



# *Hearts on Fire*

## *Magazine*



## A Successful IPF Hearts on Fire Dinner

Thanks to your incredible generosity, the IPF Hearts on Fire Dinner was a wonderful success. Learn more about the event and see pictures on pg. 13-15.



INSTITUTE *for*  
PRIESTLY FORMATION

30

*Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ  
Since 1994*

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## Cover Photo:

Fr. Daniel Kampschneider says a few kind words of thanksgiving after receiving the St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service at IPF's Hearts on Fire dinner on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

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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,

As you read this, our seminarian summer program is already in full swing on the campus of Creighton University. Last month, in the days leading up to Pentecost, I recalled what Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth: From Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, about the apostles and the election of Matthias after the Resurrection.

"Jesus appoints the Twelve with a double assignment: 'to be with him, and to be sent out to preach.' They must be with him in order to get to know him; in order to attain that intimate acquaintance with him that could not be given to the 'people' — who saw him only from the outside and took him for a prophet, a great figure in the history of religions, but were unable to perceive his uniqueness (cf. Mt 16:13ff). The Twelve must be with him so as to be able to recognize his oneness with the Father and thus become witnesses to his mystery. As Peter will say before the election of Matthias, they had to be present during the time that 'the Lord Jesus went in and out among us' (cf. Acts 1:8,21). **One might say that they have to pass from outward to inward communion with Jesus.**"

Seminarians, in their preparation for priesthood, need to make a similar passage from outward to inward communion with Jesus in order to be more configured to Jesus in their lives. The summer program affords the time and space for a seminarian to be in the presence of God for an extended period of nine weeks. It is the combination of the courses on prayer and priestly identity, the eight-day silent retreat, the daily Liturgy, and adoration that provide an atmosphere soaked with God.

It is the spiritual directors for our summer program, priests who generously give their time, and who travel from various parts of the United States and Puerto Rico, who assist the seminarians in making the important interior move toward a relationship with Jesus. This relationship forms the core of how they know themselves. I am so grateful for the sacrifices the spiritual directors make to be with us each summer. Spiritual direction during the summer program is where the real spiritual growth occurs in the seminarians. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of IPF.

Gratefully,



Fr. Brian Welter,  
Executive Director of IPF



## Inside this Issue

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# INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION FOUNDATION

## From the IPF Foundation President:



We're just beginning to see the first hints of summer in 2024, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of IPF. Already, it has been a very busy year for the IPF Foundation, and I am grateful for the many blessings, spiritual growth, and bonds of friendship that continue to provide me with energy and grace.

Summer is a very special time at IPF, and I often think of it as a time of new beginnings. It is the time of year when the largest and longest IPF program takes flight – the summer program for diocesan seminarians. This summer, we will welcome 121 seminarians from 53 dioceses in the United States, and 1 diocese in Canada. The program is a time of spiritual renewal, hope, and the sharing of graces.

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As we await the arrival of the seminarians, adjunct faculty, spiritual directors, and prayers from spiritual moms that form a dome of grace over IPF programs, we also review the successes we have encountered so far this year and begin preparations for future events and appeals in upcoming months.

I am happy to report that we had a very successful "Hearts on Fire" dinner where we honored Fr. Dan Kampschneider with IPF's St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service. See the article on pages 13-15 for pictures and further details. I wish to express my thanks to our honorary chairs, Herman and Ellen Weist, our emcee, Bob Gunia, and to offer my heartfelt appreciation to Fr. Andrew Roza and the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul for allowing us to use their beautiful parish center. I would also like to thank and mention Fr. Vinny Fortunato, O.F.M. Cap., an adjunct

IPF faculty member, who flew in from New Jersey to help us raise funds for seminarians during the dinner. Finally, I wish to acknowledge Dawn Sledge, our coordinator of events and volunteers, for her superb leadership, and all IPF staff and volunteers who assisted us at the event, helping it to run smoothly. Be sure to put April 24, 2025, on your calendars for next year's "Hearts on Fire" dinner!

We have begun planning our fall events. On Monday, September 9th, 2024, we'll host the second annual "Golf Fore IPF" tournament in the afternoon at Miracle Hill Golf Course. On the evening of Thursday, October 24th, IPF will have another featured speaker event at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. Deacon James Keating will be returning to Omaha giving a reflection for IPF. Be sure to save the dates – more information will be forthcoming.

My heart is so grateful to have the honor of working with such wonderful, spiritual people. Your faith, stewardship, and prayers are so inspiring. Thank you for enriching our lives and supporting our mission at IPF.

