

January 15, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop – January 23, 2010, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Bishop Tracy Center, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **World Day for Consecrated Life – February 7, 2010**
- ◆ **“Come, Follow Me,” Vocation Discernment Retreat – February 5-7, 2010, Bishop Tracy Center, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **“Come and See” Weekends, St. Joseph Seminary College – February 18-20, and March 26-28, 2010, St. Benedict**
- ◆ **Diocesan Youth Conference – March 6-7, 2010, Catholic Life Center**
- ◆ **Diocesan Convocation for “Called By Name II” – March 21, 2010, Catholic Life Center**
- ◆ **Chrism Mass – March 31, 2010, 10:30 am, St. Joseph Cathedral**
- ◆ **World Day of Prayer for Vocations – April 25, 2010**
- ◆ **Serra Club Crawfish Boil – May 2, 2010, 4:00 pm, St. Jude the Apostle Parish Hall, Baton Rouge**
- ◆ **Transitional Deacon Ordination – May 29, 2010, 10:00 am, St. Joseph Cathedral**
- ◆ **Permanent Deacon Ordination – June 12, 2010, 10:00 am, St. Joseph Cathedral**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

One important aspect of the vocation director's job is simply to spread the news regarding the good work being done around the Diocese on behalf of vocations. I am often impressed by the creativity of priests, religious, and laity when it comes to their ministries and furthering the overall mission of the Church. This provides reason for hope as we work to create a culture of vocations in our Diocese.

For example, one parish highlights vocations in their weekly bulletin by combining clip art from the “Called By Name” program with “bulletin blurbs” provided by the Office of Vocations. The brief bulletin text can certainly stand alone but it is made so much more attractive by pairing it with the “Called By Name” heading and logo. It may be a small thing but demonstrates attention to detail by members of the parish staff.

Another pastor mentioned that he keeps some *Answering the Call* bookmarks in the church confessional. He occasionally hands them out and asks the penitent to pray the *Prayer for Seminarians* on the reverse of the bookmark as his or her penance. I believe the time spent in prayer after receiving God's forgiveness is a special time of grace, so those prayers will most assuredly help our seminarians and all others in discernment.

A third parish with a parochial school came up with the wonderful idea of inviting 8th graders to lunch with the pastor. Each month the religion teacher selects a few boys and girls who exemplify the qualities needed in future priests and sisters, and accompanies them to a special lunch at the rectory hosted by their pastor. The gathering includes a brief video of a priest, sister, brother, or seminarian, and then informal discussion on being open to God's call.

An idea from outside our Diocese surfaced during dinner conversation one recent winter evening. A very successful diocese in a neighboring state asks each seminarian to commit to speak at the Sunday Masses in four parishes during the course of a year. So perhaps twice in the fall and twice in the spring, a seminarian would make contact with a pastor and schedule a Sunday to visit the parish and give a brief witness talk after Communion at one or more Masses. Not every parish can host a seminarian for a summer pastoral assignment, but every parish could at least be visited by a seminarian during the year. It is a good idea which I intend to steal from that diocese.

Happy New Year and be assured of my gratitude for all of your creative efforts in support of our Church and vocations.

Father Matt Lorrain

“Impressions of a New Seminarian”

by Matthew Graham

One of the first questions that I am asked after people see the new vocations poster is what does Pre-Theology mean? This is a classification given to a seminarian who already has a college degree, but does not have all of the philosophy credits or the two years of formation that is required to begin graduate work in theology at a major seminary. So in my case, I will be a Pre-Theology student for two years before starting theology, which is a four year process, making the total amount of school time for me six years as compared to eight years for those without a degree who enter as freshmen. I am currently doing my studies at St. Joseph Seminary College located in St. Benedict, Louisiana.

For the past five years, I was a process engineer with Jacobs Engineering in Baton Rouge, so returning to school was an adjustment for me. I had not had any coursework in over five years and it had been at least nine years since I had written any long essays or term papers. Also, during my first college experience at LSU, I lived at home and never lived in a dorm. I purchased a house three years ago, so it was definitely an adjustment sharing showers and bathrooms with 20 other guys in my dorm. Overall the transition back to school and living in a dorm was made very smooth with the help of the more experienced seminarians and the support of those who entered the seminary with me. Another thing that has helped is the structured schedule of the seminary and developing a good routine to balance not only school work, but a prayer life, my pastoral assignment, and time to relax and enjoy my time at the Abbey with those around me.

The biggest impact on me so far is prayer and developing a prayer life. Before entering the seminary, I said some prayers each day and attended Sunday Mass. However, with all that happens at the seminary as mentioned above and my quick transition into this new phase of my life, making time each day for prayer has been of great help in working through things. I learned early on from my brother seminarians about the importance of making a holy hour each day in front of the Blessed Eucharist, and I usually do this in the morning to reflect on the previous day, what I need to work on, and to turn things over to the Lord that I need help with. This is something that I encourage all of those around me, seminarian or not, to try and do.

Overall, my first semester in the seminary went very well and fairly quickly. Do I know if the priesthood is my calling? This is something I am still discerning about, but I do know that I am where I need to be right now in my life, and I need to continue to turn myself over to the process each day and see where the Lord is leading me. I am looking forward to this next semester and the opportunities it will bring.

