



# FISHER'S NET

Diocese of Arlington Vocations *E-Newsletter*

Fall, 2006 - Vol. 2, No. 4

Visit our Web-Site: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations)

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:**

- 12/16: Pro-Life Mass & Rosary w/Bishop
- 12/20: Men's Group  
Basilica of I.C.  
Shrine Trip/Lunch
- 12/27: Women's Group  
Basilica of I.C.  
Shrine Trip/Lunch
- 1/7: Nat'l Vocation  
Awareness Week  
Holy Hour
- 1/7: *Sequela Christi*  
Dinner/Meetings
- 2/2-4 Mount 2007  
*See Web-Site for Details*

## **HEADLINES:**

- **PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS WORKSHOP**
- **WOMEN'S GROUP FALL "NUN RUN"**
- **MEN'S TRIP TO MT. ST. MARY'S SEMINARY & BASILICA OF ST. ELIZABETH A. SETON**
- **2007 NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK**
- **ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY MORNING OF REFLECTION**
- **MR. & MRS. ROBERT WAGNER ON THEIR ROMAN SEMINARIAN**
- **SEQUELA CHRISTI GROUPS FOR YOUNG MEN IN HIGH SCHOOL**

## **PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS WORKSHOP**



The 2006 Parish Vocation Promoter Workshop began with promoters from around the diocese attending the 9am Mass at St. Leo the Great Church on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Fr. John Kelly, pastor and main celebrant, welcomed Father Brian Bashista, who concelebrated the Mass, and the parish promoters. The workshop itself was held in the parish hall where they were able to pick new promoter materials and restock any that they were low on. In his keynote address, Fr. James Searby, parochial vicar at Holy Spirit Church, highlighted that priesthood is an adventure. He spoke of the longing for adventure that is in the hearts of the youth.

Reminding the promoters that they must find ways to direct young people to the adventure of holiness, he compared their work to the of St. John the Baptist. Like the Baptist, whose mission was always leading others to the Jesus, vocation promoters have a 3-fold role—prayer, penance and pointing out the Lord. Towards that end, Fr. Searby underscored the importance of fostering prayer and holiness among families.

*In that look I saw the adventure.*

*In that look I saw a saint.*

*In that look I saw 'you can become one too!'*

With these words, Fr. Searby described a particularly grace-filled encounter with the Servant of God John Paul II. It occurred during a trip to Rome as a seminarian when he was attending a celebration of the Evening Prayer at St. Peter's. The Holy Father paused alongside his seat and looked him straight in the eye. He has never forgotten that inspiring exchange and its memory continues to fuel his own vocation as a priest for the Diocese of Arlington.

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## WOMEN'S GROUP FALL "NUN RUN"

Recently, four orders of consecrated women religious welcomed to their convents women from our area who are discerning a vocation to consecrated life. On November 11, 2006, Father Bashista led the group on its Fall "Nun Run" as they found their way first to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, now at St. Philip's Church convent, for Morning Prayer. The next order of the day was the Little Sisters of the Poor where the participants attended Mass and helped serve the residents their lunches. Then the women enjoyed a lunch with the sisters and the postulants in formation. From there the group traveled to the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary where a lively discussion about discernment was had over espresso and hot chocolate followed by Daytime Prayer. The final stop was at the Georgetown Visitation Sisters for the celebration of Evening Prayer. At each of the convents the sisters shared information about their orders charism, spirit and apostolates. Most engaging and inspiring of all was hearing the beautiful vocation stories which were related over the course of the day.



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## MEN'S TRIP TO MT. ST. MARY'S SEMINARY AND THE BASILICA OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON



Father Brian Bashista led members of the Men's Discernment Group to visit Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg on Sunday, October 1, 2006. Five men traveled with Fr. Bashista joining the seminarians for Mass in the chapel. After a tour of the seminary, they prayed daytime prayer together with the Arlington seminarians then had some time to discuss vocations and discernment.

The men went over to the St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Shrine and walked the grounds where saints have walked before them. Then they all had dinner together in the seminary dining hall before seeing the group back off to Virginia. Everyone had a wonderful time and those in the seminary are looking forward to possibly welcoming some of the men who made the trip back as future seminarians for the Diocese of Arlington.



