

May 18, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ♦ **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 previous couple of weeks have provided some much needed opportunities to gather with other priests for fraternity and continuing education. The diocesan vocations directors for the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky met during the first week of May to share ideas regarding our efforts on behalf of vocations. Our guest speaker was Bishop Michael Duca of the Diocese of Shreveport. Prior to being named a bishop, Bishop Duca served as vocation director for his home diocese of Dallas, and then later rector of Holy Trinity Seminary College there.

Bishop Duca asserted that the first task of a vocation director is to “accept the call.” One has to embrace the appointment or job in order to find peace. He encouraged us to place ourselves at the disposal of God’s will and to trust that Christ really is leading us and this is where he wants us to serve. It sounded like valuable advice for people in all walks of life, whether priests, religious, married couples, or students.

The following week I attended the annual spring formation days for the priests of the Baton Rouge diocese. Our presenter was Father Paul Turner, a parish priest from Missouri and a scholar on the liturgy. He led us through the upcoming changes to the English translation of our Mass prayers that will likely be implemented starting with Advent of 2011. Despite some of the mixed reviews that have appeared on the revised prayers, he assured us that the final product is a good one and will hopefully enrich our celebration of the Mass.

Please be sure to read the next article written by Sister Regina Cochran, FSE. I recently met her at Christ the King when she was in town visiting her family and thought her vocation story was very beautiful. The Holy Spirit is constantly at work and never ceases to amaze me. I pray that many more young adults will discover and say yes to God’s call.

On a more sober note, seminarian John Harris has decided not to return to the seminary in the fall. John has just completed a very successful freshman year at St. Joseph Seminary College but feels that God may be calling him elsewhere. I appreciate John’s willingness to give the seminary a try and I know that God will continue to guide his discernment. Please keep him in your prayers.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming deacon ordinations scheduled for May 29 and June 12 in our diocese.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

Birthday Wishes...

May 3
Tim Hedrick

Vocation Story of Sister Regina Cochran, FSE

I am a convert. I was born in Baton Rouge and graduated from Parkview Baptist High School where I established most of my Christian beliefs. After graduation I went to LSU where I searched by attending different non-denominational churches. As a sophomore, God placed a video for Camp Kahdalea in North Carolina into my hands, where I worked for the next eight summers. A great place, I must add. I met some really fantastic young people my first year there; many went to LSU and just happened to be Roman Catholics. They were more on fire for their faith than many Protestants I knew at the time. There was something different about these young Catholics and something more tangible about their faith. I did not know at the time that it was the Eucharist. I became aware of the Eucharist when I found myself, many times, in Eucharistic adoration in the middle of the night at Our Lady of Mercy Church. It was relational for me. I felt accepted. I had found truth and it pursued me. On July 4, 1999, I found my true freedom in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

At the time, my two closest friends entered consecrated life so it was on my radar screen. However, I was such a young Catholic that it was not time for me to realize that call. Though I spoke to many communities, God said, "Not yet." I had forgotten about this for a while but in 2003 God came knocking. I was volunteering in Wisconsin and had just ended a dating relationship. I wanted to know what God wanted from me so I promised God I would go to Mass every day for Lent and, when it was over, I was confused because I thought I had dealt with the vocation question already.

A Sister asked me one day after Mass, "Have you ever thought of being a Sister?" I literally said to her very confidently, "Yes, Sister, but all of those doors are closed." She invited me to dinner. That was the beginning. I quickly deduced that God was not calling me to that community because I did not desire a relationship with them. However, I went into a frantic search because I thought I had to do it all myself. I looked non-stop on the internet for two weeks for the "one" and practically drove myself crazy. I realized that if I were called to marriage I would not be searching for my husband on the internet. I heard God say to my heart, "I was not asking you to do the work, I was asking you to be receptive." I stopped and finally began to pray, "Please show me the community you have in mind for me."

I began to get in touch with people I trusted who knew some communities. I met the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist through a woman I had worked with at Camp Kahdalea and began a relationship with them. I was attracted to my Community because of their deep relationships with each other and with those they serve, because they wore a habit and are faithful to the Church's teachings. I began to pray that God would open the door if it was what He wanted. After my first visit to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, I prayed, "God I do not know if you are calling me to religious life but, if you are, let this be the Community."