Congratulations Sister Mary Corripio

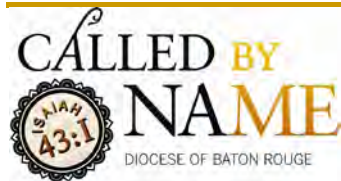
Congratulations to Sister Mary Corripio, S.N.D.deN., a native of St. Aloysius Parish in Baton Rouge, who on November 21, 2009 professed her perpetual vows with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Ipswich, Maine. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were founded in France in 1804 and engage in education and charitable work all over the world. Highlights of the Mass can be viewed at the following website: <http://askansnd.org/perpetualcommitments.aspx>.

Birthday Wishes...

- ◆ January 16
Kyle Gautreau
- ◆ February 23
Matt McCaughey

Congratulations Brother Kevin Piper

Congratulations to Brother Kevin Piper, S.C., from St. Joseph Parish in French Settlement, who on January 9, 2010 entered the novitiate of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Kevin received the formal cassock of the order and is now addressed as "Brother." The novitiate phase of his formation will last about 18 months and further prepare Br. Kevin for temporary vows. Photographs of the ceremony are available by following the links on the Brothers' website: <http://brothersofthesacredheart.org>.



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 during the month of January 2010. "CALLED BY NAME" stresses the role of the Christian community in calling forth men and women, 16 years of age and older, to consider a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life. There are many good prospective priests, brothers, and sisters who are simply waiting to be asked.

Parish Vocation Committee Workshop

The Office of Vocations will host a training and enrichment workshop for all parish vocation committees on Saturday, January 23, 2010, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. This workshop is designed to offer training for both new and existing committees, and will include opportunities for participants to share success stories and ideas for use in other parishes. All parishes are invited to send representatives to the workshop. Please call Ms. Mary Layman at the Office of Vocations (225-336-8778) to register.

"Come Follow Me" Retreat

The Diocese of Baton Rouge is joining with our sister Dioceses of Lafayette and Lake Charles to offer a discernment retreat on February 5-7, 2010, at the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. It is open to all interested men in high school (juniors and seniors), college or professional life who are considering a call to the priesthood. Please contact Father Matt Lorrain or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.

Seminary Scholarship Funds

The Diocese of Baton Rouge currently has over 100 named funds which exist for the purpose of educating future priests for service in our local Church. The funds are named in honor of deceased pastors, relatives, and groups, and provide a means for parishes, organizations, families, and individuals to remember loved ones while at the same time supporting the education of our seminarians. The scholarship funds are managed for the Diocese by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and contributions are acknowledged in *The Catholic Commentator*. A complete list of all funds is at www.diobr.org/vocations/scholarships.htm on the diocesan website.

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75376 River Road
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2010 Deacon Ordinations

On May 29, 2010, we will celebrate the ordination of two men to the transitional diaconate. Seminarians Todd Lloyd and Brent Maher are scheduled to be ordained deacons at a special 10:00 am Mass by Bishop Robert Muench at St. Joseph Cathedral. All are invited to attend the Mass and the reception to follow at the Catholic Life Center.

Two weeks later on June 12, 2010, we will celebrate the ordination of 13 men to the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The ordination Mass will likewise be at 10:00 am at St. Joseph Cathedral with Bishop Robert Muench presiding. Once again, all are invited to attend the Mass and reception which follows.

Vocations to the Consecrated Life

Please pray for those pursuing a vocation to religious life (and please let the Vocation Office know of any others to include on this roster). Father Matt can provide more information on religious life and the general charisms of specific religious orders, and the contact information.

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

Lacey Flores (Christ the King).....Carmelite Sisters of the
Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles

Christopher Iwancio (St. Aloysius).....Capuchin Franciscans

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

Eastern Rite Vocations

Alex Harb (St. George).....Eparchy (Diocese) of Our Lady of Lebanon of
Los Angeles (Maronite Rite Catholics)

Roster of Diocesan Seminarians

Year of Study	Name	Age	Home Parish
3rd Theology	Todd Lloyd	26	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
	Brent Maher	25	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
2nd Theology	Peter Dang	44	Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
	Al Davidson	56	St. Agnes, Baton Rouge
	Kyle Gautreau	28	St. Mark, Gonzales
	Mark Gyan	55	St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville
	Matthew McCaughey	25	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
1st Theology	Caleb Bernacchio	29	Sacred Heart of Jesus, Baton Rouge
	Joseph Vu	22	Sts. Anthony/Le Van Phung, Baton Rouge
Pre-Theology II	Tim Hedrick	27	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
Pre-Theology I	Reuben Dykes	26	St. Joseph Cathedral, Baton Rouge
	Matt Graham	28	St. Jude the Apostle, Baton Rouge
4th Philosophy	Michael Sanders	31	Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
	Brad Doyle	22	St. George, Baton Rouge
	Joshua Johnson	22	St. George, Baton Rouge
2nd Philosophy	Logan Roussel	20	St. Michael the Archangel, Convent
1st Philosophy	John Harris	18	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs
	Cody Reed	20	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland