

August 14, 2008

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Fr. Cleo Milano's 25th Anniversary Mass - August 17, 2008, 5:00 pm, St. John the Evangelist Church, Plaquemine**
- ◆ **Seminarian Mass and BBQ with Bishop Muench - August 23, 2008, 4:00 pm, St. Jude the Apostle Church, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Deo Gratias - Benefit for St. Joseph Abbey - August 24, 2008, 6:00 pm Mass & Reception, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop - September 6, 2008, 10:00 am, St. Thomas More Parish, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Bishop's Mass and Brunch for Seminarians and Parents - September 20, 10:30 am, St. Joseph Chapel, Tracy Center**
- ◆ **Notre Dame 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Gala - October 4, 2008, 6:00 pm, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**
- ◆ **World Youth Day - October 26, 2008, Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Donaldsonville**
- ◆ **"Come and See" Weekend - St. Joseph Seminary College - November 14-16, 2008, St. Benedict**

## Dear Seminarians and Friends,

In the June 29, 2008 issue of the St. Aloysius Parish bulletin, newly ordained associate pastor Father Paul Yi offered a brief reflection on his transition from layman to Catholic priest. Father Paul writes: "It is not easy to mold and reshape a man who has lived the better part of his life for worldly aspirations." And yet, he freely chose to undergo this transformation in order to serve God and the parish family to which he is assigned. It is through self-surrender and trust that we come to experience God's providence in all its various forms.

Benedictine Sister Jane Becker offered a fuller treatment of this process in the Summer 2008 issue of *Horizon*, a quarterly journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference. In her article entitled "The Inner Journey of the Transition into Religious Life," Sister Jane examined some of the changes which people experience upon entering religious life. The process may begin with a series of losses, such as deciding which possessions to store, sell, or give away. "Favorite pieces of furniture and articles of clothing (and pets)—not all will fit through the threshold of religious life." She added, "Novices often report that giving up their own car was emotionally one of their heaviest losses."

The surrender of material possessions, career plans, relationships, and to a certain extent one's freedom, allows the novice or seminarian to experience a greater kinship with the first disciples who were called to abandon their boats and nets by the sea shore. We leave behind the old and familiar in order to discover something new and transformative. We trust that uncertainty and initial discomfort will eventually give way to growth, gratitude, and joy.

Father Paul concluded his reflection with the well-known prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola: Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more." It is a beautiful prayer which has resonated in the hearts of many religious and lay vocations over the centuries.

A Christian vocation, whether to religious life, marriage, or the priesthood, is meant to engage the whole person. "No one can serve two masters" as Jesus cautioned in his Sermon on the Mount. Therefore our religious practice will naturally encourage us to examine and reorder our attachments, priorities, and loyalties so that God holds first place in our hearts and lives. Please pray that those in discernment and formation may be open to the grace of conversion as they offer their lives to Christ.

In Christ,  
Father Matt Lorrain

## Welcome - New Seminarists for 2008

The Diocese of Baton Rouge joyfully welcomes three new seminarists to its program of priestly formation.

**Kyle Gautreau** is a 27 year old native of St. Mark Parish in Gonzales. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from L.S.U., and an M.A. in Philosophy from Fordham University. Kyle spent the last five years in formation to be a Jesuit priest before gradually discerning a call to the diocesan priesthood. He will enter Notre Dame Seminary as a first year theologian.

**Tim Hedrick** is 26 years old and a native of Metairie. He holds a B.S. in Information Systems and Decision Sciences from L.S.U., and has worked as a youth minister at St. Thomas More Parish, a religion teacher at Redemptorist High School, and a summer camp director in North Carolina. Tim will enter the pre-theology program at St. Joseph Seminary College.

**Logan Roussel** is an 18 year old parishioner of St. Michael Parish in Convent, and a recent graduate of Reserve Christian School. He attended a "Come and See" weekend during his junior year of high school and has now decided to continue his discernment by entering the seminary. Logan will attend St. Joseph Seminary College for his undergraduate studies in philosophy and theology.

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## The Sacrament that Unifies - The Eucharist

"A Reflection on My Summer Mission Experience" by Joshua Johnson

"When I am lifted up from the earth," the Lord said, "I will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). This promise is fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist, which unifies all of Christ's followers as one community. This summer I was given the opportunity to see the face of Christ in the poorest of the poor while on a mission trip in Mexico. I found that, even though we may be separated by the border of the United States and Mexico, we were still able to come together as a community of believers and celebrate the Eucharist together.

The primary goal of this mission experience was for us to get a census of the sacraments that the people had received and to assess the spiritual and physical needs of each household. Throughout the mission experience my fellow missionaries and I were able to teach catechesis to the natives, hold daily prayer services in the chapel, bless their homes, and work with the people in their fields. By working and praying with these people, we were able to truly learn the meaning of simplicity. Most of these people ate only one meal a day and they lived without running water and electricity. Yet, this did not hinder them from working in the fields everyday or coming to the chapel to pray the rosary.

