

Rite of Candidacy Mass — Sunday, August 27

You are cordially invited and encouraged to witness three Seminarians profess their intent for priesthood during a Candidacy Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Des Moines on Sunday, August 28 at 11:15 a.m. The men are:

- ◇ Matthew Krastel from St. Mary of Nazareth Parish, Des Moines, a graduate of Conception Seminary, Conception, MO, attending St. Mary of the Lake at Mundelein this fall.
- ◇ Luis Mejia from the Diocese of Zacatecoluca, El Salvador, attending St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

- ◇ Andrew Windschitl, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines, attending St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Candidacy is a time of education and formation in preparation for ordination to the priesthood and is the next step a man receives on a journey toward the priesthood. It serves as affirmation that he has given himself to the best of his ability to the process of formation. The next step is ordination to the transitional diaconate prior to priesthood ordination.

Please take a moment to fill out and return the attached reporting form with progress your Parish Vocations Committee has made at your parish, suggestions, photos and activities that you can share with us in upcoming issues of this newsletter!

What Other PVC's Are Doing

We all know that summertime can be a slow and restful period in our lives and ministries. We really appreciate the fact that some of you are keeping in touch, in spite of the brutal, hot summer weather. Now that fall is approaching, we need your help more than ever in promoting some of the activities that will begin with the cooler weather and faster tempo. Please refer to the Vocations Calendar on Page 3 for activities we would like you to promote at your parish during the months ahead.

Here are some of the activities that the Parish Vocation Committees have updated us on in their parishes this summer:

- St. Anne's Parish in Logan continues to publish the bulletin announcements regarding Vocations. They also are getting an early start on discussing the Andrew Dinner in the Portsmouth Region at St. Joseph's Church in Earling on Thursday, September 29.
- St. Mary's Parish in Shenandoah continues to work with their Pastor, Fr. Vernon Smith, to continue to build on their Vocations activities such as praying the Rosary daily for Vocations, using the bulletin announcements and intercessions at mass and using the Vocations Cross/Chalice program at their church.
- St. Patrick's at Missouri Valley also continues with the Daily Rosary, bulletin and intercessions and makes a point to invite parishioners to Vocations activities.
- Deacon Tom Schenk at Assumption in Granger reports that their parish meets routinely to discuss how they can foster Vocations Awareness at their parish.
- St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Indianola continues with their current activities and is now looking to include the "Ways to Pray for Vocations" from All Saints Parish. They plan to visit with the RE director about adding the Vocation Tree activities to fifth and seventh grades next year as well as incorporating a vocations component to first grade also.
- At St. Mary of the Assumption in Panama, Marilyn Keane reports that the Vocations placemats continue to be used at parish functions and she noticed that people are picking them up and reading them!! They use all of the information that is provided to them for the church bulletins.

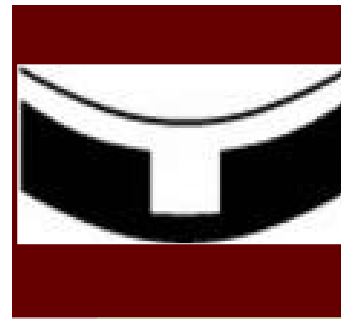
- Fr. Michael Peters reports that he uses the prayer for Vocations before each mass at his parishes of St. Patrick's in Bayard, St. Mary's in Guthrie Center, and St. Cecelia in Panora. Two sisters from Ann Arbor have visited K-8.
- St. Theresa's Vocation Committee in Des Moines has continued with the recommendations made by Bishop Pates in meeting their goals: 1) prayer/comments in Sunday bulletin, 2) Vocations mass petitions, 3) daily rosary for Vocations; and 4) continuing communication with the Diocese. Members of their PVC attended the PVC workshop and gained some ideas and several members attended the Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Patrick McManus on May 21. Further projects include Seminarian prayer cards and possibly making a poster/display of Religious from St. Theresa's parish.

Something to Think About...

A study commissioned by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75 percent of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Do you know someone who would make a good priest or religious? Why not tell them so? Your encouragement may be all that is needed. Your invitation to a vocations event might legitimize the feelings in their heart to pursue the priesthood or religious life.

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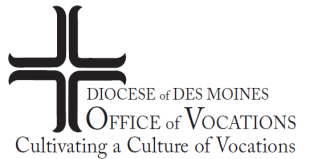
August/September 2011



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Vocation Vibes

Cultivating a Culture of Vocations with Fr. David Muenchrath



One of the most important things needed in building a Culture of Vocations is a generous heart in all of God's faithful. So often I think we forget that charity is just another word for love, but that is one of the many reasons why Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical letter was entitled *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love or more literally, God is Charity). Our God is the living embodiment of love, charity, a generous heart, and we as Christians are meant to reflect the very essence of our God in how we give of ourselves: our time, our talent, our treasure.

