



Vocations and Seminarians Newsletter

October 15, 2007

Diocese of Baton Rouge

Dates to Remember

- World Youth Day - October 28, 2007, 1:30 p.m., St. Paul Church, Baton Rouge
- Fundraiser for Notre Dame Seminary - November 5, 2007, Greystone in Denham Springs
- "Come and See" weekend at St. Joseph Seminary College - November 9-11, 2007, St. Benedict
- Holy Hour for Seminarians with Bishop Muench at the Bishop Tracy Center - December 20, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
- Diaconate Ordination for Andrew Merrick - December 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral
- National Vocation Awareness Week - January 13-18, 2008

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

The annual convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors was held last month in Baltimore, Maryland with around 200 priests and lay members in attendance. It provided a great opportunity to gather with others involved in this important work in order that we might benefit from the sessions devoted to ministry enrichment and fraternal support. The Archdiocese of Baltimore, the first diocese to be established in the United States (in 1789), proved to be a wonderful host location for the event.

The keynote address was given by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of the neighboring Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Cardinal McCarrick began by citing the promise of God found in Jeremiah 3:15, "I will give you shepherds...." He suggested that we can be realists regarding the current challenges facing our ministry while at the same time remaining hopeful that God is always faithful to his word.

Cardinal McCarrick also used the example of the Annunciation to further illustrate his message of encouragement. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary unexpectedly, reminding us that there is no one special time when we might approach someone about a religious vocation. The angel found someone who was full of grace and such candidates can still be found in our parishes and schools.

Secondly, the angel took time to answer Mary's questions and then gave her the example of her cousin Elizabeth. Priests, youth ministers, and other vocation promoters can also answer questions about discernment and the formation process. We can provide examples of others engaged in discernment or formation, including our seminarians who represent different social backgrounds and personality types.

The conference participants also attended sessions led by Father Louis Cameli, one of the authors of the new fifth edition of the Program for Priestly Formation, and Father Bill Byrne, the Catholic Chaplain at the University of Maryland. The speakers shared their wisdom in regard to effective means of promoting vocations, and then more importantly, their love for the priesthood as evidenced by the joyful witness of their own priestly ministry.

The conference ended with a Mass celebrated at the newly restored Basilica of the Assumption, the first cathedral to be constructed in the original territory of the United States. It was designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the first professionally trained architect in the U.S., who also did much of the design work on the Capitol building in Washington. Latrobe later moved to New Orleans where he died of yellow fever in 1820 and is buried in St. Louis Cemetery.

The presider for the Mass was Cardinal William Keeler, retired Archbishop of Baltimore and one of the driving forces in the restoration of the Basilica. Cardinal Keeler remarked that Latrobe had originally suggested a gothic design for the cathedral similar to some of the great churches in Europe. However, Bishop John Carroll wanted the cathedral to reflect the spirit of religious freedom in a manner similar to that of the Capitol building and its symbolic importance for our young nation. Latrobe was very pleased and well-qualified to utilize a neoclassical design for the church, and even offered his services *pro bono*.

Finally, it is worth noting that the Diocese of Baton Rouge has a special connection to Baltimore in the person of retired Archbishop William Donald Borders. A native of Indiana, Archbishop Borders was a student at St. Meinrad Seminary when he responded to an appeal by Archbishop Rummel for priests and seminarians to serve in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He transferred to Notre Dame Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1940. He then became a priest of the Baton Rouge Diocese when it was created in 1961, and served as pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral, rector of St. Joseph Cathedral Prep School, and also director of seminarians before being made a bishop.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

World Youth Day 2007

The Diocesan celebration of World Youth Day is a mere two weeks away and is scheduled for Sunday, October 28, at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Baton Rouge. The theme for this year's event is "*Embrace the Grace*" and activities include Mass at 2:00 p.m. followed by music, prayer, and dinner. Participants are asked to register through their youth minister or parish office. More information is also available by contacting the Diocesan Youth Office at 225-336-8751.

Fundraiser for Notre Dame Seminary

Serra Club member Bill Leach is soliciting the help of Catholics throughout the Baton Rouge Diocese to organize a golf tournament fundraiser to benefit the reconstruction efforts at Notre Dame Seminary. The *Seminarian Scramble Golf Classic* will be held on Monday, November 5, 2007, at *Greystone Golf and Country Club* in Denham Springs. Registration with lunch begins at 10:30 a.m. and Tee Time is set for 12:00 noon. All money raised will be used to complete the renovation of the student kitchen and recreation areas at the seminary. For more information, please contact Bill at 225-266-9262 (cell) or visit <http://seminarianscramble.com>.

"Come and See" Weekend

St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana (just north of Covington), is sponsoring its first "Come and See" weekend of the school year November 9-11, 2007. The weekend is open to all interested young men in 10th grade through college, and is hosted by the seminarians and the Benedictine monks of St. Joseph Abbey. Participants are invited to experience the prayer and community life of a seminary community, and also get to know some of the guys who are studying to be priests. Arrival at the seminary takes place between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, and the weekend concludes with the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Please contact Father Matt or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.

Save the Date - Diaconate Ordination

Fourth Year theologian Andrew Merrick will be ordained a transitional deacon on Saturday, December 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge. Bishop Robert Muench will be the main celebrant for the Mass, assisted by the priests and deacons of the Baton Rouge Diocese. Andrew is currently assigned to St. George Parish for his six month parish internship prior to a final semester of seminary studies. All are invited to attend.

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: Dec. 8/9, 15/16, & 22/23. Looking ahead to the first half of **2008**, he is available Feb. 16/17; Mar. 1/2; May 10/11 & 17/18; & June 1. Please give him a call at 225-336-8778 if he can help.

Promote Vocations in 2008

National Vocation Awareness Week – January 13-18, 2008.
World Day for Consecrated Life – February 3, 2008.
World Day of Prayer for Vocations – April 13, 2008.

Roster of Diocesan Seminarians

4th Theology:	Jamin David 25, St. Ann, Morganza
	Andrew Merrick 26, St. Mary of False River, New Roads
	Paul Yi 34, St. Theresa of Avila, Gonzales
3rd Theology:	Mark Beard 46, Our Lady of Mercy, Baton Rouge
	Paul Gros 25, Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
1st Theology:	Peter Ai Dang 42, Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
	Todd Lloyd 24, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
	Brent Maher 23, Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
	Bryan Thompson 26, Our Lady of Mercy, Baton Rouge
Pre-Theology:	Al Davidson 53, St. Agnes, Baton Rouge
	Mark Gyan 53, St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville
	Matthew McCaughey... 23, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
3rd Philosophy:	Luke Ordogne 23, Our Lady of Mercy, Baton Rouge
	Kevin Piper 21, St. Joseph, French Settlement
	Joseph Hoang Vu 20, Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
2nd Philosophy:	Brad Doyle 20, St. George, Baton Rouge
	Joshua Johnson 19, St. George, Baton Rouge

Contact Us

Office of Vocations
Diocese of Baton Rouge
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

Telephone

225-336-8778

Fax

225-242-0342

E-mail

vocations@diobr.org

Website

www.diobr.org/vocations

Seminary Contact Information

Notre Dame Seminary and Graduate School of Theology

2901 South Carrollton Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118-4391
Telephone: 504-866-7426
Fax: 504-866-3119
Website: <http://www.nds.edu>

St. Joseph Seminary College

75376 River Road
St. Benedict, LA 70457-9900
Telephone: 985-867-2232
Fax: 985-867-2295
Website: <http://seminary.saintjosephabbey.com>