Though I can spend much time writing about all of these experiences, I found the highlight of the trip to be in the celebration of the Eucharist. In the majority of the United States of America, we are able to have Mass daily. Yet, this is not the case for the people of Sierra Tarhumara, Mexico. These people are lucky if they can get a priest to come by once a month for Mass. So it goes without saying that when we celebrated the Eucharist together, the natives made every effort

to get there, whether that meant walking five hours through the mountains or having to forgo working in the fields to provide food for their families. It was an amazing experience to see how the Mass, the un-bloody sacrifice of Jesus Christ, was able to bring so many people together in worship of our Lord. The reverence, awe, appreciation, and love these people had for Jesus Christ in the Eucharist was a life changing experience for me in itself.

As the mission trip has now ended and I am in preparation to go back to the seminary, I will continue to keep these people in my prayers. This experience has formed me into a better seminarian and a better person. My understanding of the Mass has been deepened by my firsthand experience of how the sacrament of the Eucharist unifies regardless of the borders.

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## Mass & Barbeque with Bishop Muench

The annual "Back to School" Mass and barbecue with Bishop Robert Muench and the seminarians will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Baton Rouge. The seminarians will join the parishioners of St. Jude Church at their regularly scheduled 4:00 p.m. anticipated Sunday Mass, and then gather for a social and meal hosted by Fathers David Allen and Chris Decker. 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 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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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## Deo Gratias 2008

Deo Gratias (Latin for "thanks be to God,") is an annual reception and dinner to benefit St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College located in St. Benedict, Louisiana. The Baton Rouge Deo Gratias 2008 will take place on Sunday, August 24, 2008, at Our Lady of Mercy Church, beginning with Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by a reception and dinner in the Parish Activity Center. Food is again being donated and prepared by Chef John Folse. Tickets for the reception and dinner are \$75 per person and are available in advance or at the door. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information please contact Vanessa Crouere at 985-867-2242 or [vcrouere@sjasc.edu](mailto:vcrouere@sjasc.edu), or visit the website - [www.sjasc.edu/2008-deo-gratias-baton-rouge.html](http://www.sjasc.edu/2008-deo-gratias-baton-rouge.html).

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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 6, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Thomas More Parish Activity Center 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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## Mass and Lunch for Parents of Seminarians

The annual Mass and lunch for seminarians and their parents is set for Saturday, September 20, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel in the Bishop Tracy Center. The main celebrant for the Mass, and also host of the lunch to follow, will be Bishop Robert Muench.

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## Notre Dame 85th Anniversary & Gala

Notre Dame Seminary will host a Gala celebrating their 85th Anniversary, on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the Seminary located at 2901 S. Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, musical entertainment, raffle and auction. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available through Notre Dame Seminary. Sponsorships are also available. For further information please contact Sharon Mason at 504-866-7426 or [Smason@nds.edu](mailto:Smason@nds.edu).

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## Called By Name

This January, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will repeat a very successful vocation promotion initiative. "CALLED BY NAME" is a program that invites men and women, 16 years of age or older, to consider priesthood or consecrated life. "CALLED BY NAME" was last used by the diocese from 1990 to 1992 and has since been recommended by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Vocations in their document *A Future Full of Hope: a National Strategy for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life for the Archdioceses and Dioceses of the United States*.

At the program's heart is the belief that all of us share a common calling through Baptism, to which we are invited to respond in a variety of ways – marriage, single life, consecrated life, diaconate, or priesthood. The "CALLED BY NAME" process focuses on priesthood and consecrated life, and stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women to consider these vocations.

Parishioners throughout the diocese are encouraged to consider who in our midst might serve well as a priest or religious and submit their names at the weekend liturgies January 10-11 and January 17-18, 2009. There are many good prospective priests, brothers, and sisters who are simply waiting to be asked.

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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. Father Matt has three dates still available in **2008**:

- ◆ November 1/2; December 6/7 and 13/14.

Here are his open dates for the first half of **2009**:

- ◆ January 10/11, 24/25, & 31; February 1, 14/15, 21/22, & 28; March 1, 7/8, 14/15, 22, & 28/29; May 2/3, 9/10, 16/17, & 31; June 13/14 and 20/21.

Please call him at 225-336-8778 to reserve a weekend.

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## Contact Us

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## Vocations to the Consecrated Life

In addition to praying for our diocesan seminarians, please remember those in formation with religious orders. (Please let us know of any others to include on this roster.)

**Caleb Bernacchio**, (Christ the King).....Jesuits

**Michael DeArmond**, (St. Thomas, Springfield).....Dominicans

**Kevin Piper**, (St. Joseph, French Settlement).....Brothers of the Sacred Heart

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## Roster of Diocesan Seminarians

- ◆ 4th Theology: Mark Beard ..... 47, Our Lady of Mercy, Baton Rouge  
Paul Gros .....26, Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 2nd Theology: Peter Ai Dang..... 42, Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge  
Todd Lloyd..... 25, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge  
Brent Maher.....24, Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
- ◆ 1st Theology: Al Davidson ..... 54, St. Agnes, Baton Rouge  
Kyle Gautreau.....27, St. Mark, Gonzales  
Mark Gyan.....53, St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville  
Matthew McCaughey ..... 24, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
- ◆ Pre-Theology: Tim Hedrick.....26, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 4th Philosophy: Joseph Hoang Vu..... 20, Sts. Anthony of Padua and Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 3rd Philosophy: Brad Doyle ..... 20, St. George, Baton Rouge  
Joshua Johnson ..... 20, St. George, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 1st Philosophy: Logan Roussel..... 18, St. Michael, Convent

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## Seminary Contact Information

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