



Office of Vocations *E-Newsletter*

News from the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Vocations

Winter, 2005 - Vol. 1, No. 1

Visit our Web-Site: www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations

Office of Vocations E-Newsletter is a periodic update to provide informative, inspirational and insightful news regarding aspects of discernment and formation to the priesthood and consecrated religious life, particularly among men and women from our diocese.

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Upcoming Events:

- 4/10: St. Faustina One Woman Drama
- 4/16-17: Men's Group Seminary Trip
- 4/24: Women's Group "Nun Run"
- 5/16: Parish Promoter/ Serra Club Dinner
- 6/4: Diaconate Ordinations
- 6/10: Voc. Holy Hour
- 6/11: Priesthood Ord.

HEADLINES:

- **BISHOP LOVERDE VISITS SEMINARIES AND FUTURE ARLINGTON PRIESTS**
- **SEMINARIAN, DEACON BILL KORPI RECOVERS FROM SURGERY**
- **WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT HELD AT MOTHER SETON SHRINE**
- **FATHER TERRY SPECHT LEADS MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT**
- **SERRA CLUB OF ARLINGTON RE-ESTABLISHED**
- **SNOW STORM CAN'T STOP ANNUAL MASS FOR VOCATIONS**
- **SERRANS TO HOST APPRECIATION DINNER FOR PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS, 5/16**

BISHOP LOVERDE VISITS SEMINARIES AND FUTURE ARLINGTON PRIESTS

In early March, Bishop Loverde returned from a visit with three of our diocesan seminarians currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. In January the Bishop visited Blessed John XXIII near Boston and in February he traveled to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. In April he will make his yearly seminary visit to Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg. Each year the Bishop personally visits every one of our 24 seminarians. Reflecting on these visits, Bishop Loverde said, "These visits afford me not only the opportunity to receive one-on-one feedback from our seminarians on how their studies and formation are going, but also to provide them with guidance and, last but not least, convey to them, on behalf of our diocesan family, our prayers and support for their service, calling and sacrifice."

SEMINARIAN, DEACON BILL KORPI RECOVERS FROM SURGERY

February 18th found our transitional deacon Bill Korpi under the skillful care of heart surgeons at Massachusetts General Hospital. Deacon Korpi is recovering remarkably well after his quadruple bypass procedure and has already returned to Blessed John XXIII Seminary to continue his formation. Prayers for the deacon are most welcome. Cards and best wishes can be sent to him at *Blessed John XXIII National Seminary; 558 South Avenue; Weston, MA 02493-2699*

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT HELD AT MOTHER SETON SHRINE

Nineteen women attended the vocation discernment retreat held at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Retreat Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Comparing women who are discerning a vocation to consecrated religious life to St. Mary Magdalene, retreat master Father Paul Scalia encouraged those

present to be generous with God. The Magdalene's love for Christ was a love that could "weep, wait and waste." Those who are considering their own response to the Lord should be willing to recognize their unworthiness and their sinfulness finding repentance and reconciliation with great gratitude to Our Savior, Fr. Scalia said. They must be able to wait patiently with Christ as He leads them through their discernment of His choice for them. And they must be extravagant in their generosity to Him in the gift of their lives, to "waste" themselves for His sake. The second conference dealt with an explanation of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and their perfect fulfillment in the life of Christ and in the Eucharist.

FATHER TERRY SPECHT LEADS MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C. provided a quiet and reverent setting for this year's vocation discernment retreat for men, which began at 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 25th and ended at noon on February 27th. Father Terry Specht was the retreat master for this year's retreat. Several seminarians were able to join the 14 discerners and give some pointers based on their own experience of answering the Lord's call in their lives. Seminarians Rob Kennedy and Kevin Fimian drove down from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania. Seminarians Tony Killian and Jason Weber represented Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The men making the retreat felt blessed to have spent the time in prayer and conversation with each other.

SERRA CLUB OF ARLINGTON RE-ESTABLISHED

by Tony Palmer, Serra Club of Arlington Vice President for Communications

On February 15, the Arlington chapter of Serra International was formally chartered and reinstated in the Diocese of Arlington. Serra is an organization of men and women committed to promoting vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life while deepening their own faith and spiritual formation. The first Serra Club was established in 1935 and named for Blessed Junipero Serra, the great Franciscan missionary to Mexico and California. Today, there are over 700 Serra clubs in 36 countries. Upon his installation in 1999, Bishop Paul Loverde desired the return of an active Serra club in the Diocese of Arlington. At the installation ceremony dinner, held at Portofino's Restaurant, the Bishop expressed his joy and gratitude in witnessing the "fulfillment of a dream". The new Serra Club Arlington has been developed under the leadership of President Herb Harmon and Chaplain Fr. Robert Rippy. The club works closely with Arlington Vocations Director Fr. Brian Bashista and supports the vocation efforts and initiatives of the Office of Vocations and the local parishes.

SNOW STORM CAN'T STOP ANNUAL MASS FOR VOCATIONS

by Mary Frances McCarthy, Arlington Catholic Herald Staff Writer; (From the issue of 3/10/05)

Neither rain, sleet or snow can stop the U.S. Postal Service, and it also didn't stop Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde from celebrating Mass with the eighth-graders of diocesan schools. "I pray every day for you that you will come to discover what it is that God wants you to do in your future life," the bishop told the more than 1,000 eighth-graders from nearly 30 Catholic schools. The students gathered at Holy Spirit Church in Annandale on the snowy Tuesday morning where the eighth-graders served as lectors, altar servers, petition readers, gift bearers and ushers. Bishop Loverde was

joined by seven diocesan priests in celebrating Mass, including Father Brian Bashista, diocesan director of vocations. "God is choosing some of you right here to be priests or religious," the bishop said. "I do not know who among you God is calling, but if you ask Him, He will let you know. I invite you to go to Jesus and let Him talk to your heart. Every day ask Him to help you follow Him more closely. Ask Him to help you know what He wants you to do and be in your future lives."

SERRANS TO HOST APPRECIATION DINNER FOR PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS, 5/16

Members of the newly re-established Serra Club of Arlington are planning to host an appreciation dinner for Parish Vocation Promoters, their spouse/guest as well as their pastor. "We are looking forward to getting to know our fellow laborers in fostering vocations, lay promoters and clergy, and recognizing the wonderful work they do," said Serran Kathy Maurer, Serra Vice President of Vocations. The event will be held on Monday, May 16, 2005 in the Upper School Cafeteria at St. Michael Parish, Annandale. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with introductory and welcome remarks by Bishop Paul S. Loverde. Keynote speaker will be the newly appointed rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Monsignor Steven P. Rohlf, STD.

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH AND MOTHER OF VOCATIONS, PRAY FOR US!

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