Come Holy Spirit.

Mary Buttell,  
President of the IPF Foundation



# 'Golf Fore IPF' Teeing Off September 9, 2024

## Preparations Being Made for IPF's Second Annual Golf Tournament



If you enjoy a round of golf, be sure to mark your calendar and prepare to join IPF at the second annual, 'Golf Fore IPF' tournament on September 9th, 2024, at Miracle Hill Golf Course. We're planning a shotgun start in the early afternoon, teeing off with a four-person best ball format. After playing eighteen holes on the fairway, all are invited to retire to the 19th hole - the IPF offices - for a hearty dinner. We'll also be awarding pin prizes based on the best performances out on the green.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, including bar cart sponsor, dinner sponsor, or offering to sponsor a priest's registration fee in the golf tournament. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please reach out to Dawn Sledge, 531-272-8490 or by email at [dsledge@priestlyformation.org](mailto:dsledge@priestlyformation.org). A letter with full details of sponsorship options will be sent out this summer.

Make sure to work on your golf swing, practice your long distance putts, and invite friends to join your foursome. We look forward to seeing you out at Miracle Hill Golf Course on September 9th, 2024!

## Fr. Brian To Present At The



The National Eucharistic Congress will take place in Indianapolis on July 17-21, 2024. Participants will travel across the U.S. for prayer, adoration, Mass, confessions, and teaching sessions on the Eucharist. Sessions are geared toward youth, young adults, parish groups, and families. There is also a dedicated track of sessions for priests. Fr. Brian Welter will offer a short meditation to priests on July 18, titled "Martyrdom of Prayer".

Martyrdom is the witness of any person's unequivocal response to the truth of Christ and the Christian faith, even to death, in the face of opposition that provokes a person to renounce that faith. The foundation of the martyrs' response is their prayer. They laid down their lives in prayer long before they gave their lives in martyrdom. In this vein, prayer is the primary unequivocal response to Christ, who has befriended us. Daily prayer, a daily holy hour, is where we lay down our lives for Christ, and He will determine how best to use the gift we make to Him.

VERITATIS SPLENDOR  
THIRTY YEARS LATER  
PASTORAL INSIGHTS



James Keating, Editor

New!

## Veritatis Splendor Thirty Years Later: Pastoral Insights

Edited By Deacon James Keating

In this collection of essays written about Pope Saint John Paul II's encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, leading seminary professors reflect upon the nature of what moral goodness is in relation to pastoral formation and leadership. The content of the book celebrates the encyclical's thirtieth anniversary by highlighting the topics of the formation of conscience, the reality of objective morality, the necessity of pastoral accompaniment, and the controversial existence of intrinsic evils. The book will aid seminary professors and seminarians in their moral formation and will aid pastors as they guide the consciences of their parishioners.

Order online at  
[www.ipfpublications.org](http://www.ipfpublications.org)

ISBN #: 9798985934571

Cost: \$13.95

# Alumnus Msgr Panke Reflects on 30 Years of Sending to IPF Programs



Written by: Msgr. Robert Panke,  
Priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

The Archdiocese of Washington has been sending seminarians to the IPF summer programs and affiliated programs (including the Alumni retreats and Spiritual Direction Training Program) for 30 years. I was blessed to have participated in a 30-day retreat as a seminarian with IPF in 1995, the first summer that IPF began. This foundational spiritual experience deepened my relationship with Christ significantly and gave me a heartfelt desire to pass on the love of Jesus and His abounding mercy to those I was called to serve. The Archdiocese of Washington has supported sending seminarians to IPF through numerous archbishops and vocation directors due to the fruits that are evident upon their return from the experience.

As a vocation director, director of seminarian formation, and rector of a seminary, I spent seventeen years witnessing the transformation that happened in the hearts of the many men who attended the program on their way to priesthood. I often told them that upon their return, they began to talk about God in a different way, one that was far more personal and with a heart that was alive in the love and power of Christ. They were more motivated to become men of prayer who were called to first receive the gift of God's healing presence and then pass that fire of love to those they would encounter and minister to in the parish. The Archdiocese of Washington has also benefited greatly from the priests who have taken part in the Spiritual Direction Training Program. It provides the necessary training for our seminary staff but also gives the gift of having priests available who can offer spiritual direction for the many people that they serve in their ministry. IPF has been a great gift to our Archdiocese and the Church.



