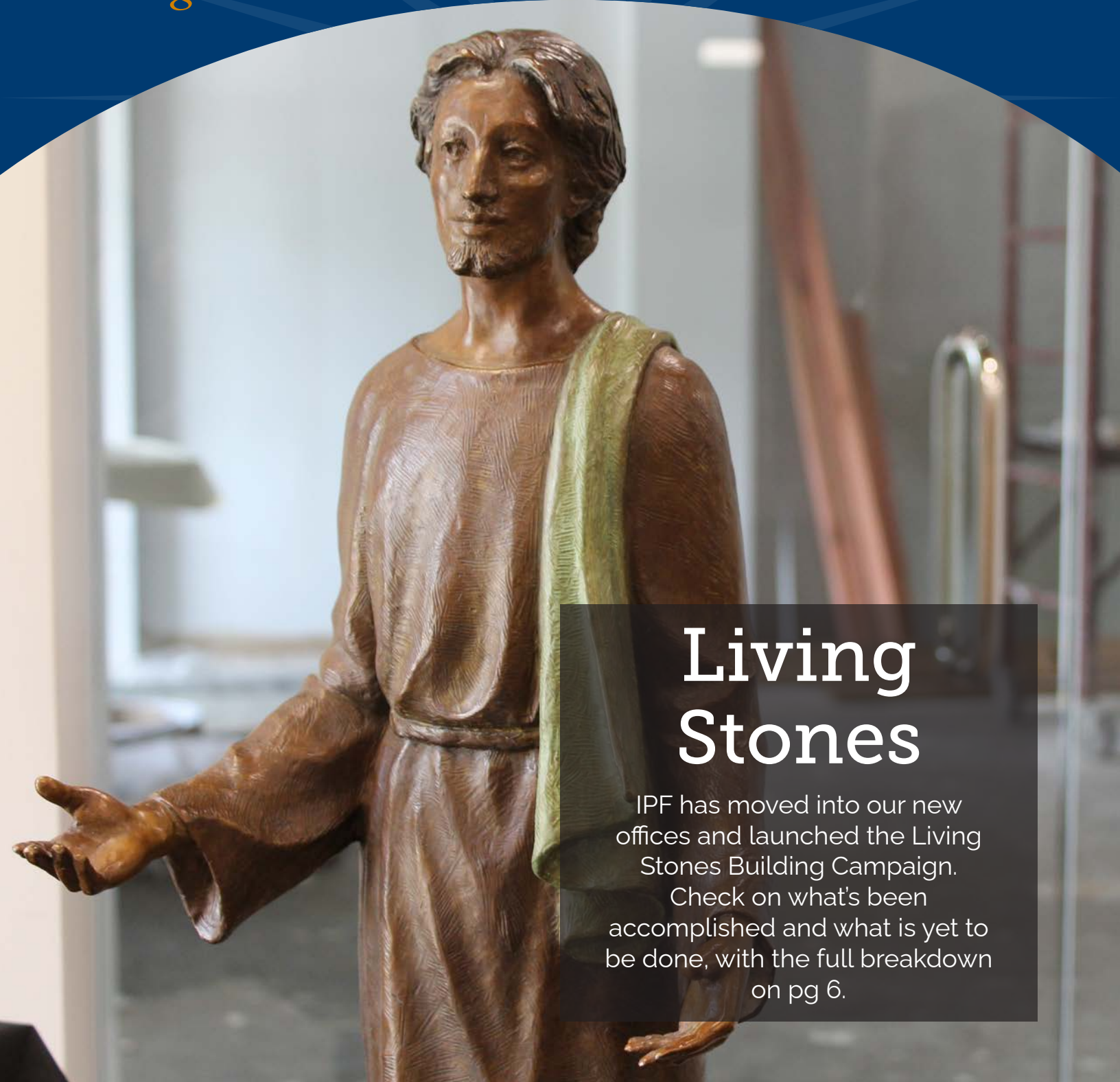


INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

Summer 2022

Hearts on Fire

Magazine



Living Stones

IPF has moved into our new offices and launched the Living Stones Building Campaign.

