

March 15, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ♦ Diocesan Convocation
"Called By Name" Year
II – March 21, 2010,
Catholic Life Center
- ♦ "Come and See" Week-
end, St. Joseph Semi-
nary College - March 26-
28, 2010, St. Benedict
- ♦ Chrism Mass –March 31,
2010, 10:30 am, St. Jo-
seph Cathedral
- ♦ World Day of Prayer for
Vocations – April 25,
2010
- ♦ Serra Club Crawfish Boil
– May 2, 2010, 4:00 pm,
St. Jude the Apostle Pa-
rish Hall, Baton Rouge
- ♦ Transitional Deacon Or-
dination – May 29, 2010,
10:00 am, St. Joseph Ca-
thedral
- ♦ Permanent Deacon Or-
dination – June 12,
2010, 10:00 am, St. Jo-
seph Cathedral

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

After several years of dreaming, planning, and procrastinating, we finally began work on a website for the Office of Vocations. Like most new projects, it will take a little time to complete the design and gather the content, so please give us a couple of months before searching for the site. We plan to have plenty of articles, photographs, announcements, profiles of priests, sisters, brothers, and seminarians, and maybe even a seminarian/vocation director blog.

I mention this now because of a recently-issued papal message in advance of *World Communications Day* set for May 16, 2010. Pope Benedict XVI chose a theme to coincide with the Church's celebration of the *Year for Priests*, and thus entitled the message "The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word." He wrote: "Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: as new technologies create deeper forms of relationship across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of the Word."

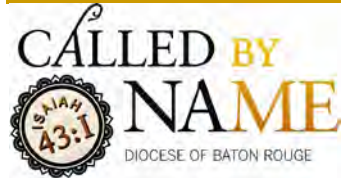
The Holy Father encouraged seminarians and priests to gain expertise and competence from the "time of their formation" in the use of new forms of communication in support of evangelization and catechesis. "Using new communication technologies, priests can introduce people to the life of the Church and help our contemporaries to discover the face of Christ." But he also offered an important caveat: "Yet priests present in the world of digital communications should be less notable for their media savvy than for their priestly heart, their closeness to Christ."

This relates well to a separate message written to highlight *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* coming up on April 25, 2010. In this instance, Pope Benedict chose "Witness Awakens Vocations" as his theme, and wrote, "Prayer is the first form of witness which awakens vocations. Like the Apostle Andrew, who tells his brother that he has come to know the Master, so too anyone who wants to be a disciple and witness of Christ must have 'seen' Him personally, come to know Him, and learned to love Him and to abide with Him." "A fundamental element, one which can be seen in every vocation to the priesthood and the consecrated life, is friendship with Christ."

He went on to quote Pope John Paul II: "The very life of priests, their unconditional dedication to God's flock, their witness of loving service to the Lord and to his Church – a witness marked by free acceptance of the Cross in the spirit of hope and Easter joy – their fraternal unity and zeal for the evangelization of the world are the first and most convincing factor in the growth of vocations (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 41)."

The internet, websites, podcasts, and other new forms of communication are very helpful to today's priests as we go about the ministry of evangelizing and shepherding. However, these new tools cannot substitute for intimacy with Christ or personal contact with others. The priest cannot witness to the richness of a life lived with God if he has not experienced it firsthand through prayer and human friendships. This perhaps explains why many priests and lay Catholics choose to forgo television and online social networks during Lent.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain



Diocesan Convocation

A diocesan-wide gathering of candidates identified through the parish-based "Called By Name" campaign has been set for Sunday, March 21, 2010, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. in the main auditorium of the Catholic Life Center. Keynote speakers for the gathering are Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., of St. Joseph Abbey in St. Benedict, Louisiana, and Sister Renée Daigle, M.S.C., campus minister at St. Albert the Great Chapel and Catholic Student Center in Hammond, Louisiana. The schedule of activities will also include separate breakout sessions for men and women led by panels of priests, sisters, brothers, and seminarians.



