

June 15, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dates to Remember

- ♦ **Father Fred Young's 20th Anniversary and Retirement Mass – Sunday, June 27, 2010, 3:00 pm, St. Isidore Catholic Church, Baker**
- ♦ **July Seminarian Gathering –Thursday, July 22, 2010, 6:00 pm, St. Joseph Cathedral, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Life Awareness Retreat- August 6-8, 2010, St. Charles Retreat Center, Lake Charles.**
- ♦ **Seminarian Mass and Dinner with Bishop Muench – August 28, 2010, 4:30 pm, St. Aloysius Parish, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Parish Vocation Committee Workshop – September 25, 2010, 10:00 am, Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Deo Gratias benefit for St. Joseph Seminary College – October 24, 2010, 6:00 pm, Catholic Life Center Main Auditorium, Baton Rouge**
- ♦ **Notre Dame Seminary 87th Anniversary & Gala – October 30, 2010, 7:00 pm, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**

Dear Seminarians and Friends,

The life of a priest often involves change, and difficult though it may be, change often leads to growth. On July 1, I begin the transition from full-time vocation director with residence at Christ the King Parish, to part-time vocation director and part-time administrator of St. Thomas More Parish. My emotional response is likewise split fifty-fifty between excitement and fear.

When Bishop Muench asked me to serve as vocation director five years ago, I bemoaned the loss of being a pastor and enjoying a relationship with a particular parish community. I was suddenly a parish priest without a parish family, and it took a couple of years to come to terms with the feeling of dislocation. Nonetheless, working with vocations does have its rewards and it truly deserves a full-time priest director whenever possible.

So while I look forward to serving the people of St. Thomas More and building a spiritual relationship with them, I also realize that I won't be able to devote as much time and energy to vocations and seminarians. I will need to consult other part-time yet successful vocation directors to see if I can steal a couple of pages from their playbooks.

One strategy is to work smarter not just harder. Most priests I know are extremely hard workers and it would be difficult to add any more time to their schedules. The really happy and successful priests are also intelligent and creative thinkers who have developed a knack for involving others in the meaningful work of pastoral ministry.

I am very blessed to have Father Andrew Merrick assigned as the new parochial vicar at St. Thomas More. His warm personality and abundant gifts for priestly ministry help to make a daunting assignment a lot less formidable. I am also blessed to have a dedicated and competent staff at both the parish and the office of vocations.

I wish to thank Father Than Vu and the parishioners of Christ the King Parish for their hospitality over the past year. Being able to celebrate Mass at Christ the King was a return to my roots and an opportunity to revisit the place where I first discovered a call to the priesthood. I won't say it was easy adjusting to the Sunday night Mass schedule, but I did run into many familiar faces from previous parish assignments. Please keep all of the priests being reassigned this summer in your prayers as we make the transition to new locales and new opportunities to experience God's grace.

In Christ,
Father Matt Lorrain

How Can I Encourage Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life?

2010 Serra Club Essay Contest Winning Entry
By Haley Hoffer, St. Jean Vianney School, 7th grade

Have you ever thought about becoming a priest or religious brother or sister? It requires a lot of thinking and decisions. Many people have doubts about carrying out this vocation, when in fact it is one of the most important. Becoming a priest or religious is something that God calls us to do. We have to seek out that calling by listening to what God says. My job as a practicing Catholic is to encourage this vocation and to also think about this vocation for myself.

One way I can encourage this vocation is to sit down with someone and ask questions. The next time you are in Mass, think about your environment. Are you comfortable in this environment? Does it make you feel at home? Stop thinking about your worries for a while and put yourself in the eyes of Christ. What does he want you to do? Many times other people may influence our decision of living out this vocation. It doesn't matter what your friends think, this is between you and God. I encourage you to ask yourself these questions and explore the answers.

Another way to encourage this vocation is to lead by example. I can show these special people that I am a true practicing Catholic. I can not only go to Mass, but participate in the Mass and receive the sacraments often. Also, I can attend retreats or other events that bring us closer to God. I can encourage these people who have been called to attend youth group events with me. These events are fun and educational and draw you closer to God. The biggest example I can give is to live a Christian life and have a Christian attitude. You want others to know you are Christian and that you are proud of your faith. Setting examples is a great way to encourage the priesthood and religious life.

Although these are all great ways to encourage, the most important would be to pray. If I encourage these people to pray, it will lead them to talk to God about their calling. Prayer will reassure them about what God has called us to do. Prayer is an important part of our Catholic faith. When we pray, we are deepening our relationship with Christ. Also, I can pray for these people as they make their decision to live out this vocation and listen to God's calling. This important encouragement of prayer will call more people to the priesthood and religious life.

These are all ways that I can encourage Catholics to the priesthood and religious life. Asking questions, leading by example, and praying, really reassure the calling God has made. This vocation is a great opportunity and a very important one also. By doing these things, I can become a better Catholic. I can help bring people closer to God and to His calling.

New National Website for Vocations

The US *Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations* has launched a new website. The site is a resource for both laity and clergy in the promotion of vocations. It 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 religious vocations. Visit the new site at www.ForYourVocation.org.

(The US 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 to 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

Baton Rouge Deo Gratias 2010

Deo Gratias (Latin for "Thanks be to God,") is an annual reception and dinner to benefit St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College located in St. Benedict, Louisiana. The Baton Rouge *Deo Gratias* 2010 will take place on Sunday, October 24, 2010, at the Catholic Life Center, beginning with Vespers at 6:00 pm, then followed by a reception and dinner in the Main Auditorium. Food is again being prepared by Chef John Folse. Register online at www.sjasc.edu, or contact Ms. Kit Friedrichs-Baumann at 985-867-2233 or via email at kbaumann@sjasc.edu

Contact Us

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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

Whitney Craig (Most Blessed Sacrament).....Marianites of Holy Cross

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)