Check on what's been accomplished and what is yet to be done, with the full breakdown on pg 6.



INSTITUTE *for*
PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful
in the Archdiocese of Omaha

11626 Nicholas Street
Omaha, NE 68154
402-546-6384
www.priestlyformation.org

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Archbishop of Detroit

Cover Photo:

A statue of St. Joseph, made by Sr. Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM, stands outside the unfinished chapel in the new offices, waiting for the last construction tasks to be completed.

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,

As you read this, we will be immersed in our IPF Summer Program hosted at Creighton University. We welcome 125 seminarians for a nine-week program to help deepen their spiritual lives. We also have 10 priests and seminarians making the 30-Day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and we will also be holding a three-week seminar for seminary spiritual directors. The summer is enlivened by many people participating in the programs and with adjunct IPF faculty and life-long friends of IPF coming and going during the nine weeks. Being immersed in prayer, daily Mass, and friendship during the summer and witnessing the transformation that God brings about in the seminarians and priests (including our IPF faculty and staff!) is uplifting.

Prior to the summer program, we have been on the road hosting our Spiritual Direction Training Program on the campus of University of St. Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary in Illinois (we make six trips for this program each year where 150 priests from across the country participate). We also offered our yearly IPF alumni retreats, and retreats for seminarians who are on the cusp of ordination (either to the diaconate or priesthood). We host these at retreat centers in Florida and Texas. Finally, in Omaha, we hosted our boards of advisors for our bi-annual meetings. IPF is blessed to have a board of advisors for our non-profit entity (IPF) and a board of advisors for the IPF Foundation. You will read more about them in this issue.

Finally, we moved off-campus into our new offices at 11626 Nicholas Street in April. Our staff, and many friends, helped make the move successful. Our Omaha headquarters is the physical place from which we are sent into the "mission field" of accompanying priests and seminarians (whether at Creighton, Illinois, Florida, Texas, and other locations). It is also the place to which we return after the "mission" to share the fruit (in person or through this magazine) of what the Lord brought forth while on mission. It reminds me of the Acts of Apostles—they were sent out by the Church to proclaim the word of God and returned home to share what the Lord accomplished. The Lord has accomplished much this year, and we are grateful.

God bless you,



Fr. Brian Welter,
Executive Director of IPF



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INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION FOUNDATION

From the IPF Foundation President



What a whirlwind the past six months have been at the Institute for Priestly Formation and the IPF Foundation. We worked together with our Corporate Board, Foundation Board, Finance Committee, many wonderful volunteers and donors to secure the perfect building to be the new headquarters for IPF in Omaha, Nebraska. IPF has become a national organization with several programs over the years, serving 156 U.S. Dioceses, and 55 International Dioceses. In Omaha alone, we have served over 3,000 seminarians on the campus of Creighton University. Besides Omaha, programs take place in three additional locations: Mundelein, Illinois; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Clearwater, Florida.

In Omaha alone we have served over 3,000 seminarians on the campus of Creighton University.

As we once again welcome seminarians this summer to Omaha, I reflect on being invited to attend the eight-day retreat with the seminarians last summer. I have never experienced anything like the deep love God shared with me and how He wanted me to reciprocate that love with Him. For the first time in my life, I understood with clarity the power and gifts the Holy Spirit gives to me. While attending evening seminars, spending time in personal prayer, and making a daily visit with a spiritual director, I discovered God's love. I felt a deep loving relationship with the Holy Trinity and discovered a power of prayer I have never known.

This past year, I was invited to observe another IPF program first-hand, the Spiritual Direction Training Program. I attended alongside priests and bishops who were participating in the second session of their three-week training program for this year. Once again, it was a powerful experience. I witnessed faculty

accompanying priests and bishops in their ongoing spiritual formation and saw how the training would allow participants to lead others to Christ in their parishes and schools. It was fascinating observing the interaction, camaraderie, and friendships among the priests from across the country as they renewed their priesthood through prayer and spiritual direction. It was powerful to learn and again experience the power of deep prayer from these dedicated priests in their journey to become spiritual directors.

