

FISHERS *of* MEN

“Follow me, and I will make you...” Matthew 4:19

Volume 1 § Issue 2

Archbishop Shares Encouragement with Parents of Seminarians

“All of our seminarians come from families, and you give your sons to the seminaries, to Jesus Christ, in a trusting way.”

— Archbishop George J. Lucas

Archbishop George Lucas recently spent an evening with the parents of our seminarians, thanking and encouraging them during a social and dinner. The event gave parents a more intimate setting in which to meet the archbishop and to get to know one another.

Mrs. Valarie Conzett, who serves as director of the Family Life Office, also attended. She commented, “There was a delightful sense of the parents having a healthy respect and wonder for God’s potential call to the priesthood for their sons.”

She continued, “The parents had the ability to observe and support and be comfortable with a call to vocation that is not the norm in our secular world.”

Archbishop Lucas shared his morning practice of praying for the seminarians in his private chapel, where their photographs are prominently displayed.

“Surely this must be reassuring to every mother and father of a seminarian,” said Mrs. Conzett.

Each parent received a copy of the Handbook for Seminarians, so that each may be on the same page with



his or her son as he journeys through priestly formation. This time spent together encouraged everyone to ponder the mystery of God’s call, to pray for the young men who are responding to a priestly call, and to cherish the generosity of parents who have given their sons to follow the Lord. Please pray for God to bless and protect the parents of our seminarians. §

Totus Tuus Coming to the Omaha Archdiocese

With summer approaching, a new opportunity for young people is to be offered by the Office of Vocations. We are planning to pilot TOTUS TUUS this summer, with two teams to cover 13 different parishes predominantly throughout the rural parts of the archdiocese.

TOTUS TUUS is a weeklong parish mission conducted by a team of young college students and anchored by seminarians. The program will run June 5th through July 30th.

TOTUS TUUS catechizes our youth while giving seminarians and college students an opportunity to consider their callings through mission work.

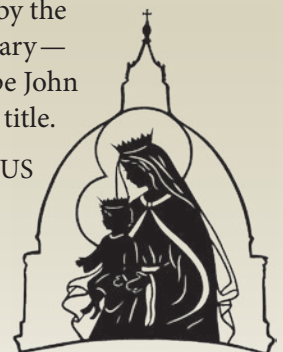
That’s why it is being piloted from the Office of Vocations.

Each team will feature one of our seminarians who conducted TOTUS TUUS last summer in the Diocese of Wichita. Both Brady Anderson and Matthew Niggemeyer said they had tremendous experiences with the program last summer.

Two college-age women from the archdiocese will be joined by one college-age young man on each team. The team of four conducts the high energy, weeklong instruction at a parish for all interested children. Grades 1-6 attend the morning session. Grades 7-12 receive an evening encounter.

TOTUS TUUS has been described as “Vacation Bible School on Catholic steroids.” While the Office of Vocations does not condone steroid use, we will offer TOTUS TUUS because it is a uniquely Catholic, educational program based on the Catechism and complemented by the mysteries of the Rosary—hence the use of Pope John Paul II’s motto as its title.

Look for TOTUS TUUS coming to a parish near you! §





News from the Office of Vocations

Father Paul C. Hoelsing—Director of Vocations

Videos Now Available on Archdiocese’s Website

The Office of Vocations recently launched a series of videos for the Archdiocese of Omaha website, capitalizing on the powerful media opportunities available on the Internet.

Four videos highlight the vocational discernment and priestly experience of three diocesan priests and Archbishop Lucas. Each contains a personal encounter and invitation. Two additional videos reveal the experience of our seminarians. At the college level, Mr. Matthew Niggemeyer offers a “day-in-the-life” presentation as a seminarian at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri. His video tour through the seminary and its daily schedule allows a man to see the healthy environment that permits him to listen more closely to God’s call.

Mr. Andrew Syring gives the viewer an encounter with Kenrick-Glennon seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he is completing his theological studies. Mr. Syring’s six years in the seminary give him the perspective to speak more reflectively about the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human formation that has permitted him to say “yes” to the Lord’s call with increasing conviction, freedom and joy.

In each of the six videos, the invitation is clearly made: “Do not be afraid.” These seminarians, the priests and the archbishop all clearly testify to this theme of following the Lord and finding their lives in Him. The videos bring to life the encouraging words of St. Andrew to his brother St. Peter, “Come and see.” ☩

Mark Your Calendar!

