

September 15, 2008

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Bishop's Mass and Brunch for Seminarians and Parents - September 20, 10:30 am, St. Joseph Chapel, Tracy Center**
- ◆ **Notre Dame 85th Anniversary & Gala - October 4, 2008, 6:00 pm, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**
- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop - October 11, 2008, 10:00 am, St. Thomas More Parish Center, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **World Youth Day - October 26, 2008, Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Donaldsonville**
- ◆ **Serra Club Clergy Day & Golf Tournament - October 28, 2008, Copper Mill Golf Club, Zachary**
- ◆ **"Come and See" Weekend - St. Joseph Seminary College - November 14-16, 2008, St. Benedict**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

Hurricane Gustav dealt a harsh blow to the people and parishes of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Most lost trees and electrical power, and many experienced damage to roofs and property, but thankfully the number of deaths was very small. Schools are still in the process of reopening and revising their academic calendars in order to make up for the lost days.

The rectory at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, where I reside, experienced nine days of heat and darkness. I lasted a heroic five days and nights before accepting an offer from Bishop Muench to move into one of the guest rooms at the Tracy Center. My inventory of clean clothing weathered the storm quite well but was beginning to show signs of fatigue when the power was finally restored.

Most parishes were able to maintain their schedule of weekday and Sunday Masses despite the loss of electrical power. Some parishes borrowed generators from parishioners to aid in their Sunday celebrations. Difficult decisions then had to be made concerning which systems would receive the limited supply of power. One parish chose the sound system while another opted for lamps and fans.

Pastors were confronted with additional choices related to celebrating the liturgy in a church without lights or air conditioning. Do I wear a chasuble or just alb and stole? Should we have music or opt for silence in order to shorten things a bit? Offer Holy Communion under both species or just bread? Take one collection or two? (Typical answers: alb and stole; silence/brevity; skip the wine; obviously two!)

Despite the adverse conditions, people were in surprisingly good humor when they arrived for Mass. Perhaps the physical exertion of clearing debris combined with the unavailability of television made for a healthier attitude. Or, we were reminded that most of our material possessions are just not that important when compared with life and family. Or, we knew that our present suffering was but a momentary affliction leading to eternal glory and happiness. Or, perhaps the anticipation of a short homily and Mass.

In any case, I am glad our two regional seminaries survived mostly unscathed by the hurricane, and all of our seminarians are now back in school. Of course preparation for the priesthood occurs even when they are at home since the Spirit is always at work guiding their discernment and development. Please join me in praying that God's call will continue to find confirmation in their hearts and minds.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

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, is Bishop Robert Muench.

Notre Dame 85th Anniversary & Gala

Notre Dame Seminary will host a Gala celebrating their 85th Anniversary, on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the Seminary located at 2901 So. 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.

Parish Vocation Committee Workshop

The September 6 workshop for Parish Vocation Committees had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Gustav. The workshop which offers training and enrichment has now been rescheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at St. Thomas More Parish Activity Center in Baton Rouge. Please try to attend. The workshop will conclude with lunch.

Serra Club Clergy Day

The Serra Club of Baton Rouge is once again sponsoring its annual "Clergy Day" on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at the new location of *Copper Mill Golf Club* in Zachary. Tee off begins at 8:30 am. The day's festivities conclude with a delicious meal served at the clubhouse around 3:00 pm. As always, there is no cost for priests to attend, and they are invited to attend the meal even if they cannot get away for the earlier activities. To RSVP or for more information, please call Don Broussard at 225-751-4173 (home) or Jack Persac, III at 225-292-3515 (office) or 225-927-3880 (home), or Michael Olinde at 225-922-9999 (office) or 225-218-4343 (home). Information on the golf course and directions to Copper Mill are available on their website at www.coppermillgolf.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 14-16, 2008. 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 pm 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.

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.

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

Sr. Mary Corripio (St. Aloysius) Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Br. Augustine DeArmond (St. Thomas, Springfield) Dominicans

Christopher Iwancio (St. Aloysius/C.H.S.) Capuchin Franciscans

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

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**:

- ◆ December 6/7 and 13/14.

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

- ◆ February 14/15 & 28; March 1 & 28/29; May 9/10 & 16/17.

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

Contact Us

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Website

◆ www.diobr.org/vocations

Promote Vocations in 2009

- ◆ National Vocation Awareness Week (and the beginning of our diocesan "Called By Name" campaign) – January 11-17, 2009.
- ◆ World Day for Consecrated Life – February 8, 2009.
- ◆ World Day of Prayer for Vocations – May 3, 2009.

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 54, 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 21, 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

Seminary Contact Information

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