Yes, we have accomplished a great deal since our last magazine. We purchased a new building, are renovating the structure to meet our needs, launched the Living Stones Building Campaign to pay for the building and renovations, and moved into the new IPF offices. The Living Stones Building Campaign is not finished. There is more to be done. Please go to page 6 to see more information on our progress and how you can help. We are blessed by all the support we have received from so many this year.

Mary Buttell,
President of the IPF Foundation



Joseph, Husband of Mary, and Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, By Sr. Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM



Joy of Giving Update

On Wednesday, May 18th, the Institute for Priestly Formation joined parishes and other Catholic non-profits in the Omaha area to celebrate "Joy of Giving," a fundraising day hosted by the Archdiocese of Omaha.

As the twenty-four hours of giving commenced, visitors to IPF's "Joy of Giving" page were invited to learn more about IPF by watching a short "What is IPF?" video. They could also read about current events and updates, with several links pointing them to our latest magazine and recent virtual event videos.

By midday, just over \$2,500 had been gifted in support of IPF's mission. In the late afternoon, a donation made to IPF qualified for one of the booster prizes offered by the Archdiocese, gifting an additional \$50 to our total. As the day of giving wound to a close at midnight, 45 donors had offered their support to IPF with a total of \$4,205.

Due to the generosity of donors, IPF not only maintained, but also finished with a position in the top 25 leaderboard. The bountiful offerings of money and prayer showcased the support that the Omaha community has for the mission of IPF, and we are deeply grateful.

There are numerous ways you can offer support to IPF, from the building campaign, to the seminarian program, or even in memory of a special priest. If you would like to make a donation to support IPF, you can visit our website at www.priestlyformation.org/donate.



IPF Presents: Forming Priests to Help Others in Prayer

IPF's latest virtual event premiered on May 5, 2022. The program introduced viewers to one of our two largest formation programs, the Spiritual Direction Training Program. Over 500 priests have participated in this program since its inception and about 150 priests are enrolled in the current round.

The content of the virtual event focuses on helping viewers peer into the inner workings of the program. For many people, the term "spiritual direction" may be somewhat foreign or puzzling. It may be even more challenging to imagine how someone might be trained to offer such direction. The program's host, Father Andy Roza, a program alumnus from the Archdiocese of Omaha, offers insights into the program's various dimensions while testimonials from other alumni, including Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver, fill out the picture.

A significant and central topic of the training program includes learning about the Rules for the Discernment of Spirits. These Rules, composed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, S.J., help answer the question: "When I pray, how can I tell what is from God and what is not?" Priest testimonials also reveal the importance of the silent retreat that participants experience during each of the three years of the program.

The event concludes with an invitation from IPF's Foundation President, Mary Buttell, for viewers to help keep tuition costs reasonable for our program participants. Those who missed the premiere can access the video of the virtual event by going to IPF's website, www.priestlyformation.org.

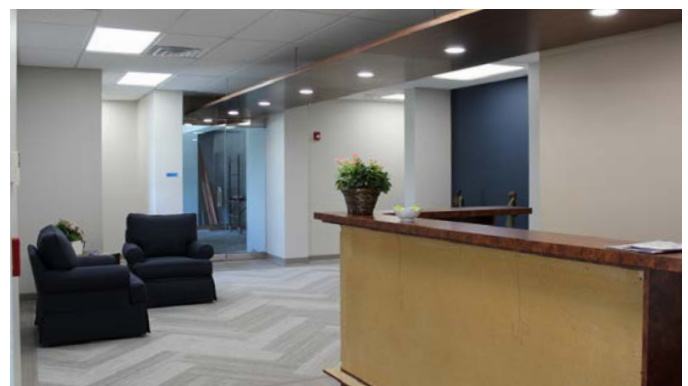
Living Stones: Building a Foundation for the Future