Vocation Film Festival

Juniors and Seniors are invited to participate in a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and vocation awareness – the VOCA Film Festival, will be held at the Catholic Life Center on Monday, March 22, from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm. The event will be exclusive to Catholic juniors and seniors in high school, and will feature two films, a Q&A session, a live concert, small group reflections, and Mass. For further information, please contact Mr. Peter Fletcher at pletcher@smhsbr.org or 225-993-1391.

"Come and See" Weekend

St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana (north of Covington) is sponsoring a "Come and See" Weekend on March 26-28, 2010. The weekend runs from Friday evening through Sunday, and is open to all interested young men in 10th grade through college. The weekend is hosted by the seminarians and the Benedictine monks of St. Joseph Abbey. Participants experience the prayer and community life of a seminary community, and also get to know some of the men 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 11:00 am Mass on Sunday. Please contact Father Matt or Ms. Mary Layman at the Vocation Office (225-336-8778) for more information or to register.

Birthday Wishes...

◆ April 7
Cody Reed

◆ April 17
Todd Lloyd



Seminarian Scramble Golf Tournament

The 3rd Annual "Seminarian Scramble" Golf Tournament to benefit Notre Dame Seminary will take place on Monday, April 5, 2010, at The Oaks at Sherwood Golf Course in Baton Rouge. Registration and lunch begin at 10:30 am, tee time is at 12:00 noon, and dinner/awards take place at 5:45 pm. The Serra Clubs of Baton Rouge co-sponsor this event. This fundraiser hopes to raise capital funds for Notre Dame Seminary for quality-of-life improvements, and also create awareness and support for the priesthood. A registration form may be downloaded from the seminary website at <http://www.nds.edu>.

Pilgrimage to France

Father Matt Lorrain will lead a 12-day pilgrimage to France this October 20-31, 2010. The trip includes two nights in Caen with visits to Omaha Beach and Mont-St.-Michel; three nights in Paris including tours of Notre Dame Cathedral, the Versailles Palace, the Musée d'Orsay, and the Louvre; champagne tasting in Epernay and wine tasting in Beaune; Mass at the Basilica dedicated to St. Jean Vianney in Ars; two nights in Avignon and two nights in Nice. Also included are 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners. Cost is \$3,700 per person, double occupancy. For more information or to reserve a place, please call Pat Hardy at Alana Travel at 225-647-8687 or 1-800-356-2773.

Vocations to the Consecrated Life

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

Latin Church

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

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

Br. Christopher Iwancio (St. Aloysius)Capuchin Franciscans

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

Eastern Churches

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

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Seminaries

- Notre Dame Seminary
2901 S. Carrollton Ave.
New Orleans,
LA 70118-4391
504-866-7426
www.nds.edu
- St. Joseph
Seminary College
75376 River Road
St. Benedict,
LA 70457-9900
985-867-2232
www.sjasc.edu

2010 Deacon Ordinations

On May 29, 2010, two men will be ordained transitional deacons for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Seminarians Todd Lloyd and Brent Maher are scheduled to be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Robert Muench at [St. Joseph Cathedral](#) in downtown Baton Rouge at a special 10:00 am Mass. Everyone is invited to attend this 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 as the ordaining prelate. Once again, all are invited to attend the Mass and reception which follows, but given the number of men to be ordained space in the Cathedral is expected to be more limited.

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
	Mark Gyan	55	St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville
	Matthew McCaughey	25	St. Thomas More, Baton Rouge
1st Theology	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
	Michael Sanders	31	Most Blessed Sacrament, Baton Rouge
4th Philosophy	Brad Doyle	22	St. George, Baton Rouge
	Joshua Johnson	22	St. George, Baton Rouge
2nd Philosophy	Logan Roussel	20	St. Michael the Archangel, Convent
	Cody Reed	20	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland
1st Philosophy	John Harris	18	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs