

VOCARE

A Vocations Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Detroit

Fall 2008

Twelve new seminarians begin formation for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit



L to R Back Row: Jacob VanAssche, Joseph Kirkconnell, James Hubbard, Ryan Adams, Wesley Brown, Timothy Wezner; **Front Row:** Benjamin Beckett, Bryan Shackett, Ryan Eggenberger, Kyle Wawrzyniec; **Photo insert:** Sean Bonner; **Not pictured:** Arturo Castillo

For the second time in three years, twelve new seminarians have begun their studies for the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the Archdiocese of Detroit. This brings the total number of men in formation for the archdiocese to 43, the largest number in ten years. What can be credited for this increase? Some have called the men

presently being admitted “the fruits of the John Paul II papacy”; it may also be the vocation awareness efforts for the archdiocese are finally seeing fruits from increased prayer and personal invitation from others; or individually, men are hearing and responding to the call.

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New Seminarians cont.

When asked the question: "What or who was the greatest influence in your decision to enter formation to study for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit?", the answers from this new group of seminarians reflect a variety of influences. Some of the men credited prayer, especially praying the rosary and the intercession of the Blessed Mother; a special devotion to Our Lady of Fatima; some mentioned the influence of a holy priest; others felt it was God and Divine inspiration; spiritual direction was also given; still another seminarian responded that it was a personal conversion of the heart.

One new seminarian credited the influence of his parish priest:

The greatest influence in my decision to enter formation to study for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit would be focused spiritual direction from my parish priest in addition to prayer and daily Mass. My parish priest helped me to see what the priesthood is and that I could consider it in my life. After prayer and going to daily Mass, I began to understand that God was drawing me closer to Him, to serve Him. It was then that I realized that He might be calling me to His holy priesthood.

If you know a young man whom God may be calling to the priesthood, invite him to consider the possibility. Contact **Fr. Tim Birney** at the Vocation Office: **313-237-5875**; or e-mail Fr. Tim at: **birney.tim@aod.org**.

Men's Discernment Weekends

An excellent opportunity to take an honest look at the possibilities seminary life may hold **for men 17 years of age and older** who are considering the priesthood. The weekend provides an opportunity to worship with the seminary community; meet students and faculty; sit-in on classes; meet other men who may be considering the priesthood; and to spend time in prayer. There are no fees or obligations to come to a Discernment Weekend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: January 22-25, 2009, March 26-29, 2009

(Begins at 6:00 pm Thursday and ends after Mass and brunch on Sunday)

OR FOR THE

Men's Overnight Retreat

May 8-9, 2009 (one night retreat only)

For men 16 years of age and older

(Begins at 6:00 pm Friday and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday)

At Sacred Heart Major Seminary

2701 Chicago Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48206

Pre-registration is required with the signature of your pastor;
If you are from another diocese, the signature of your Vocation Director is required.

Contact the Vocation Office:

313-237-5875

or visit the website at:

www.vocationsdetroit.org

Pray for our Detroit Seminarians

With the largest group of men studying for the archdiocesan priesthood for Detroit in ten years we ask for your continued prayer and support throughout the year for these men:

FIRST COLLEGE:

Timothy Wezner (SS. Cyril & Methodius, Sterling Heights)

SECOND COLLEGE:

Wesley Brown (St. Anthony, Temperance)

James Hubbard (Our Lady of Victory, Northville)

John Strieter (Our Lady on the River, Marine City)

Jacob VanAssche (St. Stephen, New Boston)

Kyle Wawrzyniec (St. Stephen, New Boston)

FIRST PHILOSOPHY:

Ryan Adams (Church of the Transfiguration, Southfield)

Benjamin Beckett (Our Lady on the River, Marine City)

Sean Bonner (St. Victor, Gibraltar)

Arturo Castillo (St. Gabriel, Detroit)

Ryan Eggenberger (St. Thomas a` Beckett, Canton)

Joseph Kirkconnell (St. Ignatius, Cayman Islands)

Gregory Pearson (Holy Trinity, Port Huron)

Bryan Shackett (Our Lady on the River, Marine City)

Eric Tarachowski (St. Thomas More, Troy)

SECOND PHILOSOPHY:

Marko Djonovic (Our Lady of the Albanians, Southfield)

Patrick Gonyeau (St. Jude, Detroit)

James Grau (St. Michael the Archangel, Livonia)

Brent Kryda (St. Joseph, South Lyon)

Louis Lapeyre (Assumption Grotto, Detroit)

Charles Russell (St. Anthony, Temperance)

PASTORAL YEAR:

Joseph Wienclaw (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wyandotte)

FIRST THEOLOGY:

Jeffrey Allan (St. Colette, Livonia)

Richard Ambrow (St. Malachy, Sterling Heights)

Steven Mateja (St. Theodore of Canterbury, Westland)