The discovery of my call to religious life did not contain too many magical moments. God spoke to me in ordinary ways through people I trusted. As my relationship grew with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, I realized God was calling me to be a part of this beautiful community and I desired to say yes to serve Christ in His Church. In following God's will for my life I am able to accomplish the dreams that have

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always been deep within me. I will soon be graduating with my Master's in Dogmatic Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Connecticut and I look forward to the hope of taking first vows in the fall.

College Seminary Graduation

Congratulations to Brad Doyle, Tim Hedrick and Joshua Johnson, who recently graduated from St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana, on May 7, 2010.

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.

If you are unable to attend, Catholic Life Television will broadcast the Ordinations LIVE or you may watch the rebroadcasts at a later time. (Check www.catholiclifetv.org, for times.)

New National Website for Vocations

The U.S. Bishops Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has launched a new website. The website is a resource for both laity and clergy in the promotion of vocations. The site was officially launched on Sunday, April 25, in honor of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The site hopes to fulfill the following goals: to help individuals hear and respond to the call by God to the priesthood or consecrated life, and to educate all Catholics on the importance of encouraging others through prayer and activities to promote vocations. Visit the new site at www.ForYourVocation.org.

(The U.S. Bishops also sponsor a similar website with resources for engaged and married couples – www.ForYourMarriage.org.)

Monastic Discernment Program

St. Joseph Abbey, a community of Benedictine monks in St. Benedict, Louisiana, will host a program for men ages 20 to 45 interested in discerning a call to monastic life. The program entitled, "Living the Monastic Identity," will be held from Wednesday evening, July 7, through Sunday, July 11, 2010. Participants will pray and work with the monks as well as attend seminars on topics related to monasticism. Participants will also have the opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Benedict with the monastic community. Anyone interested in more information is asked to contact Br. Jude Israel, O.S.B., vocation director of St. Joseph Abbey, at 985-867-2249 or through email at brjude@sjasc.edu.

Carmelite Open House for Women

The sisters of the Carmelite Monastery in Covington invite young women who are open to discerning God's call to religious life to "Come and See the Beauty of Carmel." This one day open house is scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2010, from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm at the Carmelite Monastery located at 73530 River Road in Covington. The day will include Mass, vocation talks from the sisters, question and answer time, pizza for lunch, and a visit to the gift shop. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sr. Edith at ocdedith@aol.com or Sr. Grace at srgraceocd@yahoo.com.

Life Awareness Retreat

In cooperation with the Dioceses of Lafayette and Lake Charles we are offering a coed discernment retreat for young adults in our dioceses. A *Life Awareness Retreat* is open to young men and women ages 18-50 who are looking for guidance in making life choices in regards to vocational commitments. The weekend retreat is aimed at aiding young adults to discern their vocation. The event will bring together priests, brothers and sisters for a weekend of lectures, group discussion, consultation and prayer to help participants understand what a religious vocation means in today's world. The first retreat is scheduled for the weekend of August 6-8, 2010, at the St. Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff, Louisiana. For further information call 225-336-8778, or view a brochure at http://www.diobr.org/documents/2010la_bro.pdf

2010 Seminarian Summer Assignments

Fourth Year Parish Internship

- ◆ Todd Lloyd – St. John the Evangelist Parish / Father Cleo Milano
- ◆ Brent Maher – Our Lady of Mercy Parish / Father Miles Walsh

Clinical Pastoral Education

- ◆ Peter Dang – St. Luke's Hospital, Houston, Texas
- ◆ Al Davidson – St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Missouri
- ◆ Matthew McCaughey – East Jefferson Hospital, Metairie, Louisiana

Institute for Priestly Formation

- ◆ Brad Doyle – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska
- ◆ Tim Hedrick – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska
- ◆ Joshua Johnson – Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Summer Parish Ministry

- ◆ Mark Gyan – St. Jean Vianney Parish / Fr. Tom Ranzino
- ◆ Joseph Vu – St. George Parish / Father Mike Schatzle
- ◆ Reuben Dykes – St. Philomena Parish / Father Michael Alello
- ◆ Matthew Graham – Our Lady of Peace Parish / Fr. Michael Miceli
- ◆ Michael Sanders – St. Gabriel Parish / Father Charlie Landry
- ◆ Cody Reed – St. John the Baptist Parish (Brusly) / Fr. Matt Dupré
- ◆ Logan Roussel – on sabbatical this summer

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

Sr. Regina Cochran, F.S.E. (St. Agnes).....Franciscan Sisters
of the Eucharist

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)