Campaign Accomplishments

Thank you, thank you, thank you! IPF Friends, Alumni, and Faculty have helped raise and pledged \$1,854,284 toward the Living Stones Building Campaign. We are blessed to have so many wonderful and generous people support the IPF mission. Look at all that has been accomplished:

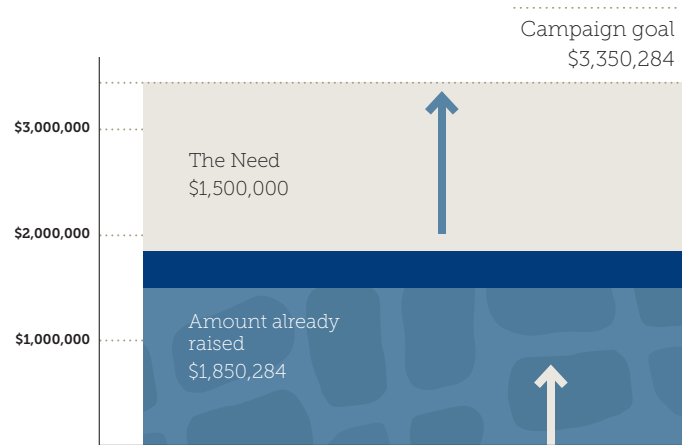
Completed Projects:

- ✓ Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrade
- ✓ Replacement of all ceiling tiles and LED lighting throughout the building
- ✓ Purchase of needed appliances and furniture
- ✓ Exterior signage
- ✓ Interior painting and wall coverings throughout the building
- ✓ New carpeting and vinyl flooring throughout the building
- ✓ Construction of three additional soundproof office spaces
- ✓ Soundproofing Rooms for Spiritual Direction
- ✓ Construction of main conference room and two additional smaller conference rooms
- ✓ Landscaping
- ✓ Moving costs
- ✓ Paid \$1,100,000 on mortgage (over half of the building costs)
- ✓ Exterior repair costs
- ✓ Building security system upgrade



Projects Yet to Be Completed:

- Retire the Building Mortgage
- Migration from Creighton's technology system
- New technology infrastructure and equipment
- Migration from Creighton's phone system
- New phone system
- Construction of chapel with furnishings
- Technology for boardroom and two conference areas
- Artwork and technology wall
- Create a building maintenance endowment
- Remodel of the Kitchen/Lunchroom



Remaining Funds Needed

We are **two-thirds** of the way to completing the Living Stones Building Campaign. Approximately \$1,500,000 is still needed. By paying off the cost of the five-year building loan, IPF will save approximately \$72,000 in interest over the first two years. This would be a total savings of \$241,200 over five years. Thank you for your continued generosity. We are so blessed to have your support! Contact Mary Buttell at marybuttell@creighton.edu or call 402.280.2903 for more information. Our goal is to have this campaign completed by September 2022.

New IPF Corporate Board Members



Sheryl Moran



Joanne Sweeney



Rob Zimmerman

Introducing New IPF Corporate Board Members

The IPF Corporate Board is one of many blessings for IPF. We come together for a full-day meeting two times each year. We are grateful to add three new members to the board for a total of nine members. In addition to the six long-standing board members (Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Archbishop Samuel Aquila, Archbishop George Lucas, Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Fr. Jim Rafferty, and Kathy Kanavy), we are glad to welcome Sheryl Moran, Joanne Sweeney, and Rob Zimmerman. Our new members have a deep faith life, bring their own gifts and expertise to the board, and will use these to assist in the deliberations for the planning and success of the mission of IPF. Here is a brief profile about each new member:

Sheryl Moran (husband Dan) lives in Edina, Minnesota. Sheryl is a mother of two adult children, an accomplished artist, and is also training to be a spiritual director through the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence in Clearwater, Florida. Sheryl has made the 30-Day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Among her activities, Sheryl has been involved in evangelization and catechesis in her Archdiocese (Minneapolis-St. Paul), the Archdiocesan Synod, and bible studies in her parish.