Salvatore Palazzolo (St. Isidore, Macomb)

Paul Snyder (National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak)

SECOND THEOLOGY:

David Bechill (Our Lady on the River, Marine City)

Eric Fedewa (St. Lawrence, Utica)

Steve Pullis (SS. Cyril & Methodius, Sterling Heights)

Robert Slaton (St. Gertrude, St. Clair Shores)

THIRD THEOLOGY:

James Arwady (SS. Cyril & Methodius, Sterling Heights)

Brian Buckley (St. Colette, Livonia)

Bernardo Cruz (St. Gabriel, Detroit)

John Dumas (Assumption Grotto, Detroit)

Craig Giera (SS. Cyril & Methodius, Sterling Heights)

Michael Zuelch (St. Edward on the Lake, Port Huron)

FOURTH THEOLOGY:

Dc. Raymond Arwady (SS. Cyril & Methodius, Sterling Heights)

Dc. Philip Ching (National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak)

Dc. David Cybulski (St. Isidore, Macomb)

Adalberto Espinoza (St. Michael the Archangel, Livonia)

Dc. Charles White (St. Anastasia, Troy)

Dc. Michael Wilkes (St. Frances Cabrini, Allen Park)

National Vocation Awareness Week

January 11-17, 2009



This special week begins with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. From the universal call to holiness at Baptism, each one of us receives a special vocational calling from God. During this week we pray for a renewal and strengthening of vocations to marriage and the single life and especially for men to serve as priests, deacons and brothers and for women to serve as religious sisters.

*The following materials to promote vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life are now available in both **English** and **Spanish** for use in parishes and schools within the **Archdiocese of Detroit**. The **Vocation Office** of the **Archdiocese of Detroit** has purchased a bulk permit from the **National Coalition for Church Vocation (NCCV)**, allowing Parishes and Schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit to download these materials. Schools and parishes will be e-mailed the code to download materials. If you have any questions, contact **Jan DeFour** at the Vocation Office at: dfour.jan@aod.org or call her at: **313-237-5839**. If you wish to purchase materials for your own use, contact the NCCV at: 800-671-6228 or visit the website at www.nccv-vocations.org.*

Materials for National Vocation Awareness Week:

General Information:

- Calendar for future dates
- Bulletin Announcements
- Clip Art
- Event Poster
- Information Page

Liturgical:

- Liturgy Planning Guide
- Prayer Service
- Homily Notes
- General Intercessions
- Prayer Card Master

Family/Catechists Lesson Plans

- Family Take Home Page
- Planning Kit: Primary Grades 1-3
- Planning Kit: Intermediate Grades 4-6
- Planning Kit: Junior High Grades 7-8
- Planning Kit: High School Grades 9-12
- Planning Kit: Young Adult

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious God, You gift us with your son, Jesus.
At His baptism You affirmed Him as Your beloved Son and Jesus responded by proclaiming the Good News about Your reign.

Help us realize that by our baptism we are each called to continue the mission of Jesus by proclaiming the Good News.

You call people to married life.

Bless them with love, understanding, and fidelity
as they proclaim the Good News.

You call people to the single life.

Bless them with compassion, joy, and dedication
as they proclaim the Good News.

You call people to the consecrated life.

Bless them with courage, commitment, and passion
as they proclaim the Good News.

You call people to the ordained life.

Bless them with faith, integrity, and zeal
as they proclaim the Good News.

May we accept and acknowledge the dignity of our vocation.
Guide those discerning Your call and give them the support they need.
Gift us all with open and generous hearts to further Your reign here on Earth.

With gratitude we offer this prayer through Jesus and the Spirit.
Amen.

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www.nccv-vocations.org

170 Faithful Participate in First Annual Vocations Convocation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

*Thank you for the immense grace of last
Saturday and calling all of us to renew -
joyfully - the grace of our vocation.*
Sr. Mary Finn, HVM

Over 170 of the Catholic faithful from the Archdiocese of Detroit responded to an invitation to *Be Not Afraid*, and gathered for the *First Annual Vocations Convocation* at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Saturday, September 13, 2008. With the stated mission of the convocation to “inform, educate and enliven” the focus for the day was on ways to nurture and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life through prayer, key note speakers and break-out sessions.

The day began with prayer, led by Sr. Ellen Licavoli, IHM and a number of the religious sisters in attendance. Fr. Tim Birney then provided an overview of the state of vocations, both nationally and locally in a Power Point presentation. Using data from surveys done by the Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate (CARA). Some highlights of the information shared that left quite an impression with the attendees are:

- Only 31% of Catholics attend Mass in a given week;
- Only 57% of Catholics believe in Transubstantiation; the other 43% believe the bread and wine are symbols;
- 33% of recently ordained priests were born outside of the United States;
- 12% of Catholic men have “seriously” considered becoming a priest or religious brother (this equates to about 2.2 million men);
- 15% of Catholic women have “seriously” considered becoming a religious sister (this equates to about 1.3 million women);
- Only 10% of Catholics have encouraged someone to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life;
- Clergy remain the greatest encouragement to men considering a vocation to the priest-

hood (83% of recently ordained listed a priest as someone who encouraged them).

