



FISHER'S NET

Diocese of Arlington Vocations *E-Newsletter*

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The *Office of Vocations 'Fisher's Net' E-Newsletter* is a periodic update of informative, inspirational and insightful news concerning aspects of discernment and formation to the priesthood and consecrated life, particularly among men and women from our diocese.

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Upcoming Events:

3/25-3/26	Men's Group Visit to St. Charles Seminary
4/2:	Women's Group Spring "Nun Run"
4/7-4/9	Men's Vocation Discernment Retreat
4/13:	Holy Thursday Chrism Mass
6/3:	Diaconate Ordination
6/10:	Priesthood Ordination

HEADLINES:

- SEMINARIAN WINTER RETREAT
- MID-ATLANTIC SEMINARIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
- NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK UPDATE
- NEW CHILDREN'S VOCATIONS PRAYER CARD
- WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT
- EIGHTH GRADE VOCATIONS MASS
- MILITARY CHAPLAINCY DAY OF DISCERNMENT
- VOCATION REFLECTION BY POPE BENEDICT XVI

SEMINARIAN WINTER RETREAT

This year's annual seminarian retreat was held at the Dominican Retreat House January 4-6, 2006. Our diocesan priests gave conference talks based on the virtues of St. Joseph as a model of celibate love.

Fr. John Kelly gave a talk on *St. Joseph as humble collaborator with those who live and act in faith.*

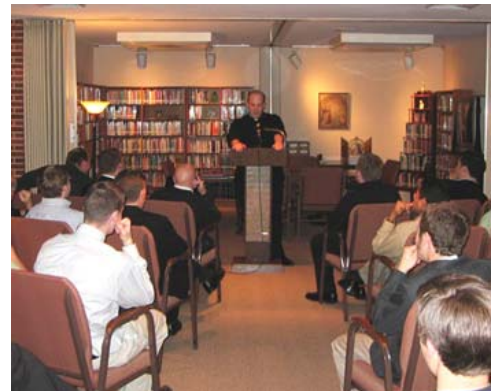
Fr. Terry Specht addressed the paternal dimension of *St. Joseph, as spiritual father who lived in the obscurity of faith.*

Fr. Donald Planty's talk developed *St. Joseph as a witness of chaste, masculine love.*

Bishop Paul Loverde conference explained the role of *St. Joseph, protector of Christ and His Church.*

Newly ordained **Fr. Dan Hanley** spoke on the prayerfulness of *St. Joseph, contemplator of, and cooperater with, the will of God.*

Msgr. John Cilinski was main celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass.



Fifteen potential candidates were invited to dinner and discussions with the seminarians and Bishop Loverde, along with some of the priests from the diocese, on Thursday evening. The winter retreats are a graced way for the seminarians to be strengthened in holiness and to build the fraternal bond with their future brother priests.

MID-ATLANTIC SEMINARIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The gym at St. Leo the Great Church was the holy ground of the Mid-Atlantic Seminarian Basketball Tournament this year. Participants in the January 7th games included seminarians from the Diocese of Arlington, who hosted the event, the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Institute of the Incarnate Word. After three rounds of play, the trophy was claimed by the spirited and skillful efforts of the seminarians from Institute of the Incarnate Word....until NEXT YEAR!

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK UPDATE

A total of 5065 students in our Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education Programs offered 49,109 prayers for vocations during the Spiritual Olympics held during Student National Vocation Awareness Week this past January. The winners are as follows:

Catholic Schools Division

GOLD: St. Leo the Great, Fairfax

SILVER: St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School,
Woodbridge

BRONZE: St. Michael School, Annandale

Parish Religious Education Division

GOLD: St. Philip Church, Falls Church

SILVER: St. Patrick Church, Fredericksburg

BRONZE: St. Clare of Assisi Church, Clifton (*pictured*)



Father Bashista presented the school awards on March 17th as well as the Prayer Card Contest awards.

NEW CHILDREN'S VOCATIONS PRAYER CARD



One of the events for the **Student National Vocation Awareness Week** in January was the **2006 Children's Vocation Prayer Card Contest**. The winners were chosen from hundreds of entries for both art work and prayer text. The art work entry selected to be on the 2006 Children's Vocation Prayer Card was created by Patty Fabijanczyk who is an 8th Grader at St. Leo the Great in Fairfax. The prayer was written by Brendan Miller, a 2nd Grader from St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School in Woodbridge. Each received a carved crucifix for their winning contributions.

Prayer Card Contest Participants included Religious Education Programs from St. Theresa, St. Agnes, St. Luke, St. Clare, St. Leo the Great, St. Patrick, St. Philip and St. Thomas a Becket parishes. The Catholic School participants were St. Patrick, All Saints, St. Joseph, St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School, St. Bernadette, St. Agnes and St. Leo the Great.