Joanne Sweeney (husband Bob) lives in Hinsdale, Illinois. Joanne is an attorney, mother of three, and a daily communicant. She is involved in her parish with the evangelization committee, hospice care, and marriage ministry. Joanne was also a board member and former Secretary of the Chicago Catholic Lawyer's Guild, and is a founding partner of the law firm Sweeney, Scharkey & Blanchard.

Rob Zimmerman (wife Katie) lives in Omaha, Nebraska. Rob is a co-founder and Principal at Project Advocates. He oversees many construction projects locally and nationally, and managed IPF's new office project. Rob and Katie are also members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. They have six children and are very involved with sports and other activities. Rob has benefited from the spiritual teachings of St. Ignatius through retreats at the Cloisters on the Platte.



IPF Foundation Board Members

New Individuals Joining the Foundation Board



It is an honor to introduce two new members to the IPF Foundation. They come to us from opposite coasts of the United States, Florida and California. They are men of deep faith, and their vast experience will be of great service to the IPF Foundation. Here is a brief profile of our newest members.

Rev. Steven Stillmunks was ordained in 1977 for the Archdiocese of Omaha and has served in many parishes and schools. During his service as an educator, associate pastor, and pastor, he was involved in stewardship and development to support the work of the Church. He became aware of IPF in early 1996 and was immediately drawn into its mission. He saw the need to fortify the spiritual lives of our priests and seminarians. He is currently living in Jacksonville, Florida as a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha

and is in residence at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Jacksonville. He said it is an honor to serve on the IPF Foundation Board and help secure the future of the Institute for Priestly Formation.

Deacon George Esseff, Jr., is originally from northeastern Pennsylvania. He was raised in a rich culture of faith and family. His father moved the family to California in 1960 where he established a successful career in the titanium business. Deacon Esseff completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from California State University at Chico. Shortly thereafter, he joined the family business, growing it into a successful international distribution business. George was ordained into the diaconate in 2011 and serves in the Santa Barbara region of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He has been married to his wife, Sherrie, for forty years, and together they have five married sons and eleven grandchildren.

His uncle, Msgr. John Esseff, has been an instrumental participant and spiritual director at IPF for over twenty-seven years. Sherrie and George served on the former Mission Advancement Council for IPF. "Having the benefit of being around good, holy priests and knowing how important that formation is," said Deacon Esseff, "I have felt drawn to the mission of IPF. Our Church needs well-formed men 'on fire' with the love of Jesus willing to serve His people."

New IPF Foundation Board Members



Fr. Steven Stillmunks



Deacon George Esseff, Jr.



New Director of Finance and Administration

Ihab Shenouda Joins the IPF Staff

Ihab Shenouda was born and raised in the Catholic faith in EL-Minya, Egypt. He studied secondary education at EL-Minya University and Poitiers University in France. He received a bachelor's degree in Arts and Science. Prior to moving to the United States, he taught French in secondary schools in Cairo, Egypt.

Ihab moved to New York City and later to Omaha, Nebraska, where he earned a Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance. He has worked for Fortune 500 companies and non-profit agencies during his career and has taught all facets of Finance to both graduate and undergraduate students at Bellevue and Midland Universities in Nebraska.

When not working, Ihab spends time with his wife of 21 years, Lori, his son Joshua, 13, and his daughter Aleena, 11. The kid's baseball and softball games keep the family busy year-round. They are parishioners of St. Patrick in Elkhorn, Nebraska.





From the top left: Fr. Brian and Fr. Rich concelebrate Mass in a temporary chapel space in the new offices.

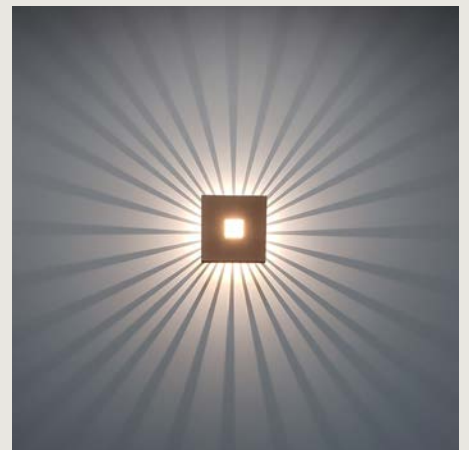
Fr Brian and Fr. Rich greet IPF Foundation Board Members.

