
OUR NEW DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS



Dort Bigg
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
St. Mary's, Old Town

Kevin Dansereau
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
Holy Spirit

Joseph Farrell
St. Charles
Pre-Theology I
St. Mary Imm. Con.

Thomas Gallagher
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
OLQP, Langley AFB

Andrew Haissig
Theological College
Pre-Theology I
St. Veronica



Rich Miserendino
St. Charles
Pre-Theology I
Nativity

Noah Morey
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
St. John the Baptist

David Rodriguez
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
Prince of Peace, FL

Thomas Wills
St. Charles
Pre-Theology I
Holy Spirit

*Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the dedication and courage of these men
and we ask You to bless them as they earnestly seek to follow Your call in their lives. Amen.*

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WILL SCHIERER—SUMMER AT CHRIST HOUSE

This summer I was assigned to work with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington at the all-in-one soup kitchen, food pantry, thrift shop, and homeless shelter appropriately named Christ House. My summer experience was a challenge but overall a grace-filled opportunity. Each day I was filled with the corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and sheltering the homeless.



The resident men were very respectful and I hope I brought some sense of religion and spirituality to the house. They, and the dinner guests (anywhere from 30 to 80 each night), have such varied and difficult backgrounds and stories. I spent a good deal of my time listening to them and later bringing them and their problems to prayer. I was struck that in many cases, that was about all I could do - trust in the good Lord to provide for them and allow Him to use me as an instrument in whatever way He so desired.

I came to realize during the summer the importance of that listening ear I offered. Bl. Teresa of Calcutta so often said that we think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless, but the greatest poverty is the poverty of being unwanted, uncared for, and unloved. In spending time with each person, I affirmed their dignity. As homeless and often jobless men, they often were ignored by the greater part of society, yet I tried to demonstrate by thoughtful questions and a gentle smiling presence that they were worth my time and that they were neither alone nor unloved.

Finally, no synopsis of my experiences would be complete without mention of the overwhelming generosity of the people of God which allows for Christ House to operate. My time at Christ House opened my eyes to the great works being done by this apostolate. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to serve there, to be formed in generosity, and to learn how to coordinate for the needs of the homeless and poor of our area. I am awed by the bountiful giving which Christ House facilitates, assisting our diocesan Church to live out the Gospel message. *by Will Schierer*

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CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS UPDATES-SUMMER 2009

June 4: *Sr. Diane Koner* now *Sr. Ann Catherine, SV* became a novice with the Sisters of Life
June 4: *Sr. Henrietta Gomes* now *Sr. Grace Dominic, SV* became a novice with the Sisters of Life
June 4: *Sr. Maeve O'Doherty* now *Sr. Maeve Nativitas, SV* became a novice with the Sisters of Life
July 16: *Alison Van de Voorde* entered the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, Cuenca, Spain
July 24: *Sr. Maria Joseph Cabanas-Brown, OP* made her final profession with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia
July 24: *Sister Regina Marie, DLJC* entered the novitiate of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus
Aug. 5: *Sr. Allyson Payne* now *Sr. Mary Lawrence, OP* became a novice with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist
Aug. 8: *Sr. Meg Kilmer* became an aspirant with the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist
Aug. 15: *Sr. Jill Bohacik* now *Sr. Mercy Faustina of the Hearts of Jesus & Mary, CFR* became a novice with the Community of Franciscans of the Renewal
Aug. 16: *Sr. Anthony Mary Diego, RSM* made her final profession with the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Alma, MI
Sept. 19: *Sr. Jennifer Raimo, CSJB* renewed her vows with the Sisters of St. John the Baptist
Nov 8: *Sr. Melanie Hartley* will entered the novitiate of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Port Tobacco, MD and will receive the habit and her new name, *Sr. Therese of the Holy Trinity, OCD*

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ALTAR SERVER PICNIC

Lake Fairfax Park was again the location for the annual picnic honoring the Diocese of Arlington altar servers. To thank them for their dedication and faithful service the Office of Vocations sponsored the picnic on August 13th. About 250 altar servers attended along with roughly 50 priests and seminarians. The servers found plenty of ways to enjoy their day of celebration. Some fished, some played sports, some swam, while others stayed under the tents playing cards and other games. Food was served with the help of the seminarians and Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph the Worker Council at Our Lady of Lourdes. Bishop Loverde commended the altar servers for their dedication and encouraged them to continue their faithfulness. He awarded a variety of prizes to lucky attendees. Different prizes had been donated including two \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds. The picnic was a blessed time to show support and gratitude for the altar servers of our diocese.



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JASON BURCHELL—SUMMER TRAINING FOR MILITARY CHAPLAINCY



I was trying to sleep, but I knew what was coming. People had talked about it since we arrived, and rumors were flying off the cold, plain, cement bulkheads. This was the morning that everyone talked about. At about 0315, I heard the big doors at the entrance to the hall swing open and countless thumps beginning to trek down the dark hallway. From that point on it was a blur of yelling, cold looks and blank stares. The Senior and Master Chief Petty Officers that were greeting us were not happy, but they were not paid to be happy, they were paid to train, and this is what they were doing. I tried to remember who I was throughout the next nine

weeks. I constantly reminded myself that I am a seminarian, training to be a priest for the Diocese of Arlington, and the United States Navy. This was an important moment in my life, one that would train me to stay very close to Christ and His Mother.

The first five weeks consisted of the Officer Development School, and the last four was the Chaplain Basic Course both located in beautiful Newport, Rhode Island. Throughout the weeks we ate in silence, marched in silence, ran, studied, cleaned, ran, memorized and ran. We learned to think on the run, eliminate our weaknesses, and persevere over our fears. I, as a Chaplain Candidate, was trained to be prepared to analyze not only my own weaknesses and fears, but primarily those of the sailors and marines that fight for our country in front of me. Physical demands, psychological balance and mental awareness are important for Chaplains. Most of the other Chaplain Candidates, like myself, desire to one day be judged at the same level of expectation as the best of the best. In order to earn the respect and confidence of the soldiers to which we minister, we must be able to understand them and meet them where they are. At Chaplain Basic School which followed Officer Development School for an additional four weeks, we graduated into a new phase of training, one in which we were expected not only to use what we learned in ODS, but also to be flawless in its implementation.

This has been an amazing opportunity to learn more about this vocational call, and use the time in the midst of it to further discern the will of the Lord. Our Diocese is very generous to allow me to pursue this, and I am eternally grateful to Bishop Loverde for noticing the need, and being open to assist in the mission to feed shepherds into the fields who care for the flock that protects us, and our way of life. *by Ens. Jason C. Burchell* *Back to Headlines*

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

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