The Power Point presentation is available online at the AOD Vocations website; click on the link for *Promoting Vocations* on the right.

The first key note address of the day was given by Sr. Mary Finn, HVM, on *Mary, Our Model for Discernment*, who inspired those present to give themselves to others as Jesus gave His life to us.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores, STD, gave the afternoon key note address on *The Essentials for Vocation Ministry* and inspired everyone to increase their faith and love for one another as the best response to the shortage in vocations. He also spoke of the need to promote Catholic education for our children. Both speakers spoke from the heart and were very helpful in providing insights to the overall mission of calling others to a vocation.

Presentations from the *Fishermen’s Fund* and the *Serra Club* were also provided to inform the attendees of work being done by the lay faithful to promote vocations. Also, tables were provided to numerous religious orders who were present to answer questions about their order and to provide information and literature.

Everyone had an opportunity to attend three workshops of their choosing throughout the day. The topics were selected to appeal to everyone involved with vocations ministry: the family, educators, priests, religious, campus and youth ministers and interested lay faithful.

The day finished with a Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Evaluations from the day indicate it was by far a very successful and positive experience for all those in attendance.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 2009 Vocations Convocation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary - Saturday, September 19, 2009.

Fishermen's Fund Update

Looking for disciples in a parish near you

The Power of One. Recently, one of our volunteers casually discussed The Fishermen's Fund over coffee with a fellow St. Joan of Arc parishioner. The fruit borne of that chance conversation has been remarkable! One of our newest and most active ambassadors, Mrs. Jenny Wojcik has many inspiring tools in her own personal tackle box. First, she prays daily for new vocations, our existing clergy and religious. She and her husband also regularly pray the Rosary recorded by our Sacred Heart seminarians "begging the Master of the harvest" for new vocations. In fact, Mrs. Wojcik has mailed out personal hand-written notes and rosary CDs to many priests in retirement homes asking them to pray for vocations and the work of The Fishermen's Fund! She has also spread the word about what we are doing, soliciting prayer and contributions from family, neighbors and friends. Some of them aren't even Catholic! Jenny's actions are a perfect example of how one person can be a force multiplier in the effort to support vocations. She may never taste the specific fruit of the seeds she is planting, but those that follow will be very grateful she did. The power of one. Thanks, Jenny. Your example inspires us all.



Casting a net for Sacred Heart

The Fishermen's Fund committee still needs volunteer "disciples" to help spread word of the Fund to parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The primary responsibility of a "disciple" is to support vocations by spreading the word about the Fund at his or her own parish. Everything that a "disciple" needs to communicate information about the Fund has been organized in a "Tackle Box" that contains facts and figures, brochures, and sample scripts for various presentations, such as to a group or from the pulpit. If you would like to join the ranks of Fishermen's Fund supporters as a donor, volunteer, or "disciple" kindly contact the Fishermen's Fund office at 313-883-8779 or visit the website at www.fishermensfund.org.

Knights of Columbus Continue to Support Detroit Seminarians

As part of their mission to support vocations, Knights of Columbus Councils throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit provide financial support to our Detroit Seminarians. The Bishop Plagens Knights of Columbus Council #13318 serving Sweetest Heart of Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, St. Josaphat, Holy Family, & St. Hyacinth has chosen its fraternal year 2007-2008 RSVP seminarian stipend recipients. It is Mr. Paul Snyder and Mr. Eric Fedewa. This follows last year's 2006-2007 choices of Mr. Craig Giera and Mr. Bernardo Cruz. The previous fraternal 2005-2006 choices of Mr. Adalberto Espinoza and the newly ordained priest: Rev. Sama Muma.



Pictured receiving their stipends from Council members are:

Left: Craig Giera and Bernardo Cruz

Right: Eric Fedewa



SERRA CLUB LOOKING TO FORM NEW CLUB ON THE EAST SIDE

The Detroit-Oakland Serra Club would like to form a new chapter on the East Side of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The purpose of the Serra Club is to "foster, affirm and promote vocations to ministry in the Catholic Church." If you are a member of a parish from the Renaissance or SERF vicariate and might be interested in becoming a member of Serra, please contact Bob Barrett at: 1-800-638-1174 or e-mail him at: Bobb@rcwa.net.

For more information about Serra, visit their website at: <http://www.serraus.org>.

What's News in Consecrated Life?

