



FISHER'S NET

Diocese of Arlington Vocations *E-Newsletter*

Summer, 2008 - Vol. 4, No. 3

Visit our Web-Site: 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.

See end for subscribe and unsubscribe information.

Upcoming Events:

- 10/4 Quo Vadis Grps. DC United Soccer Game at RFK
- 10/18: "Cena de Gala" Hispanic Dinner Fundraiser
- 11/15: Parish Vocation Promoters Annual Workshop
- 12/20 Men's Group Day of Reflection
- 12/26-12/28 Hispanic Men Discern. Retreat
- 1/3 Sem. B-Ball Tourn. at JP the Great HS

See Web-Site for Details

HEADLINES:

- THE 'MASON-DIXON' SOFTBALL CHALLENGE
- OUR NEW DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS
- SERRA MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SEMINARIANS AND PARENTS
- CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS UPDATES
- ALTAR SERVER PICNIC
- SUMMER MEXICO STUDIES FOR THREE SEMINARIANS
- HISPANIC VOCATIONS MASS

THE 'MASON-DIXON' SOFTBALL CHALLENGE

2008 brought a change to our annual seminarian softball game. In our sixth year of play the Diocese of Arlington seminarians challenged the seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg. The game took place during Harrisburg's Quo Vadis Days camp at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD on June 25th at 3:30pm. As the visiting team, Arlington was first to bat and quickly scored six runs with hits by Nick Barnes, Robert Wagner, Brendan Bartlett, Ed Bresnahan and Mike Isenburg, and a three run home-run by Mike Bussman.



Harrisburg players faced Arlington's Mike Bussman on the mound on a perfect afternoon to play softball. Harrisburg was scoreless in the first, and scored a run in the second inning as both teams settled into their defensive game. Arlington's Rob Wagner hit a homerun in the 3rd making it 7-1 Arlington. Harrisburg rallied with four more runs in the 4th inning, bringing the score to 7-5. Arlington's Nick Barnes played exceptionally at shortstop during the 5th inning, making all three plays to retire the sides. Arlington continued their offensive edge widening the gap with three runs in the 6th and four in the 7th innings. The final score was Arlington 13, Harrisburg 6. Both teams had a terrific time and are looking forward to next year for another chance at the Mason-Dixon Softball trophy during Arlington's Quo Vadis Days camp at the Mount. After the game and evening prayer, the seminarians for both Arlington and Harrisburg enjoyed the great cookout hosted by the Harrisburg Diocese Knights of Columbus and Serra Club members.

OUR NEW DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS



Brendan Bartlett
St. Charles
Pre-Theology II
St. Leo the Great

Chris Christensen
St. Charles
Pre-Theology I
Our Lady of Angels

Juan Dominguez
Theological College
Third Theology
All Saints

Jim Hinkle
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
St. Ambrose

Luis Leon
Mount St. Mary's
Third Theology
Holy Family



Brian McAllister
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
St. Catherine of Siena

Fernando Mora
Josephinum
Fourth College
Blessed Sacrament

Joseph Rampino
St. Charles
First College
Holy Spirit

Scott Sina
Mount St. Mary's
Pre-Theology I
St. Rita

Andrew Starr
St. Charles
Pre-Theology I
St. James

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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SERRA MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SEMINARIANS AND PARENTS



August 9th offered perfect weather for getting together to celebrate the generosity of families whose sons are among our diocesan seminarians. The Serra Club of Arlington hosted the annual Mass of Thanksgiving and Picnic at St. Mary's Historic Church in Fairfax, VA. Bishop Loverde was the main celebrant and homilist for the Mass with Vocation Director Fr. Brian Bashista, Serra Club chaplain Fr. Robert Rippy and St. Mary of Sorrows pastor Fr. James Barkett concelebrating. In his homily Bishop spoke of the significance

of every vocation. He focused first on the call to holiness given every Christian as part of their baptismal adoption. He then referred to the vocation to marriage thanking all the parents for the grounding in faith and love which has fostered the holiness of their families. He pointed out that the family is the "first seminary" and it is there that the seeds of their sons' vocations were first planted. Bishop commended the seminarians for their openness to discerning the Lord's call to priesthood and their courage in following Him. Most of the seminarians for the diocese were able to attend with members of their families and enjoyed delicious picnic fare served by the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club of Arlington members.

