



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.

See end for subscribe and unsubscribe information.

Upcoming Events:

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| 6/29 | Men's Grp. Mass & Hike @ MSM |
| 6/26-6/29 | Hispanic Women's Vocations Retreat |
| 7/13-7/23: | World Youth Day Sydney, Australia |
| 7/27-7/31: | Quo Vadis Days Camp @ MSM |
| 8/1-8/3: | Hispanic Men's Vocations Retreat |
| 8/9: | Seminarians & Families Mass & Picnic w/Bishop |
| 8/14: | Altar Server Picnic |

See Web-Site for Details

HEADLINES:

- **HOLY THURSDAY BREAKFAST AND CHRISM MASS**
- **SPRING NUN RUN APRIL 6TH**
- **MEN'S DISCERNMENT VISIT TO ST. CHARLES SEMINARY**
- **DISCERNERS ATTEND POPE BENEDICT'S MASS APRIL 17TH**
- **JOE BERGIDA & MIKE ISENBURG TO BEGIN THEOLOGY STUDIES IN ROME**
- **QUO VADIS DAYS 2008**
- **BISHOP LOVERDE ORDAINS TWO NEW DEACONS & THREE NEW PRIESTS**

HOLY THURSDAY BREAKFAST AND CHRISM MASS

On March 20th, our diocesan seminarians, home for Easter break, gathered early with Bishop Loverde to prepare for the annual Holy Thursday Breakfast for priests. The Office of Vocations sponsors this event in appreciation for the gift of every priestly vocation. The day before, Deacon Killian and Brendan Bartlett had assisted in purchasing the groceries and putting them in the school cafeteria so things were all set for the morning. Bishop Loverde had charge of cooking the scrambled eggs this year which he masterfully accomplished. Two seminarians, Jason Burchell and Keith Cummings, manned jumbo electric griddles on which they made dozens of pancakes—regular, blueberry and chocolate chip. Ordained in 2006, Fr. Bjorn Lundberg, who had helped at the breakfast during his seminary years, commented that it was great to be on the other side of the buffet line. Once all was ready, the seminarians saw to serving their guests and having a chance to visit with them afterwards.



SPRING NUN RUN APRIL 6TH

A van full of women discerners left Bishop O'Connell's parking lot early in the morning of April 6th. They were heading out on the Spring "Nun Run". Father Bashista drove them first to Woodbridge where they visited the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. These "Nashville Dominicans" staff St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School and graciously welcomed the group to the school library. After a few explanations about the liturgical style of the order whose spiritual father is the Spaniard St. Dominic, they led Morning Prayer in simple chant. Afterwards the group was treated to breakfast while the sisters shared information about the order and their vocation stories.



had. Father Bashista then celebrated Holy Mass for the women and the nuns in the monastery chapel. It was a blessed day for all especially for these women who are actively seeking to discover God's call in their lives.

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MEN'S DISCERNMENT VISIT TO ST. CHARLES SEMINARY

A group of men discerning the vocation to the priesthood made a trip up to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA the weekend of April 12-13th. There they enjoyed the seminary's house play, written by philosophy professor Dr. Atherton C. Lowry, ***Deliver Us from the Evil One: the Life of St. John Marie Vianney***, and toured the seminary. The trip included Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, as well as meals and lodging at the seminary. Father Bashista who led the trip was pleased to see the final performance and to share with the discerners a better sense of what seminary is all about.

Three of Arlington's seminarians, Ed Bresnahan, Joe Bergida and Steven Walker, had parts in the play. Joe, who is in Pre-Theology II, considered it an honor to have played the role of a parish priest. He commented that *"playing the role of Abbe Balley deepened my own desire to be a priest. This holy pastor encourages the young Jean Marie in the play, 'Do not give up your priestly hopes. God has singled you out for service at his altar. This is my conviction from the depths of my soul.' Memorizing my lines and seeking to embody the fatherly demeanor of Abbe Balley became like a prayer for me. In fact, that was what our director wanted—the play to be a form of prayer. Even though we spent 2 to 5 hours a night in practice many evenings leading up to the play, I think everyone would agree, that the spiritual rewards alone and a deepening in one's sense of vocation far out paid the sacrifice. And as our rector said, 'It was truly an edifying play'."*



Second Collegian Steven Walker felt privileged to have been able to work on this project. *"I came into the play knowing very little about the Cure d'Ars. But I left with a deep respect and admiration, and dare I say love, for that holy patron of all Parish Priests. For my fellow cast members and me, our greatest prayer was that by acting in this play we were able to impart to our audience that same sense of admiration for this country bumpkin who was set mad with love for God"*.