Rob Zimmerman gives an update to members of the IPF Foundation Board.

A light shining on the wall in the new office.

Guests see the new chapel under construction.

The IPF Foundation Board gathers for a group photo in the temporary chapel space in the new IPF offices with special guest Archbishop George Lucas, Archdiocese of Omaha.





Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society recognizes and honors donors, alumni, and friends who inform the IPF Foundation of their intent to invest in IPF through a planned gift.

A planned gift is any charitable contribution made during your life or any bequest that takes effect upon your death. It can be as simple as an outright gift of cash or as sophisticated as a charitable trust that is integrated into a multi-faceted financial and estate plan. You may consider giving a gift by making a beneficiary designation of your life insurance policy or qualified retirement plan. Please contact:

Mary Buttell

President of the Institute for Priestly Formation Foundation

402-280-2903

11626 Nicholas Street, Omaha, NE 68154

Highlighting the Blessed Stanley Rother Pre-Ordination Retreat Fund



All seminarians must attend a pre-ordination retreat prior to their ordination into the priesthood. The Blessed Stanley Rother Pre-Ordination Retreat Fund is a purpose restricted fund established by the Rev. James Schwertley Estate. The pre-ordination retreat is a silent, directed retreat, which serves seminarians approaching their ordination. The retreat includes daily Mass, individual spiritual direction, retreat silence, and four personal prayer periods of one hour daily.

You are invited to contribute to this very important purpose restricted fund by donating any amount as a recurring online gift, as a one-time gift, as a tribute or memorial honoring a family or friend, or as a gift through your will or estate.

Spiritual Moms: Back Together Again

Friends Night is on July 20th, 2022

After two years of not being able to meet in person, we are happy to announce that everyone is invited to join us for IPF's weekly hour of Adoration and daily Masses during our Summer Seminarian program this year (please see pg. 14 for dates and times). Gathering together to pray and celebrate with our seminarian sons is a great privilege. All are welcome!

We will also be able to come together in person again for our annual "Friends Night" on July 20th. For our one-to-one moms, this will be a wonderful reunion!

As the mother of a current seminarian who attended the IPF Summer Program last year, I am very grateful for all the women who created a prayerful "dome of grace" for the program participants. My son was very touched by the prayers offered specifically for him.

Thank you to **all** the Spiritual Moms who give their time to pray for these young men during their nine weeks with us. Whether you are a one-to-one mom or a general intercessor, your prayers truly make a difference.

Blessings!



Tina Targy
Events and Volunteer Coordinator



To A Younger Brother

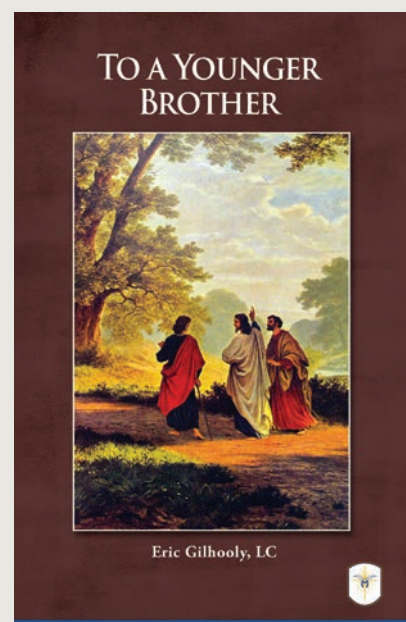
By Fr. Eric Gilhooly, LC

Fr. Eric Gilhooly, LC, has written *To a Younger Brother* as a very practical and encouraging book for seminarians. The book uses contemporary book, movie, and song examples to offer insightful and realistic advice for those studying for the priesthood.

