



Office of Vocations *E-Newsletter*

News from the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Vocations

Spring, 2005 - Vol. 1, No. 2

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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:

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| 6/25: | Woman's Group
Baltimore Trip |
| 7/13: | Seminarians
Softball Game
-vs- Washington |
| 7/23: | Men's Group
Rescheduled Mt.
St. Mary's Visit &
Hiking Trip |
| 8/6: | Serra Seminarian
Mass & Picnic |
| 8/10: | Annual Altar
Server Picnic |

HEADLINES:

- **HOLY THURSDAY BREAKFAST AND CHRISM MASS**
- **MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP VISITS ST. CHARLES SEMINARY**
- **SPRING "NUN RUN" FOR WOMEN DISCERNERS**
- **FIVE SEMINARIANS STUDYING SPANISH ABROAD**
- **ROBERT WAGNER TO BEGIN THEOLOGY STUDIES IN ROME**
- **SERRANS HOST DINNER FOR PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS AND THEIR PASTORS**
- **HOME-GROWN SISTER MEETS OUR NEW HOLY FATHER, POPE BENEDICT XVI**
- **DIOCESES BLESSED WITH SIX NEW DEACONS AND FOUR NEW PRIESTS!**

HOLY THURSDAY BREAKFAST AND CHRISM MASS

Always a great sign of hope and faithfulness, the priests of the Diocese of Arlington came together on Holy Thursday to concelebrate the Chrism Mass with Bishop Paul Loverde at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Abbot Barnes from the Cistercian Abbey in Berryville was present to concelebrate as well. Also in attendance were the permanent deacons serving Arlington and the seminarians who are currently studying for the priesthood. The voices of the priests gathered with the bishop in the sanctuary, resounding in unison throughout the church as they renewed their commitment of obedience and celibacy, was a profound witness to all the faithful present. In the words of our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II:

I think of you first as you gather in the cathedrals of your different Dioceses around your respective Ordinaries for the renewal of your Priestly promises. This eloquent rite takes place before the consecration of the Holy Oils, especially the Chrism, and is a most fitting part of the Chrism Mass, which highlights the image of the Church as a priestly People made holy by the sacraments and sent forth to spread throughout the world the good odor of Christ the Savior.

Prior to the Chrism Mass, Bishop Loverde and the seminarians of the diocese hosted a pancake breakfast for all the priests who are from or serve in the diocese. Bishop Loverde tended to the pancakes with a watchful eye and skillful flip of the spatula. Those who were able to attend enjoyed the food and fraternity.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP VISIT TO ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

Saturday through Sunday, April 16-17, Father Bashista led a group of men discerning a vocation to the priesthood to visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Transportation was provided and the trip included a tour of the seminary, Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, as well as meals and lodging. The group was able to meet with the seminarians from our diocese and also enjoyed the show “Titanic-the Musical”, which was the 2005 Seminary Yearly House Play. Commenting on the visit, Deacon James Searby said,

"As a deacon, preparing to leave the seminary and be ordained a priest in service of our diocese, it was also inspiring to see new men opening their hearts to hear the call of Christ to 'come follow me.' This continues to show that God never ceases watching out for His Church, nourishing Her and guiding Her to eternal life. It was a wonderful time to meet brothers who are eager to consider God's call to follow Him with enthusiasm and courage. We had a fantastic time getting to know them while they were here and we pray they will continue to journey toward hearing the call to that great 'gift and mystery' of the priesthood."

SPRING “NUN RUN” FOR WOMEN DISCERNERS

Father Bashista, Celia Schmitt and Judy Dansereau were on hand to greet 10 women discerners for the Spring Nun Run on April 24th. The first stop was at the St. Gabriel Convent next to Queen of Apostles Parish in Alexandria, the home of the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. Father Bashista led Morning Prayer and celebrated the Sacrifice of the Mass in the convent chapel. Afterwards, the Sisters and some of their friends hosted a delicious brunch. At table, the women had the opportunity to discover more about the congregation and their mission in the Church.

The group then traveled to Old Town Alexandria to the Daughters of St. Paul who graciously welcomed everyone for a visit and prayer time. Being the “media sisters” they were well equipped to give evidence of the history, charism and spirit of their order. But their personal descriptions of vocation discernment made a deep impression of all who listened.

The next stop was at the Juniorate House of the Servants of the Lord and of the Virgin Matara in Washington, D.C. Here, the women were given an introduction to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola through guided meditation. Afterwards, all enjoyed a pizza dinner together. The Missionaries of Charity welcomed the group to their Gift of Peace House in northeast D.C. One of the Missionaries gave a talk about Blessed Teresa of Calcutta’s order and their special love for the poorest of the poor. A Holy Hour with all the Missionaries of Charity in their chapel concluded the day.