# IPF Summer Liturgical Schedule in St. John's Parish



## Daily Mass

- Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- Starting Monday, June 10th through Friday, July 26th
- EXCEPT for June 19th, July 4th and 5th, July 23rd, and days when funerals are held in St. John's (check the IPF website for updates)



## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

- Every Wednesday, Evening Prayer and a Holy Hour of Adoration at 6:30 p.m.
- Starting Wednesday, June 12th through Wednesday, July 24th
- EXCEPT July 3rd and July 10th (July 10th is Friends Night, which will be held at Christ the King Parish)



*“The Almighty One has done great things for me  
and holy is His name.”*

*Luke 1:49*



A verse from Mary's Magnificat greets you as you enter the IPF offices. This was added to the wall in April 2024.



## **Deacon James Keating Speaker Event**

**October 24, 2024**

**St. Robert Bellarmine Parish  
Omaha, Nebraska**

# **Save *the* Date**



# About The St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund

The fifth article in the series on the IPF Foundation Purpose-Restricted Funds that provides more detailed information on each fund and explains why a thriving Foundation is essential.



IPF Foundation Funds from the top left to the bottom right: 1) St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund; 2) St. Charles Borromeo Spiritual Program for Bishops 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

The fifth article covering the IPF Foundation Purpose Restricted Funds will highlight the St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund. This fund helps to support IPF's longest running program – the Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians.

Thirty years ago, the founders of IPF began to develop a program of spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians. Their vision was to provide a time of formation when seminarians could grow and deepen their relationship with God, understanding how their identity as a "Beloved Son" would inform their future ministry. The program launched in 1995, forming seminarians in holiness by focusing on the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood. Being rooted in the tradition of the Catholic Church, with a particular emphasis on the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the seminarian program strives to prepare these men to be faithful shepherds.

Six seminarians attended the first program. Thirty years later, 3,390 seminarians have attended IPF's Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. 93 percent of the dioceses in the United States

(157 dioceses in total) and 27 international dioceses have sent men to participate in the program. IPF's summer program serves a unique role in the formation process. Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. who serves as an adjunct IPF faculty member, offered his insight into the need for IPF's programs while speaking about the seminarian program, "I don't know of anything in the Church in the United States that is doing more for the strengthening and the deepening of the spiritual life and pastoral efficacy of priests throughout the country than the Institute for Priestly Formation."

The nine-week seminarian program is IPF's most expensive program. Costs include room and board for nine weeks, graduate credit hours earned from Creighton University, and the travel, stipends, and room and board fees for nearly seventy adjunct faculty members and spiritual directors from around the country. Each year, IPF subsidizes the cost for program participants, covering more than \$500 in tuition costs per seminarian. The purpose-restricted St. Joseph and Mary Seminarian Fund offers financial support for the Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians, providing stability for this long-lasting IPF program.

# Our Lady of Guadalupe Award Recipients



Jay and Lucinda Bolding



Rob and Katie Zimmerman

Since the Institute's beginning, Our Lady of Guadalupe has been our patroness and intercessor. Under her protection, the mission of the Institute for Priestly Formation has flourished, helping to draw thousands of seminarians and priests into a deeper relationship with the Blessed Trinity and to live lives of service with "hearts on fire for Christ."

The flourishing of the mission has occurred through the dedication of staff members, but also through many others who have responded to the Lord's invitation to share in this mission. Since 2002, the Institute has presented the Our Lady of Guadalupe Award, recognizing certain individuals who have been especially distinguished in their support of the Institute's mission as well as notable for their service to the wider Church.

On Tuesday, June 18th, the Institute will present this award to two couples who, like Our Lady of Guadalupe, have helped bring the presence of Jesus to our world.

Jay and Lucinda Bolding are active members of St. Robert's Parish in Omaha. They were part of the IPF Mission Advancement Council. In 2020, Jay became a member of the IPF/IPF Foundation Finance and Investment Committees. They are also members of Legatus and are involved with the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Jay and Lucinda are the parents of three children and grandparents to seven children.

Rob and Katie Zimmerman are active members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Omaha. Rob is a co-founder at Project Advocates. He oversees many construction projects locally and nationally, and managed IPF's new office project. Rob serves on the IPF Corporate Board. Rob and Katie have been active in the Archbishop's Committee for Development and are the Omaha Area Councillors for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, supporting Christians in the Holy Land. They have six children and are very involved with sports and other activities.







Rosaries decorate the tomb of Servant of God Fr. Edward Flanagan, which seminarians visit while attending the summer program for diocesan seminarians in Omaha.