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CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS UPDATES-SUMMER 2008

May 17: *Crystal Wirth* now *Sr. Maria Concordia, OSB* became a novice with the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles

June: *Fra Jacinto Chapin, FI* was ordained a priest for the Friars of the Immaculate

June 16: *Br. Michael Baggot* entered the cLC

June 16: *Br. Robert Wills* entered the cLC

August 8: *Tom Yergeau* became *Br. Maxmillian, OP* and received the Dominican habit

Sept. 8: *Sr. Henrietta Gomez (SV)* entered postulancy with the Sisters of Life

Sept. 8: *Sr. Diane Koner (SV)* entered postulancy with the Sisters of Life

Sept. 11: *Danny Heenan (FSSP)* entered the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Sept. 11: *Zach Akers (FSSP)* entered the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Sept. 20: *Sr. Jennifer Raimo, CSJB* professed first vows with the Sisters of St. John the Baptist

Sept. 23: *Sr. Jill Bohacik, (CFR)* entered postulancy with the Community of Franciscans of the Renewal

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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 14th. About 250 altar servers attended along with roughly 50 priests and seminarians which was a good turnout in spite of threatening weather that morning. 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 six area councils. Bishop Loverde awarded a variety of prizes to lucky ticket holders. Each of the boys and girls had received their ticket number when they went through the food line. Eighteen different prizes were donated by the Cathedral Council and the top prize was a \$100 savings bond. The picnic was a blessed time to shown support and gratitude for the faithful altar servers of our diocese.



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SUMMER MEXICO STUDIES FOR THREE SEMINARIANS



On August 2nd, three of our seminarians, Jason Burchell, Rich Dyer, and Will Schierer returned from Querétaro, Mexico where they had been enrolled in a language immersion studies program for eight weeks this summer with Organización Lingüística de Español (OLÉ). Jason, Rich and Will had had one year of Spanish studies in the seminary and only basic skill in this important language when they arrived in Mexico, but each of them grew in their ability to serve the Hispanic people of the diocese through their concentrated study and exposure to the culture.

OLÉ's program provided three hours of daily instruction, lodging and interaction with local families as well as opportunities to interact with and practice their new Spanish skills with seminarians from other dioceses. They prayed Morning Prayer in Spanish each day, attended Daily Mass at one of the approximately fifty Churches within a five mile radius, and had several weekend excursions, including a private Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and pilgrimages to the 18th Century Franciscan mission churches of the Sierra Gorda. Will commented that it was a wonderful blessing to pray and visit the churches founded by Blessed Junipero Serra, the great Franciscan missionary honored with a statue in the U.

S. Capitol as 'the founder of California'. Rich's fondest memories are from a weekend excursion the three took to the beach resort of Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo and its unforgettable fishing trip. Jason summarized the value of the Quéretaro, summer experience when he said, "Through their communication with us, and our attempts to communicate with them, we took our learning to another level, entering their world by crossing borders, opening our minds and hearts to their culture instead of constantly seeing them adapt to ours. We learned to pray just as we have been taught all our lives in a language that itself crosses borders."

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HISPANIC VOCATIONS MASS

On the twenty-second of June, the Church of St. Charles Borromeo hosted the first Diocese of Arlington Hispanic Vocations Mass. Bishop Paul S. Loverde was the main celebrant for the Mass during which he commissioned ten new Hispanic vocation promoters for the Hispanic community. It was a day of great blessings and hope for all who attended the Mass as well as for the entire diocese. Bishop offered words of inspiration to the new promoters. He reflected in his homily on how his parents were immigrants and that he himself possessed the heart of an immigrant.



Father Eugenio Hoyos, director of the Spanish Apostolate and concelebrant for the Mass commented later that it was a real heart-opener for many future vocations. New people came forward saying they were very interested and touched by Bishop's homily. After the close of Mass, the community gathered for a reception. They were very appreciative of Bishop Loverde's presence with them and many shared their thoughts and comments:

- *"It was wonderful to be with our leader in the church. I now truly feel loved by him."*
- *"I very much enjoyed seeing him amongst us, not separate, for instance, seeing him in the food line, eating the same food, accepting our culture so freely and naturally, without effort."*
- *"It's great knowing that we have an ecclesial leader who cares for us, a true Pastor."*
- *"Seeing him visiting the families, table to table, sharing in prayer with them, and inviting us to reflect was touching."*

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

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