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DISCERNERS ATTEND POPE BENEDICT'S MASS APRIL 17TH



Well before dawn on April 17th a large group of men and women discerners, diocesan seminarians, and members of the Serra Club met Father Bashista in the parking lot of Our Lady of Lourdes. There he handed out 64 tickets to the Papal Mass at Nationals Park and, after a prayer of blessing, he led everyone to the Metro. The group had wonderful seats at the stadium, right on the first base line and directly over the entrance to the field which was used for the Entrance Procession. The wafts of incense from below provided a prayerful prelude to the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI's celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone was clearly delighted to be present and grateful to the diocese for providing the opportunity. Pope Benedict truly communicated his fatherly love through his joy and his message of hope in Christ.

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JOE BERGIDA & MIKE ISENBURG TO BEGIN THEOLOGY STUDIES IN ROME

Arlington seminarians Mike Isenberg and Joe Bergida will be joining Robert Wagner, Luke Dundon and Jeb Donelan in Rome next fall. Mike has completed his pre-theology formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg. Joe Bergida heads to the NAC from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania. While living at the Pontifical North American College, Mike will do his theology coursework at the [Angelicum](#) and Joe at the [Gregorian](#).



Joe Bergida considers that Mike and he “will be flying from Newark to Rome with seminarians from all over the States. We will be there for four years and won't return home for a visit during the first two. This made me think of how Jesus called his twelve apostles. He called them to leave behind their accustomed surroundings and way of life: Galilee with its boats and fisherman's nets, the tax collector's booth, the zealot's sword of revolt, and so forth. Jesus called these men to spend three years with him. Our going to Rome is an opportunity to experience more deeply what we have already entered into, this being called apart to be with Jesus. Of course, there is the whole cultural experience: many sites to see, good food to enjoy (pasta and gelato) the whole thrill (or terror) of something new, especially the Italian language. Yet, my excitement pales with the reality of being called to be with Jesus – by being near the His Vicar, the Holy Father, and dwelling in the same city where apostles and martyrs gave their lives. What a great gift! I pray that Mike and I take full advantage of this blessing in order to be a greater blessing to others.”

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QUO VADIS DAYS 2008

The Diocese of Arlington Quo Vadis Days 2008 will be held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD from Sunday, July 27 to Thursday, July 31. The camp is an opportunity for high school age Catholic men to deepen their faith, learn more about the priesthood and to better discern God's call in their lives. The theme this year is "This is My beloved Son; Listen to Him." The cost of attending Quo Vadis Days 2008 is \$50.00 with financial assistance available upon request.



With a blending of prayer, talks and a variety of recreation, participants in the 2007 Quo Vadis Days recommend it because *"it was fun and you got to know others and Christ better"*, *"It was a great way to make friends and get closer to God"*, *"It was a great experience and encouraged me to pursue my faith more actively and pray more deeply"* and *"I would like my friends to find the joy and goodness—"pearl of great price"—that I have found here"*.

For more information about registering for Quo Vadis Days 2008, call the Office of Vocations at 703 841-2514.

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BISHOP LOVERDE ORDAINS TWO NEW DEACONS & THREE NEW PRIESTS



June is the month especially dedicated to devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How fitting then that the Diocese of Arlington was blessed with Diaconate and Priesthood Ordinations on June 7th and June 14th respectively! Bishop Loverde ordained Matthew DeForest and Stephen Schultz as transitional deacons. Deacon Matthew will be serving at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More while Deacon Steve will be in Manassas at All Saints for his diaconal assignment. Our three newly ordained priests are Father Anthony Killian, Father Bill Korpi and Father Chris Vaccaro. Fr. Killian's parochial vicar assignment is at Blessed Sacrament in Alexandria. Fr. Korpi will be in Fredericksburg at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Holy Spirit Church will be home to Fr. Vaccaro during his first assignment. Please keep them and all the clergy in your prayers.

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

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