

April 15, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ♦ **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**
- ♦ **St. Joseph Seminary College Graduation – May 7, 2010. Baccalaureate Mass at 5:00 pm & Commencement at 8:00 pm, St. Benedict, LA**
- ♦ **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,

The Church's observance of a "Year For Priests" in 2010 has generated quite a few books and articles related to the priesthood. A recent issue of *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine included an article by Father Ronald Witherup, S.S., a scripture scholar and current head of the Sulpicians – a society of diocesan priests dedicated to the formation and training of priests. His article focused on the New Testament roots of the Catholic priesthood by examining the Letter to the Hebrews.

The Letter to the Hebrews is written in the most elegant Greek of any book in the New Testament, and is the only New Testament writing to refer to Jesus as "priest," "high priest," and "merciful and faithful high priest." In his scholarly 2006 commentary on Hebrews, Luke Timothy Johnson wrote "No writing in the New Testament pulls together so dynamically the tensions within the early Christian confession of Jesus – his humanity and divinity, his crucifixion as well as his exaltation, his slain body and obedient faith – in the single dramatic image of Jesus the great high priest. It is a magnificent portrayal."

In the above mentioned article, Father Witherup summarized: "Jesus' priesthood both fulfills the Old Testament priesthood and abolishes it in favor of a new priesthood, modeled after Jesus himself." Therefore, nothing could be more important for today's priests than to keep our "eyes fixed Jesus," for "Jesus surely is our model for the priesthood and its perfect embodiment."

Jesus' priesthood was not hereditary like the Old Testament priests, but rather was rooted in the call of his Father. Our modern day understanding likewise emphasizes the gratuitous nature of a religious vocation. Father Witherup noted that "ministerial priesthood is not self-chosen, but rather a call to which we respond." The Letter to the Hebrews also does a nice job of balancing Jesus' humanity and divinity. Jesus is our high priest and the Son of God, but he can nonetheless "identify with our frailties, our sufferings, our limitations." Today's priests must also balance the call to holiness received at ordination with a humble and real acknowledgement of our own human limitations.

A sidebar to the article highlighted the role of the laity in the formation of candidates for the priesthood. Priests obviously need to be formed by other priests, but laity also contribute in significant ways. First, professionally trained lay experts now comprise an essential part of seminary faculties. Second, laity provide invaluable feedback to seminarians during their pastoral assignments in parishes, hospitals, schools, and other settings. Our soon-to-be ordained deacons Todd Lloyd and Brent Maher will each rely upon a lay support committee of parishioners to offer constructive criticism and encouragement during the five months of their

parish internship.

Last but not least, laity help to promote priestly vocations through their prayer as well as their discernment of young men with the qualities needed in future priests. The recent "Called By Name" initiative was a beautiful illustration of the power of prayer and the role of the laity in communicating God's call. Our diocesan convocation was followed one day later by an equally successful vocation film festival which attracted some 130 high school students. So please continue your prayers and all of the other things you do to encourage vocations.

We are blessed to have three seminarians graduating from St. Joseph Seminary College next month. Brad Doyle and Joshua Johnson have persevered through four years of rigorous study and prayer, and Tim Hedrick through two years of pre-theology formation, and all three will graduate on Friday, May 7, 2010. The celebration is in two parts, with the Baccalaureate Mass set for 5:00 pm and the Commencement at 8:00 pm that same evening. Sister Lucy Silvio and I look forward to joining their family and friends at the festivities.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. The date for this year's observance is April 25, 2010, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Please refer to the catechetical and prayer resources that were sent to all of the parishes, or contact the Office of Vocations for an additional copy.

May this World Day once again offer many young people a precious opportunity to reflect on their own vocation and to be faithful to it in simplicity, trust and complete openness. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, watch over each tiny seed of a vocation in the hearts of those whom the Lord calls to follow him more closely, may she help it grow into a mature tree, bearing much good fruit for the Church and for all humanity." – Pope Benedict XVI

Serra Club Crawfish Boil

Each spring the Baton Rouge Serra Club sponsors a crawfish boil for the men and women from our diocese who are in formation for the priesthood or religious life. The date for this year's event is Sunday, May 2, 2010, beginning at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall located adjacent to St. Jude the Apostle Church at 9150 Highland Road.

The Serra Club was founded in 1934 in Seattle, Washington, by a group of Catholic businessmen and friends who gathered for lunch and discussion. The organization takes its name from Blessed Junipero 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 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.

Birthday Wishes...

- ◆ April 7
Cody Reed
- ◆ April 17
Todd Lloyd
- ◆ May 3
Tim Hedrick

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 historic [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.

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 nearby 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 museum; 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 toll-free 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)

Contact Us

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E-mail

- vocations@diobr.org

Website

- www.diobr.org/vocations

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

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
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
	Cody Reed	21	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland
1st Philosophy	John Harris	18	Immaculate Conception, Denham Springs