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## 2007 NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK



National Vocations Awareness Week will be held January 8-12 in 2007. The week follows the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and is especially set aside for more focused prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. May we all increase our efforts to help those whom the Lord is choosing to share His mission in this unique way, to discover and be faithful to their particular vocations in Christ. See the Office of Vocations Web-Site for more details on National Vocation Awareness Week activities. <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations/vocalendar.html>

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## ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY MORNING OF REFLECTION

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, members of the St. Therese Vocation Society gathered for their annual Morning of Reflection. This year's event began with Mass at St. Veronica Church followed by a continental breakfast in the hall. Father Christopher Pollard, parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist in Front Royal, gave the reflection which related fostering virginity with fostering vocations. His talk explained that helping young people to live lives of innocence and virginal purity disposes them for any vocation given them by the Lord, but especially readies them to respond faithfully to a vocation to virginity for the sake of the Kingdom of God. When the attitude and esteem of such purity is in place through the practice of the virtues, then the choice to answer a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life is much simpler and easier to make.



Following the reflection talk, Father Pollard led the St. Therese Vocation Society members in a Holy Hour for Vocations. The Office of Vocations made available vocation promotion prayers, resources and posters of our 2006-2007 seminarians.

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## MR. & MRS. WAGNER ON THEIR ROMAN SEMINARIAN

Our trip to Rome, for us, was really a pilgrimage. We were blessed in so many ways. We were able to spend a lot of time with our son Robert and met Rob Kennedy, his fellow Arlington seminarian, many other great seminarians and several priests. We stayed at a convent across the street from the North American College (NAC) so were able to easily attend several evening prayer services, holy hours, Sunday Mass and even had lunch twice with the Seminarians. Robert gave us a tour of the NAC which was very impressive. The view of Rome from the roof is spectacular.

We attended the Diaconate Ordination at St. Peter's which was an awesome event. It was wonderful to see these future priests in this holy setting. We also went to the Papal Audience and we had a good view of the Pope from our seats which was a blessing. St. Peter's Basilica is magnificent, and we went to see it a number of times since it was only a 10 minute walk from the convent. We also did a lot of walking in Rome and occasionally took a bus while visiting the major churches and



many of the smaller ones. Daily Masses are being said in a number of the churches, and we attended Mass at the churches we were visiting.

Robert took us on a two day visit to Assisi. We visited the churches there, which were beautiful and so full of history. The Italian countryside, as seen from Assisi which is on a hillside, is especially scenic. It was just wonderful to take in all the sights that are a part of our Catholic heritage. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to visit Rome and our son Robert.

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## SEQUELA CHRISTI GROUPS FOR YOUNG MEN IN HIGH SCHOOL

"Sequela Christi" means "Following Christ" and its members are young men in high school who desire to grow in faithful discipleship and personal holiness to be better able to discover their own vocation invitation from our Lord, whatever that might be. Fathers are encouraged to attend and participate in any group meeting or activity with their high school age sons.



The basis of the evening reflections are taken from a book entitled, *"Boys to Men"* by Tim Gray and Curtis Martin. Each group meets on a monthly basis. Young men interested in participating are asked to contact the Office of Vocations [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org); (703) 841-2514 or one of their parish priests, no later than the Friday prior to a given meeting.

The first Sequela Christi meeting for Deanery IV was led by the priests at St. John the Baptist Church in Front Royal on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Edward Hathaway and Fr. Christopher Pollard hosted the group of 19 for dinner, prayers and discussion. They gathered again for their second month's meeting on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> while Deanery V held their first at Our Lady of Angels Church. Deanery II will begin their meetings on January 7<sup>th</sup> at Holy Spirit Church in Annandale. And February 11<sup>th</sup> is the date set for Deanery I to come together at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More.

To view the complete list of the deaneries and their meetings please visit <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations/2006SequelaChristi.html>

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*We wish you a Blessed Christmas  
And a New Year full of grace!*

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

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