## New IPF Foundation Board Members

This year, two faith-filled members of the IPF Foundation Board, Fr. Steven Stillmunks, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha who is currently in residence at a parish in Jacksonville, Florida, and Patrick Corrigan, president of Access Bank in Omaha, Nebraska, retired from their positions on the board. Both men have generously shared their gifts and expertise with IPF and the IPF Foundation Board. We thank them for their dedication to the mission of IPF and for their friendship, knowing that they will continue to stay in close contact.

We are pleased to announce two new members to the IPF Foundation Board, Douglas Quinn and Brent Pohlman. We welcome them and thank them for offering to serve on the board. They come to us with a wealth of expertise and a strong belief in the IPF mission.



Douglas Quinn

**Doug Quinn** is an Omaha native and double graduate of Creighton University, having received his B.A. in 1975, and J.D. in 1978. Doug has practiced in Omaha since 1978, and has been a member of McGrath North law firm since 1986. Doug's practice is primarily in the areas of bankruptcy

and litigation, and he has received recognition from the Best Lawyers in America on numerous occasions.

Doug and his wife, Margaret, have been married for 43 years. They are members of St. Robert Bellarmine parish in Omaha. They have two daughters and five

grandchildren. Doug is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Archbishop's Committee for Development (ACD), and the Serra Club of Omaha. He is a past president of the Serra Club and was the convening Chairman of the ACD for three years.

**Brent Pohlman** is the current CEO and owner of Midwest Laboratories, a company with 300 employees who perform analytical testing in human health, animal health, and agriculture/environment. Due to tremendous growth in this industry, Brent is leading the design and construction efforts of a new campus to support the rapid and continued growth of Midwest Laboratories for years to come. His passion for leadership can be explored more deeply in the book he authored in May 2023, *Leaders Look Within*. In his 36 years of professional work, he has worked at Daniel J. Gross High School, Mutual of Omaha, Arthur Andersen, and HDR, Inc.



Brent Pohlman

Outside of his professional life, Brent enjoys spending time with his wife Michele, their five children, and three grandchildren. He also enjoys his workouts and morning routines. Brent served as a board member for Catholic Charities from 2019 to 2022, and was a board member for Legatus from 2019 to 2023, serving as their President in 2022. Brent believes that it is important to serve on boards that are grounded in his Catholic faith.





# Friends Night 2024

IPF will host Friends Night, when spiritual moms meet their spiritual sons, on July 10th, 2024. It will take place at Christ the King parish located at 654 South 86th Street in Omaha, Nebraska.

The event will begin with evening prayer and an hour of Holy Adoration in the parish. After prayer, all will gather in the social hall for a few brief testimonials and time for conversation.

We currently have enough one-on-one spiritual moms for the seminarians this summer, but sign-ups for general spiritual moms are still open. Thank you for the gift of your prayer!



Scan the QR code with your phone to sign up to be a general Spiritual Mom and pray for seminarians!



Seminarians listen to Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV, offer a lecture on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



Evening prayer during the first week on campus is offered before beginning daily large group conference talks.



Seminarians listen and reflect on the scriptures as part of evening prayer each night during the summer program.

# IPF Hearts on Fire Dinner Was A Great Success



Fr. Daniel Kampschneider, fourth from the left, is pictured with members of his family. We are thankful for their presence and support at the IPF Hearts on Fire dinner.

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) held its annual dinner celebration on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at St. Vincent de Paul's parish center. The event sought to raise money for two of IPF's programs, the Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians and the annual Pre-Ordination Retreat, defraying some of the expenses that IPF subsidizes to keep costs down for participants. The goal for the evening was to raise \$150,000.

Following a jovial cocktail hour with plenty of socialization, Bob Gunia, the emcee, invited Fr. Brian Welter, IPF's Executive Director, to the stage. After a brief opening song, 285 guests sat down to a savory dinner. Once everyone had finished the delicious meal, Fr. Brian thanked the Honorary Chairs, Herman and Ellen Weist, for the evening. Then he presented IPF's St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service to Fr. Daniel Kampschneider. Fr. Kampschneider took a few moments to express his deep gratitude for the many blessings of his priesthood, for the outpouring of appreciation from so many former parishioners, and also for his many positive interactions with the Institute for Priestly Formation.