FIVE SEMINARIANS STUDYING SPANISH ABROAD

This summer, five of our diocesan seminarians are honing their Spanish language skills in order to better serve the blend of cultures living in the Diocese of Arlington. Four will do so through and immersion experience in Quéretaro, Mexico, and one will be studying on his own in Spain

Ed Bresnahan, Tony Killian and Mick Kelly left for Mexico June 4th. Chris Vaccaro will join them June 13th. These four will be enrolled in the Organización Lingüística de Español which provides three hours of daily instruction and lodging with local families. They will pray Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours in Spanish and have several weekend excursions. One of the highlights will be their pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Those in Mexico will return to Arlington on July 30th, and Robert Kennedy will return from Spain in late August.

ROBERT WAGNER TO BEGIN THEOLOGY STUDIES IN ROME

On July 25, 2005, seminarian Robert Wagner will be flying to Rome, Italy, for his theology studies. He will be residing at the Pontifical North American College and joining Arlington seminarians Phillip Cozzi who will be in his fourth year of theology and Dave Brown, in his third year of theology studies at the Angelicum. All class lectures are given in Italian, so before the academic year begins, Robert will be taking Italian in Assisi, Italy from August 2nd until August 25th. Commenting on his opportunity to study in Rome, Robert remarked:

"While it is truly an honor to be selected to go to Rome, it is certainly not something I would have chosen for myself, for Mount St. Mary's - my home for two years - is a difficult place to leave because it is such a wonderful seminary! However, despite any reservations, I know that the experience I will have there will help provide me with a more universal view of the Church and a greater love for its history. It will also be amazing to be so close to the Holy See, and to live amongst all the faithful men and women who travel to the Eternal City on pilgrimages."

Pray for our men in Rome, for their holiness and formation in Christ, and for their dedicated response to deepen their discernment of the Lord's call to priesthood.

SERRANS HOST DINNER FOR PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS AND THEIR PASTORS

In appreciation for their efforts to promote vocations in their parishes, the Office of Vocations and the Serra Club of Arlington hosted a dinner for pastors and their parish vocation promoters. It was held on May 16th at St. Michael's Upper School cafeteria. The Serrans succeeded in giving the location a touch of elegance in décor as well as a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres salads, entrees and dessert.

In his introductory remarks, Bishop Loverde welcomed the parish promoters, their pastors and the many seminarians who were able to attend. After dinner he presented the evening's key-note speaker, Monsignor Steven P. Rohlf, the newly installed rector of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. Monsignor's inspiring talk addressed the essential element of Christ's transforming love for growth in holiness. He encouraged all to love Him more than their sins and allow Him to replace those sins with virtue.

The first Serra Club was formed in 1935 in Seattle, Washington. Then, as now, the two great needs for the church were for informed Catholic lay leaders who understand and live their own Christian vocations to service, and for dedicated priests and consecrated religious men and women. The Serra Club of Arlington's mission is to foster its members' spiritual growth through prayer and service to the diocese in their support of vocations. It is a chapter of Serra International. Any person interested in becoming a member of this rewarding organization may contact the Office of Vocations or call Brad Salmon at 703 266-3184.

HOME-GROWN SISTER MEETS OUR NEW HOLY FATHER!

Sister Brigid Mary, R.S.M. is a novice with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. As the former Patricia Glass, she was a member of both St. Michael Church in Annandale and St

Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton. She is the daughter of Ben and Pat Glass of St. Michael parish. The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, MI is a Religious Institute founded under the direction of Venerable Catherine McAuley. Their main apostolate is mercy in any form.

Sister Brigid Mary is currently in Rome and serves as a nurse at the American School, operating the infirmary and caring for the students and seminarians studying there. The R.S.M.'s provide housing for priests and when one of the former residents came to retrieve his belongings, the chance meeting occurred. That former resident had just been chosen as the new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI and was beginning his move to the papal apartment. Sister Brigid Mary was thrilled to be able to meet him and within the first 24 hours of his pontificate!

When asked about the experience she said, "...I was speechless!" She sends these words of support, "Please know that I pray for all our vocations in our diocese."

DIOCESSES BLESSED WITH SIX NEW DEACONS AND FOUR NEW PRIESTS!

On Saturday, June 4, 2005, at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, the following men were ordained by Bishop Loverde and consecrated for service to the diocese in the Order of Deacons: ***Kevin J. Fimian, Bjorn C. Lundberg, Charles C. Smith, Gregory S. Thompson, Joseph Q. Vu, and Jamie R. Workman***

The following Saturday, four men were ordained to the Order of Priesthood by Bishop Loverde. At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Loverde said, "Words just fail to express the joy that is in all of our hearts today. In answering the call to the priesthood, ***Ramon Baez, Daniel Hanley, Andrew Heintz and James Searby*** today put themselves selflessly at the service of all in our diocesan Church. With grateful and joyous hearts we welcome these four priests to our growing diocese. May they be icons of Jesus Christ in our midst, and may God truly bless their ministry in years to come."

In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches that those who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully. While the Diocese of Arlington has been bountifully blessed with six new deacons and four new priests, the need to beg the Lord of the Harvest continues. May all grow in their generosity of prayer, asking for holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In St. Paul's words, "*You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*"

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

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