When I was a young man I remember learning this lesson from my mother who was a visiting nurse at the time, working with young underprivileged mothers. She invited me one day to go to "work" with her. She knew of a young mother who needed a crib and an extra pair of hands to deliver it. When we arrived at the young woman's apartment we received a less than warm welcome. I remember the door even being slammed in my mother's face, but much like our God who never stops loving and giving to us, my mom would not give up on that mother and her child. She gently rapped at the door until it opened again and a heart that was open received her gift of charity, of love.

This action was not a part of my mom's job; it was a part of her vocation as a Christian. This lesson of charity, of love, has remained with me my entire life and I think of it often in my life as a priest. I hope it will encourage you to think about how your witness of love in giving of your time, talents, and treasures will inspire future generations of Christians and maybe even inspire them to give of their love as a priest or consecrated brother or sister.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. David Muenchrath

Annual Seminarian Appeal

The Special Collection for Seminarians will be conducted at all parishes in the Diocese of Des Moines on the weekend of September 24-25, 2011. All registered parishioners will receive a letter and brochure in the mail from Bishop Pates prior to the collection. Gifts to this collection support the education and formation costs associated with seminarians, which are continually on the rise.

We are asking all of our Parish Vocation Committee representatives to give us a hand in promoting the Appeal by providing information in their bulletins for two successive weekends and using the suggested Mass Intercessions on Page 2 of this publication. The success of this Appeal greatly enhances the support of education and formation costs associated with our Seminarians. The need for everyone's support is critical so that we can continue to provide for our Seminarians.

Gifts can be returned in the collection basket on the weekend of September 24-25, mailed to the Diocese, or made online at www.dmdiocese.org/donate/cfm. Please designate the Seminarian Special Collection.

Please use the Bulletin Announcements that are provided on Page 2 of this publication for the designated weekend masses in order to prepare your parish for this special collection.

"I have called you by name; you are mine."

Isaiah 43:3

World Priest Day – October 30, 2011

Pray! Invite! Encourage! Affirm! Vocations!

Priests have been and are a significant part of our lives. They have ministered to us, preached to us, counseled us, have been a presence to us each weekend, and they continue to journey with us through life. Let us share our appreciation and love through honoring their dedication on **World Priest Day, October 30, 2011.**

World Priest Day (WPD) is a celebration of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement's love for our priests and our faithfulness to the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Mission Statement. We request that our Parish Vocations Committees plan and celebrate on this designated day something special at their parish to commemorate and support the men who live their Sacrament of Holy Orders each day. We encourage Parish Vocations Committees to serve as a celebration committee and get some ideas started so that the day will be a joyous one for the whole parish.

A few suggestions to make this day a special day of celebration for your clergy:

- Send a card to your parish priest or bishop telling them what their sacrament and/or friendship means to you.
- Invite a priest or bishop to breakfast, lunch or dinner or have a "coffee cake" reception following masses.
- Send them flowers or a balloon bouquet or goody basket and include drawings, notes, and paper bouquets from the kids. Remember to identify that it is sent with love from your community.
- Call a priest or bishop on the telephone to tell them how much they are appreciated.
- Bake them cookies, etc. Be sure to involve the kids in these planning efforts.
- Invite them to a picnic or family night hosted by your parish.
- Have a prayer day for your priests or bishop to pray for deeper relationships between our priests, bishops and families.
- Get Catholic Schools or religious



education classes involved in a poster or essay contest or in writing notes to their pastor.

- Put baskets at the church entryway and have parishioners write notes of appreciation, affirmation, and support for your pastor and/or Associate.
- Include a picture and your priest's biography on the cover of your bulletin.
- Create a banner for the front of your church in celebration of the occasion.

A Celebration Starter Kit is available at <http://wpd.wvme.org>. Many more ideas are included at the following websites:

<http://www.priestsunday.org/>
<http://www.serraus.org/>

World Youth Day Pilgrimage—August 11-23, 2011

World Youth Day is a great worldwide encounter with the Pope which is celebrated every three years in a different country. It will take place this year in Madrid, Spain, from August 16-21, 2011. This special time is a unique way to deepen the faith of our youth and grow closer to Christ by means of prayer and the sacraments, together with thousands of other young people who share the same interests and ambitions.

