



Vocations and Seminarians Newsletter

June 17, 2006

Diocese of Baton Rouge

Dates to Remember

- Seminarian BBQ with Bishop Muench - August 12, 2006 - St. Louis King of France Church, Baton Rouge
- Mass & Lunch for Seminarians and their Parents - September 16, 2006
- World Youth Day - October 29, 2006 - Diocesan Rally at St. Isidore the Farmer Church, Baker

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

In the past two weeks I have had the joy of attending several liturgies of special significance for our diocesan Church. The first was the ordination of 14 permanent deacons, the second the ordination of 4 transitional deacons, and third the 50th Anniversary Mass of Msgr. Leo Guillot, pastor of St. Margaret Parish in Albany. All three celebrated the mystery of God's call as it is heard and received by different members of the Church.

The life and witness of a deacon is inspired by the memory of those who helped to shape this special sacrament of service. Chapter six of the Acts of the Apostles recalls the appointment of seven reputable men from among the Greek-speaking believers who were given responsibility to assist widows and presumably others in need. One of these seven, St. Stephen (December 26 feast day), would become the first martyr of the Church, and a second, St. Philip (June 6 feast day), would be instrumental in contributing to the spread of the Gospel outside of Judea.

Others associated with the ministry of deacon are St. Lawrence (d. 258; August 10 feast day) and St. Vincent (d. 304; January 22 feast day), each of whom are honored as *deacon and martyr* in the proper of the saints. They assisted their pope and bishop in the celebration of the Eucharist and in ministry to the poor. They proclaimed the Gospel by their lives through concrete acts of charity, and so were viewed as subversives by the Roman state. Their enduring witness continues to inspire our own ongoing call to conversion in the modern era.

Msgr. Guillot was ordained on June 9, 1956, together with Msgr. Gerald Lefebvre, Fr. Bob Marcell, Fr. John McDonald, and Fr. Hubert Brou (d. 1997). In addition to his parish assignments, Msgr. Guillot served in the work of vocations and seminary formation in the latter half of the 1960's. Fr. Eric Gyan, who served in his first priestly assignment with Msgr. Guillot at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Greenwell Springs in the mid-80s, preached the homily at the 50th anniversary Mass.

During his homily, Fr. Gyan pointed out that the gift of the priesthood does not so much indicate God's love for priests as it does God's love for every human person. In other words, priests exist as instruments of God's love for all of God's children. In honoring the priesthood we honor the tremendous value which God places on every human person. God established the ministry of priest, and continues to call men to be priests, as an expression of his love for everyone.

This is why the experience of being called often comes as something of a surprise to the person hearing the call. We tend to associate a religious vocation with a particular set of human qualifications, as if in calling a person God is in effect honoring that person for his or her special gifts. In reality however, by calling certain individuals to religious life, God honors all people everywhere. Therefore the call to religious life and service is received as a very humbling experience which produces a profound sense of

gratitude in the heart of the priest, deacon, sister, brother, and lay minister.

So for those ordained just days ago as well as those ordained 50 years ago, the call to priesthood and diaconate is first and foremost a call to *holiness*. Through seeking God and his will we eventually discern our particular role in the life of the Church. Our growth in holiness will uncover and develop whatever gifts are needed in the living out of our vocation. Our mission and ministry will be characterized by love, humility, and gratitude just as God intended.

In Christ,
Fr. Matt Lorrain

Seminarian Barbeque with Bishop Muench

All priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Baton Rouge are cordially invited to attend the annual gathering with Bishop Muench to be held Saturday, August 12, 2006, at St. Louis King of France Church in Baton Rouge. Seminarians will participate in the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass, to be followed by a social and supper. Seminarians are reminded to wear coat and tie for the Mass and for the photographs taken immediately after Mass. The dress code for the remainder of the evening is casual.

Priests are invited to join us following the conclusion of their own Vigil Masses. We will probably eat around 7:00 p.m. Many thanks to Fr. Jack Nutter and the parishioners of St. Louis King of France for hosting this year's Mass and dinner. Priests and seminarians are asked to RSVP no later than Thursday, August 10, in order to assist with the preparations. The telephone number of St. Louis Church is 225-275-7280.

Ordination to be Replayed on Television

Catholic Life Channel 15 will replay the June 10 ordination of our transitional deacons on the following days and times: Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday at 2:30 a.m., Thursday at 2:30 p.m., and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Please continue to pray for all of our deacons and 4th year interns as they begin their extended parish assignments.

2006 Seminarian Summer Assignments

Summer Parish Ministry and L.S.U. Studies

Joseph Vu – St. Aloysius Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. Gerald Burns

Spanish Immersion

Todd Lloyd – Cemanahuac School in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Bryan Thompson – Cemanahuac School in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Summer Parish Ministry II

Mark Beard – St. Louis King of France Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. Jack Nutter

Paul Gros – St. John the Baptist Parish in Brusly / Fr. Matt Dupré

Contact Us

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Clinical Pastoral Education

Jamin David – East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie, Louisiana

Andrew Merrick – Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina

Paul Yi – Baptist-Princeton Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama

Fourth Year Parish Internship

Howard Adkins – St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. David Allen

Michael Alello – Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs / Fr. Vincent Dufresne

Cary Bani – St. George Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. Michael Schatzle

Chris Decker – Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. Shelton Fabre

Jason Palermo – St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Baker / Fr. Fred Youngs

Chris Redden – St. Jean Vianney Parish in Baton Rouge / Fr. Tom Ranzino

Vocation Office Secretary

Ms. Mona George, the secretary of the Office of Vocations for the past ten years, has been granted an early retirement for health reasons. Mona has been a friendly and devoted secretary who gave outstanding service to our diocese and its ministries of vocations recruitment and seminarian support. I thank her on behalf of all for her dedicated service.

Succeeding Mona as office secretary is Ms. Mary Layman, currently employed as the assistant director of religious education at St. Jean Vianney Parish. Mary possesses many of the same friendly qualities as Mona and I am confident she will prove to be a real asset to our mission. Mary is scheduled to begin work in the Vocations Office on July 3.

More Thanks . . .

A few last words of appreciation need to be made:

- To Fr. Gerard Young, pastor, and the staff and musicians of St. Joseph Cathedral, for hosting the transition diaconal ordination on June 10
- To Fr. Tom Ranzino, director of our diocesan Office of Worship, for his help in planning the deacons' ordination and serving as Master of Ceremonies at the liturgy
- To Ms. Charlotte Evans and her kitchen staff at the Bishop Tracy Center, for the food and all their help with the reception which followed the deacons' ordination
- And to the families, classmates and friends of the ordinands, for their support and encouragement – and most of all, their prayers – over the years for the newly-ordained

Thank you all for your help and assistance to the Office of Vocations and to those we serve!