First *Come Away Vocation Day* Held

Jesus said to His disciples: "Come away...and rest for a while" Mark 6:31



On Saturday, October 18, seven young women participated in the first of three *Come Away Days* planned by the Vocation Office for single Catholic women ages 18-35. The topic of the day was "What Does God Want? Discernment and Prayer". The day included guest speakers, a panel of sisters from a variety of religious orders, time for quiet and reflection, a chance to meet with sisters one-on-one, and Mass with the Director of Vocations, Fr. Tim Birney.

In speaking on discernment, Sr. Ann Shields from the Servants of God's Love community, invited the young women to ponder the following points throughout the coming months: Is the matter being discerned conforming to God's will? Does it encourage conversion? Does the heart say 'yes'? Sister also noted that we must act when the choice seems to indicate that God is indeed extending the invitation to follow Him as a consecrated sister. She recommended the book, "What Does God Want?" by Fr. Michael Scanlon as a helpful resource. Sr. Arlene Kosmatka, an Adrian Dominican Sister with an extensive background in spirituality and prayer, offered many helpful suggestions to enhance prayer time with Our Lord.

Evaluation of the day included the following words: "perfect!" "amazing" "don't change a thing" "thank you so much for a wonderful day" "inspirational and uplifting". All expressed an interest in returning for the next *Come Away Day*, to be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Information for next discernment day, as well as the third one on March 21, 2009, may be obtained from Vocation Office website: www.vocationsdetroit.org, or by calling Sr. Ellen Licavoli, IHM at the office at 313.237.5875.

Home Visitors of Mary - opened a primary and middle school in Kafanchan, Nigeria; Sr. Barbara Dakoske, HVM is one of two native Detroiters who initiated the mission in Nigeria. They will be hosting a fund raising Mexican dinner and Focolorico dancing on **February 15, 2009** at **St. Anne Parish in Detroit, from 12:00-3:00** p.m. to support their Sisters in formation in Nigeria. For information e-mail Sr. Rosemarie, HVM at homevisitors@att.net

Dominican Nuns of Mt. Thabor - willing to provide accommodations for women who are discerning a vocation - any woman who would like to come and stay for a period of time, for a day, or a week, to observe or partake in the prayer life of a monastic order are welcome to contact **Sr. Mary Agnes, OP: Our Lady of Mt. Thabor Monastery, 1295 Bald Eagle Lake Road, Ortonville, MI 48462; phone: 248-627-4355; or e-mail: Mtthabor@aol.com**. Visit their website to find out more about the monastery at: www.mtthabornunsop.com.

Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament - A **Secular/Lay Dominican Third Order** has been formed through the Monastery. Meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month from 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament located at 29575 Middlebelt. Contact **Sr. Miriam, OP at: 248-626-8253** for further information.

“Do not be afraid to go out into the streets and public places like the first apostles, who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the squares of cities, towns, and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel.”

Pope John Paul II

**Please note:
The Vocation Office
has relocated to:
Sacred Heart Major Seminary
New Contact Information:**

Father Tim Birney

Director of Vocations
Archdiocese of Detroit
Office of Vocations
2701 Chicago Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48206
(313) 237-5875
Visit our Website at:
www.vocationsdetroit.org
E-mail:
birney.tim@aod.org

**December 2008 - February 2009
Vocation Events Calendar**

December 2, 2008

Cardinal/Guest Evening Prayer and Dinner:

All priests of the AOD are welcome to invite a young man or men aged 16 years of age or older to participate in Evening Prayer and dinner with Cardinal Maida; At Sacred Heart Major Seminary; Evening Prayer begins at 6:30 p.m..

- R.S.V.P. to the Vocation Office by November 24 at: 313-237-5875; or to
- Fr. Tim Birney at: birney.tim@aod.org

December 6, 2008

Come Away Day of Discernment for Women:

For single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 35; Topic for the day is *Seeking Community*.

- Location: The Bernardine Franciscan House, 27504 W. Ten Mile, Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336
- Registration fee \$10.00
- Contact: Sr. Ellen Licavoli, IHM at the Vocation Office: 313-237-5875 for more information.

January 11-17, 2009

National Vocation Awareness Week;

see p. 4 of this issue for more information.

January 22-25, 2009

Men's Discernment Weekend;

Sacred Heart Major Seminary; for men 17 years of age and older who are considering the priesthood. Begins at 6:00 p.m. Thursday ends around noon on Sunday.

- Pre-registration required; with signature from pastor; or, if you are from another diocese, from your Vocation Director.
- Contact Vocation Office: 313-237-5875, or visit the web: www.vocationsdetroit.org

February 8, 2009

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

February 15, 2009

Fundraiser for Home Visitors of Mary to support formation of Sisters in Nigeria at St. Anne Parish in Detroit. Mexican dinner and Focolorico dancing from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Contact: Sr. Rosemarie, HVM at: homevisitors@att.net