Recognizing the importance of World Youth Day and the impact it makes on our young people, Bishop Richard



Pates has graciously given our seminarians the opportunity of traveling to World Youth Day. This will be an excellent chance to witness to other young people on their journey and experience a once-in-a-lifetime gathering with the Holy Father. Your prayers for their increase in knowledge and commitment to our faith, their safety during travel, and the camaraderie with other pilgrims on the journey will be deeply appreciated.

Some of the Seminarians will be traveling to Fatima during the early part of the trip, where they will rejoice in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, pray at the tombs of the visionaries and the site of the fourth apparition in Valinhos as well as spend time in the peaceful shrine of Our Lady. The group will arrive at their destination of Madrid on August 12th, visiting local towns of Guadalupe and Trujillo before celebrating the Feast of the Assumption with Bishop D. Francisco Cerro Chaves on August 15th then witness the begin-



ning of World Youth Day with Mass at Plaza de Cibeles the following day. A pilgrimage walk and Vigil with the Holy Father will take place on August 20th and the Papal Mass will follow. The location of where the next World Youth Day pilgrimage will be held shall be made known on the final day.

Please pray for our Seminarians and others who are traveling to experience this amazing pilgrimage that they may be changed in unimaginable ways as they walk in the light of Christ.

Annual Seminarian Appeal (Continued from Page 1) Sample Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin Announcement for the weekends of September 9/10 and 17/18:

The diocesan-wide Special Collection for Seminarians will be conducted on September 25. Registered parishioners will be receiving a letter and brochure in the mail from Bishop Pates. Gifts to this collection support the education and formation costs associated with seminarians, which continually rise. There are 15 seminarians in our Diocese and we pray the number will continue to increase. The need for your support is critical so that we may continue providing for these seminarians.

Your gift to this special appeal makes the difference for our faith leaders of tomorrow by providing necessary educational funding. Please experience the joy of giving and join us as we work together to continue God's work. You may return your gift in the collection basket next week, mail it to the Diocese, or gifts may be made online at www.dmdiocese.org/donate/cfm. Please designate the Seminarian Special Collection.

Bulletin Announcement for the weekend of September 24/25:

Today is the diocesan-wide Special Collection for Seminarians. Gifts to this collection support the education and formation costs associated with seminarians, which continually rise. Your gift to this special appeal makes the difference for the faith leaders of tomorrow by providing necessary educational funding. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital and we thank you for your generosity. Gifts may also be made online at www.dmdiocese.org/donate/cfm. Please designate the Seminarian Special Collection.

Fall Vocations Calendar

August 2011

August 7	Picnic for Seminarians sponsored by Adair KCs at Lake Anita State Park
August 11-23	World Youth Day, Madrid, Spain
August 27	Annual Serra Mass and Breakfast for Seminarians at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 8-10:00 a.m.
August 27	Day of Reflection for Seminarians at the Catholic Pastoral Center
August 28	Rite of Candidacy, 11:15 a.m., St. Francis of Assisi, WDM; reception following

September 2011

Sept. 4	Quo Vadis, Des Moines, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Quo Vadis, Council Bluffs, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 19-24	NCDVD Conference, Detroit, MI
Sept. 22	Andrew Dinner—St. Cecilia's Church, Panora
Sept. 23-24	Annual Seminarian Appeal in all Parishes
Sept. 29	Andrew Dinner—St. Joseph's Church, Earling

October 2011

October 9	Quo Vadis, Des Moines, 5:30 p.m.
October 11	Andrew Dinner—King's Canyon, 119 W. Washington, Osceola**

October (Continued)

October 13	Andrew Dinner—OLIH Church, Ankeny
October 18	Andrew Dinner—St. Mary's Church, Shenandoah
October 23	Quo Vadis, Council Bluffs, 5:30 p.m.
October 27	Andrew Dinner—St. Augustin Church, Des Moines
October 29	Thinking of Priesthood Retreat, ISU, Ames
October 30	National Priesthood Sunday

November 2011

November 6	Centennial Conference and Mass, Hy-Vee Hall
November 10	Andrew Dinner—St. Patrick's, Council Bluffs
November 13	Quo Vadis, Des Moines, 5:30 p.m.
November 17-20	Nat'l Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis
November 27	Quo Vadis, Council Bluffs, 5:30 p.m.

December 2011

December 4	Quo Vadis, Des Moines, 5:30 p.m.
December 18	Quo Vadis, Council Bluffs, 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 16-18	Bishop's Retreat, Griswold
December 18	Council Bluffs Serra Dinner for Seminarians

**Note change in location!