

April 13, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **World Day of Prayer for Vocations – May 3, 2009**
- ◆ **Serra Club Crawfish Boil – May 3, 2009, 4:00 pm, St. Jude the Apostle Parish Hall**
- ◆ **St. Joseph Seminary College Graduation – May 8, 2009. Baccalaureate Mass at 5:00 pm & Commencement at 8:00 pm, St. Benedict, LA**
- ◆ **Notre Dame Seminary Graduation – May 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Seminary Chapel, New Orleans, LA**
- ◆ **Priesthood Ordination – May 30, 2009, 10:00 am, St. Joseph Cathedral**
- ◆ **Deo Gratias benefit for St. Joseph Seminary – August 23, 2009, 6:00 pm, Mass & Banquet at Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- ◆ **Seminarian Mass and Dinner with Bishop Muench - August 29, 2009, 5:00 pm, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, Baker**
- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop - September 12 2009, 10:00 am, St. Patrick Parish, Baton Rouge**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

Our diocesan "Called By Name" program ended on a high note with about 80 people in attendance for the March 29 convocation. The candidates were evenly divided between male and female, and I was very impressed by their openness to the presentations led by our team of seminarians, priests, and consecrated religious. It was a remarkable moment of grace for the vocation ministry of our Diocese, and I give thanks to God for all of the prayers and expressions of encouragement that made it possible.

The Catholic Church has always been blessed with the witness of believers who remind the rest of us of the joy which is found in serving God. At times it is the Pope through his homilies and pastoral presence who continually inspires hope and unity. At other times it is the encouragement and personal example of a youth minister, or the devoted, unconditional love of a grandparent, or the simplicity and dedication to prayer as witnessed in the life of a religious sister or monk.

The "Called By Name" convocation took place one week following the hugely successful Abbey Youth Festival and one week prior to the always enjoyable "Come and See" weekend at St. Joseph Seminary College. The proximity of these three events bears witness to the vitality of our local Church when it comes to the development of faith and the lifting up of religious vocations. This is a very exciting time to be a young Catholic, a youth leader, and even a director of vocations.

Tomorrow I begin a ten-day pilgrimage to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria with 40 other pilgrims under the co-sponsorship of the Seminary Scholarship Fund and the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. We are scheduled to visit Heidelberg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna before returning home on April 25. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek inspiration and strength through our visits to these beautiful and historic sites.

I especially look forward to visiting the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland, which is the mother abbey of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, and more importantly for us, through them of St. Joseph Abbey in Louisiana. We also have the joy of celebrating Mass in the town of Pope Benedict's birth and baptism, Markt am Inn, Germany, and then visiting his favorite shrine in honor of the Blessed Mother at Altotting. Happy Easter, and be assured of my prayers for you during this season of new faith and new life.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

ro Serra, the Spanish Franciscan missionary who founded nine California missions, beginning with San Diego in 1769. The Serra Club's mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life, and through this ministry, further our members' common Catholic faith.

There are two chapters in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Both chapters meet twice each month for Mass and discussion, and membership is open to both men and women. Please call the Office of Vocations if you are interested in attending a meeting or joining.

Vocations to the Consecrated Life

Please pray for those pursuing a vocation to religious life. (And 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
- Lacey Flores** (Christ the King) Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles
- Christopher Iwancio** (St. Aloysius/C.H.S.) Capuchin Franciscans
- Kevin Piper** (St. Joseph, French Settlement) Brothers of the Sacred Heart

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 .. 43, Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
Todd Lloyd .. 25, St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
Brent Maher 25, Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
- ◆ 1st Theology: Al Davidson 55, St. Agnes, Baton Rouge
Kyle Gautreau..... 28, St. Mark, Gonzales
Mark Gyan 54, St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville
Matthew McCaughey..... 25, 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 21, St. George, Baton Rouge
Joshua Johnson..... 21, St. George, Baton Rouge
- ◆ 1st Philosophy: Logan Roussel 19, St. Michael the Archangel, Convent

Contact Us

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Weekend Assistance for Priests

Father Matt offers weekend assistance to the priests of the Diocese of Baton Rouge as he is able. Please call him at 225-336-8778 to reserve a weekend. Here are his available weekends remaining in **2009**:

- ◆ May 9/10, 23/24; August 22/23, 30; September 5/6, 12/13; October 3/4, 17/18, 31; November 1, 7/8, 28/29; December 5/6, 12/13, & 19/20

Seminary Contact Information

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