Once the award was presented, attendees heard from seminarian Nicholas Seier about his experience in the IPF summer program and the impact it made on his journey to the priesthood. A short video shared testimonials from several priests who had gone through the Pre-Ordination retreat, and a few thoughts

from a seminarian who attended the program in 2023. Mary Buttell, President of the IPF Foundation, also got up to share her insights and experiences with IPF programs.

Next, Bob Gunia and Fr. Vincent Fortunato, O.F.M. Cap., an adjunct IPF staff member from New Jersey, set out to "Fill the Gap" by encouraging guests to raise their paddles and offer their monetary support for the seminarian program and the pre-ordination retreat. A little bit of cajoling, prayers, and laughter led to a tremendous showing of support. Between the gifts offered and the sponsorships from businesses and individuals, IPF was able to raise over \$150,000! Thank you so much, not only for your generosity, but also for your prayers and conviction in the necessity of IPF's mission.

**Save the Date for 2025**

**IPF Hearts on Fire Dinner  
Thursday, April 24, 2025**

**See the full list of sponsors for the IPF  
Hearts on Fire Dinner on pg. 14.**



# Hearts on Fire Dinner Sponsors

## Gold Sponsors - \$10,000:

Michael and Suzie Lawler

## Silver Sponsors - \$5,000:

Nancy Abboud  
Archbishop George Lucas  
Marian Servants of Divine  
Providence  
Herman and Ellen Weist

## Bronze Sponsors - \$2,500:

Access Bank  
Brent and Michelle Pohlman

## Table Sponsors - \$1,250:

Bold Office Solutions  
Joe and Nancy Casey  
Catholic Foundation of Southern  
Nebraska  
Deacon Michael and Valerie  
Conzett  
Merrill Lynch - Jim Ambrose,  
Michael Lighthart, and Matt  
Rehberg  
Tim and Sally O'Neill  
Project Advocates  
Doug and Margaret Quinn



Scan the QR code  
with your phone to  
see all the photos from the  
"Hearts on Fire" dinner



1

From the top left: 1) Fr. Jim Rafferty and Fr. Dennis Hanneman share a quick word.

2) Diane and Joe Schwaller and Bob and Kristy Krupa pause to offer a smile for the camera.

3) Several guests grin as they sip their cocktails.

4) Archbishop Lucas says a closing blessing.

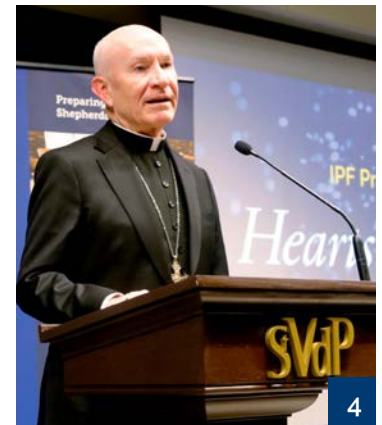
5) Suzanne, Timothy, and Scott Kerr and Dan Dineen say 'cheese' while enjoying some wine.



2



3



4



5



From the top left: 6) Fr. Richard Gabuzda talks about the history of IPF's 30 years at the dinner.

7) Shirley Eike, Fr. Harry Buse, and Ron Eike smile during the evening's social hour.

8) Emcee Bob Gunia welcomes everyone to the IPF Hearts on Fire dinner.

9) Seminarian Nicholas Seier talks about his IPF experience.

10) Fr. Brian Welter presents Fr. Daniel Kampschneider with the St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service.

11) Herman and Ellen Weist are thanked by Fr. Brian Welter for being the Honorary Event Chairs.

12) Tim Buttell, Mary Buttell, and Fr. Jeremy Hans pose for a quick photo as the evening begins.





INSTITUTE *for* PRIESTLY FORMATION

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*Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ*  
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Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InstituteForPriestlyFormation>

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 
- May 26 - July 27, 2024  
**Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians**  
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**  
Christ the King Parish, Omaha, NE
  - July 18, 2024  
**"Martyrdom of Prayer" Talk from Fr. Brian Welter**  
National Eucharistic Congress,  
Indianapolis, Indiana
  - August 23 - 30, 2024  
**National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - September 9, 2024  
**Golf Fore IPF**  
Miracle Hill Golf Course,  
Omaha, Nebraska
  - Sept. 29 - Oct. 4 (8\*), 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training Program, Sec. A**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois
  - October 3, 2024  
**St. John Paul II Event**  
Virtual Event on the IPF website
  - Oct. 13 - 18 (22\*), 2024  
**Spiritual Direction Training Program, Sec. B**  
Mundelein Seminary, Illinois