



# Vocations and Seminarians Newsletter

July 15, 2007

Diocese of Baton Rouge

## Dates to Remember

- Seminarian BBQ with Bishop Robert Muench - August 18, 2007, 4:30 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Parish, Prairieville
- Father Mike Collins' 40th Anniversary Mass - August 26, 2007, 11:30 a.m., Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Baton Rouge
- Parish Vocation Committee Workshop - September 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m., St. George Parish, Baton Rouge
- Bishop's Mass and Brunch for Seminarians and Parents - September 22, 2007, 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Chapel in the Tracy Center
- "Come and See" weekend at St. Joseph Seminary College - November 9-11, 2007, St. Benedict

## Dear Seminarians and Friends,

A great time was had by all in attendance at the recent seminarian gathering hosted by Father Frank Uter and the priests and parishioners of the Catholic parishes of East St. James civil Parish. We met at the St. Michael the Archangel Parish rectory in Convent before walking over to the newly restored church for evening prayer. Our host and tour guide Father Uter then gave a brief history of the parish and allowed time for us to admire and appreciate the recently completed restoration of the church interior.

We next grabbed a snack and beverage before climbing aboard a small tour bus to visit the adjoining parishes of St. Joseph in Paulina and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Gramercy. The three parishes share a common history and now a common pastoral team led by Father Uter, newly ordained Father Michael Alello, Father Pat Mascarella, and Marist Father Ed Fuss. Seminarian Mark Gyan has also been assigned to the three parishes for his summer ministry experience.

The East St. James "cluster" reflects one approach to the challenge of staffing parishes during a time of fewer priests. An attempt is made to preserve individual parish identities while at the same time promoting an increased sharing of services and ministries. It is a setting which requires special gifts on the part of the pastoral team who work to create trust and community among the parishioners. Priests in this setting need to be flexible, patient, fair-minded, and prayerful. A little creative eccentricity doesn't hurt either, and thankfully Father Uter is richly blessed in this regard.

One unexpected treat of the tour was the opportunity to observe their recent efforts to remove a massive hive of honeybees which had taken up residence in the walls and ceiling of the Gramercy rectory (home of Father Michael Alello). This fascinating offshoot of priestly life led to the retelling of numerous stories of other priests' occasional encounters with insects, rodents, and reptiles in our diocesan rectories. Many of God's creatures in south Louisiana have found cause on occasion to make unannounced visits to the homes of our parish priests. It seems these visits have often been accompanied by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by the pastor's sudden and unexplained ability to "speak in tongues"!

Many of us who have been stationed in the rural areas of the Diocese are also familiar with the annual migration of mice around the time of the sugarcane harvest. Father Michael Miceli of Our Lady of Peace in south Vacherie holds the modern day diocesan record with 35 confirmed kills during a one week period! Who says all of the adventure has disappeared from priestly life at the dawn of the 21st century?

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

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## Mass & Barbecue with Bishop Muench

The annual "back to school" Mass and barbecue with Bishop Robert Muench and the seminarians will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2007, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Prairieville. The seminarians will join the parishioners of St. John Church at their regularly scheduled 4:30 p.m. anticipated Sunday Mass, and then gather at the rectory for a social and meal hosted by Fathers Eric Gyan and Cary Bani. All priests of the Diocese are also invited to join us for the meal if they can make it following the conclusion of their own parish vigil Masses. The dinner is expected to begin around 6:30 p.m. or so.

Seminarians are asked to wear coat and tie for the Mass and for the formal photographs which are taken immediately following the Mass. The dress code for the remainder of the evening is casual.

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## Parish Vocation Committee Workshop

The Office of Vocations has scheduled another training and enrichment workshop for new and continuing members of Parish Vocation Committees in the Baton Rouge diocese. The workshop will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the St. George Parish Kleinpeter Activity Center located just off Interstate 10 at Seigen Lane in Baton Rouge.

The workshop will offer an opportunity to share ideas and strategies for promoting vocations in our parishes and schools, and also make available any new resources for the coming school year. Even a committee of one person could make a difference for your parish or school. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

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## Rite of Ordination to the Order of the Diaconate

Catholic Life Television of the Diocese of Baton Rouge has begun airing the *Rite of Ordination to the Order of the Diaconate* of Paul Yi and Jamin David. This wonderful program can be seen on Catholic Life Television at the following times through July 28th:

### **Baton Rouge, Cox Communications, Channel 15**

Sunday, 6:30pm  
Tuesday, 9:30am  
Wednesday, 7:00pm  
Thursday, 2:30pm  
Saturday, 9:00pm

### **New Roads, Charter Communications, Channel 44**

Sunday, July 15, 11am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:00pm  
Sunday, July 22, 11am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:00pm

## Contact Us

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## Weekend Assistance for Priests

The Vocation Director offers weekend assistance to the parish priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge as he is able. As of this writing Father Matt has the following 2007 dates still available: Aug. 19 & 25/26; Oct. 13; Dec. 1/2, 8/9, 15/16, & 22/23. Please give him a call at 225-336-8778 if he can help.

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## 2007 Seminarian Summer Assignments

### Fourth Year Parish Internship

Jamin David - St. Mark Parish/Father Joel LaBauve

Andrew Merrick - St. George Parish/Father Mike Schatzle

Paul Yi - St. Louis King of France Parish/Father Jack Nutter

### Clinical Pastoral Education

Mark Beard - Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida

Paul Gros - Christus Santa Rosa Hospital, San Antonio, Texas

### Creighton University-Institute for Priestly Formation

Peter Dang – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Todd Lloyd – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Bryan Thompson – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

### Spanish Immersion

Matthew McCaughey - Cemanahuac Community, Cuernavaca, México

### Summer Parish Ministry

Al Davidson – St. Jean Vianney Parish/Father Tom Ranzino

Mark Gyan – St. Joseph Parish (Paulina)/Father Frank Uter

Joshua Johnson – Our Lady of Peace Parish/Father Michael Miceli

Kevin Piper – St. Albert the Great Student Center/Father Randy Cuevas

Joseph Vu – St. James Parish/Father Louis Oubre

### Camp Chosatonga

Brad Doyle – Camp Chosatonga, Brevard, North Carolina