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Twenty-seven consecrated women religious from twelve different orders joined women from around and outside the Diocese of Arlington on February 24-26th for the annual Women's Vocation Discernment Retreat. Arriving at the Seton Retreat Center in Emmitsburg, MD, Friday evening, the women found their way to their rooms with the assistance of Judy Dansereau and Celia Schmitt, both from the Office of Vocations. Eight of our seminarians from the Mount came early to help the sisters with their luggage and to set up their presentation materials in the main meeting room.



The Friday and Saturday conferences were given by Father John Cregan, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria. He spoke inspiringly on both the fragility of the call and the need to respond fully once the Lord's choice becomes apparent. Father remarked that "the only answer to a lack of fulfillment is to give ourselves as a total gift to Christ."

In the closing conference given by Father Bashista, the call of Moses was used to illustrate the steps of discerning one's vocation. He underscored the importance of prayer and response to that which God reveals at each step along the way. It is through prayer for one's vocation that He identifies both one's mission and the people one is called to love in community.

EIGHTH GRADE VOCATIONS MASS

Holy Spirit Church in Annandale hosted the annual 8th Grade Vocations Mass on March 7, 2006. Several priests from the diocese joined Bishop Loverde to concelebrate the Mass assisted by more than 1300 eighth graders from 33 diocesan schools. Bishop Loverde reminded the students that a happy and fulfilled life is one that is in union with God's plan. Bishop encouraged them saying, "Don't be afraid. His plan is from a heart full of love."

A surprise awaited Bishop Loverde at the conclusion of the Mass. Dr. McNiff, Superintendent of Schools, had coordinated with all the schools in making a special presentation to Bishop Loverde honoring his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. A student from each school came forward around the sanctuary carrying a framed "pictorial history" of Bishop's vocation. The photos included one of him as a child, one with his parents after he was ordained and one as bishop. Bishop Loverde was presented with his own copy. The memento will hang in the foyer of each of the schools as a reminder of the bishop's happiness as a priest and his zeal for vocations.

MILITARY CHAPLAINCY DAY OF DISCERNMENT

On March 11, 2006, the Office of Vocations sponsored its first Military Chaplaincy Day of Discernment. Most Rev. John J. Kaising, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of the Military Services, U.S.A. was the main celebrant for the 9 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Rev. Gary R. Studniewski, Army Chaplain Recruiter, gave the homily. After Mass the men discerning a possible vocation as a military chaplain gathered in Msgr. Burke Hall for the keynote address given by Bishop Kaising. Arlington Seminarians Tom Crowe and Luke Dundon, both of whom are considering a vocation to serve as military chaplains, spoke to those assembled

about their own discernment. Presentations were also given by representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A.

The “Fisher’s of Men” DVD was shown by Rev. Brian Bashista following a brief question and answer period and the day concluded with lunch. Fr. Bashista noted that, “*with the Diocese of Arlington boarding the most important military installations in our country, i.e. the Pentagon, Marine Corp Headquarters in Quantico, along with Forts Belvoir, Myer, men who are co-sponsored, by our diocese to serve as eventual military chaplains, are not serving some ‘other flock’, but are in a sense serving members of the military who are also an important part of the Arlington faithful.*”

VOCATION REFLECTION BY POPE BENEDICT XVI



Jesus, in his great priestly prayer, says that he is consecrating himself for his disciples, an allusion to the sacrifice of his death (cf. Jn 17: 19). By saying this, Jesus implicitly expresses his role as the true High Priest who brings about the mystery of the "Day of Reconciliation", no longer only in substitutive rites but in the concrete substance of his own Body and Blood. The Old Testament term "the Holy One of the Lord" identified Aaron as the High Priest who had the task of bringing about Israel's sanctification (Ps 106[105]: 16; Vulgate: Sir 45: 6). Peter's profession of Christ, whom he declares to be the Holy One of God, fits into the context of the Eucharistic Discourse in which Jesus announces the Day of Reconciliation through the sacrificial offering of himself: "the bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world" (Jn 6: 51). So this profession is the background of the priestly mystery of Jesus, his sacrifice for us all. The Church is not *holy* by herself; in fact, she is made up of sinners - we all know this and it is plain for all to see. Rather, she is made holy ever anew by the Holy One of God, by the purifying love of Christ. God did not only speak, but loved us very realistically; he loved us to the point of the death of his own Son. It is precisely here that we are shown the full grandeur of revelation that has, as it were, inflicted the wounds in the heart of God himself. Then each one of us can say personally, together with St Paul, I live "a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2: 20).

Let us pray to the Lord that the truth of these words may be deeply impressed in our hearts, together with his joy and with his responsibility; let us pray that shining out from the Eucharistic Celebration it will become increasingly the force that shapes our lives.

*Pope Benedict XVI
June 29, 2005*

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

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