Order online at www.ipfpublications.org

ISBN #: 9798985934502

Cost: \$13.95





Staying Connected: Checking for IPF Emails in Your Inbox

One of the questions that the IPF office often receives is, "Why haven't I seen any emails from IPF lately?"

For events, donation requests, and announcements to large groups, IPF uses a program for sending emails called "Constant Contact." Constant Contact allows IPF to send emails to hundreds or thousands of our supporters and alumni.

However, for some people, particularly those who use Gmail, the emails get redirected. Rather than landing in the inbox, they often end up in a "promotions" folder, which the recipient may or may not be aware exists. A brief search for email from ipf@creighton.edu should help locate emails from IPF.

Alternatively, sometimes a person will unsubscribe from IPF emails via Constant Contact. For example, if an email about an upcoming IPF event is not of interest, the recipient might hit 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of the email. This will opt the person out of receiving **all** future IPF emails to large groups, including upcoming events, announcements, or fundraising opportunities. The individual will need to contact our office in order to resubscribe and be added back on to the email lists. Emails keep us connected. Consider checking to make sure you're aware of the latest details coming from IPF.

Summer at IPF



Mass at St. John's Church

- Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Monday through Friday
- Starting Monday, June 13th through Friday, July 29th
- Except for July 4th, July 25th, and days when funerals are held in St. John's (check the IPF website for updates)



Adoration at St. John's Church

- Weekly Evening Prayer and a Holy Hour of Adoration at 6:30 p.m.
Most Wednesdays *
 - Starting Wednesday, June 15th through Tuesday, July 26th
- * Date changes include Tuesday, June 28th, rather than Wednesday, June 29th; and Tuesday, July 26th, rather than Wednesday, July 27th



IPF to Host National Symposium on the Propaedeutic Stage of Formation

Plans are underway for IPF to host a national symposium for seminary and vocation personnel. The gathering will take place on the campus of Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago, March 16-19, 2023.

The focus of the symposium will be a new and important part of the process of priestly formation known as the Propaedeutic Stage. Outlined in a landmark document from the Vatican published in 2016, the stage provides a kind of pre-seminary experience for those already accepted as candidates.

The purpose of the symposium is to gather those involved in such programs for a time of prayer, encouragement, exchange of ideas, and conversation on the challenges and successes of programs already in existence.

In preparation for the symposium, IPF hosted a consultation of some vocation and seminary personnel in March 2022 and will host a second conversation in September. The sessions serve as a platform for planning the March 2023 symposium.

Photo above: The main chapel at Mundelein Seminary/ St. Mary of the Lake, located in Mundelein, Illinois.

A National Conversation on the Propaedeutic Stage of Formation

When:
March 16-19, 2023

Where:
Mundelein Seminary,
Mundelein, Illinois

For:
Bishops, formators, vocation
personnel and all those involved
in the propaedeutic stage



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Hearts on Fire for Christ

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ▶ July 20, 2022
Friends Night
St. John's Church + Kiewitt
Student Center, Omaha, NE
- ▶ September 3-9, 2022
NCDVD Conference
Baltimore, MD
- ▶ October 2-11, 2022
**Spiritual Direction
Training Program, Sec. A**
Mundelein Seminary, IL
- ▶ October 16-25, 2022
**Spiritual Direction
Training Program, Sec. B**
Mundelein Seminary, IL
- ▶ October 27, 2022 (Morning)
**IPF Corporate Board
Meeting**
- ▶ October 27, 2022 (Afternoon)
**Joint Meeting with
IPF Corporate and IPF
Foundation Board**
- ▶ October 28, 2022 (Morning)
**IPF Foundation Board
Meeting**
- ▶ November 7-14, 2022
Alumni Retreat
Cenacle of Divine Providence,
Clearwater, FL
- ▶ November 12, 2022
**Bishops Advisory
Council Meeting**
- ▶ December 10, 2022
**Advent Morning of
Reflection**
Christ the King Parish
Omaha, NE