World Day of Consecrated Life
St. Patricks, Fremont, Nebraska

February 6th

Archbishop’s Spring Open House
St. Margaret Mary’s Suneg Center

June 6th 6:30—8:30 p.m.

TOTUS TUUS

June 5th—July 30th 2010.

Camp St. Michael

Elden F. Curtiss Youth Camp

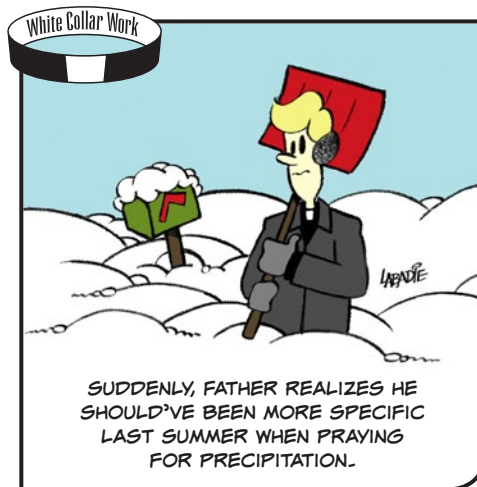
June 14th—16th: 5th & 6th Grade

June 17th—19th: 7th & 8th Grade

Blizzards Halt Seminarian Holiday Gathering

Every year, the Archbishop typically celebrates a Christmas party with seminarians, priests and young men as guests. The annual event is sponsored by the Serra Club of West Omaha.

The 2009 event was shaping up to be a very big party with nearly 40 priests, 40 prospective young men and many Serrans. Unfortunately, icy roads and looming snow made cancellation prudent, but certainly not desirable. We’ll have to wait ’til next year. ☩



ARCHDIOCESE of OMAHA OFFICE of VOCATIONS

100 North 62nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2795

Phone: (402) 558-3100
e-mail: vocations@archomaha.org
www.archomaha.org/vocations

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The Seminarian's Corner

Mr. Matthew Capadano — College IV

On the Road to O'Neill

In December, I finished the academic requirements necessary to receive a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Conception Seminary College.

This is a very unique situation because ideally, seminarians will graduate in May and enter Theology School in August. But that's not how it worked for me.

Because of this, I have the opportunity to serve in a parish in the Archdiocese of Omaha for the next six or seven months. I will be placed in O'Neill, Nebraska, serving St. Patrick's Parish and helping at St. Mary's School.

Conception has given me the academic and spiritual tools to do well anywhere

I go, but there are many benefits to finishing mid-year and going to a parish. In O'Neill, I truly hope to serve and learn from the people of the archdiocese, grow in pastoral formation and vocational discernment under two great priests, and learn about the rural areas of the archdiocese." ✚



Learning to Listen to God

Mr. Nathan Hall, our Newest Seminary Candidate

I was a 26 year-old structural engineer with increasing thoughts of priesthood. I was nervous because I thought I was in the prime time of building my life and career. Now I'm pulling the brakes?!

From minute one, Fr. Hoelsing made it known he was there as a guide. He genuinely wanted to help me find where God wants me, because God truly wants me where my labor will fulfill me.

Fr. Hoelsing wrapped up the first meeting by saying, "Also...relax. There are plenty of men that are called to be priests."

This wasn't recruitment by any means—it was discernment. He also gave me a great pamphlet I was to go over with my spiritual director. So over the next months I learned how to listen to God and what peace truly is.

Now I can say with confidence, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." ✚

FOCUS

Vision for Life

From the beginning of the school year, many UNO students began preparing to attend the FOCUS conference that would take place in Orlando, Florida.

All of the plans came to fruition recently as nearly 70 participants attended the conference. Departing by bus on December 29th, the students experienced the vibrant, five-day Catholic event with nine of our seminarians, each of whom has been involved or influenced by FOCUS.

At the conference, nearly 4,000 young participants from across the country were able to receive extraordinary instruction from A-list speakers and teachers, including Fr. Benedict Groeschel and Dr. Ted Sri.

Every Mass was beautifully celebrated by bishops and archbishops, including Bishop Finn, Archbishop Chaput and Cardinal O'Malley. During adoration in the New Year, nearly 2,300 students celebrated reconciliation with 80 priests in a three-hour period. Tremendous gifts of grace and mercy are still unfolding for all involved. ✚

Observing the Year for Priests

The Office of Vocations and the Family Life Office are hosting a theatrical production of the life of Saint John Vianney.

This dramatic performance has been made available to dioceses throughout the U.S. A traveling cast and crew present the life of the patron saint of priests to audiences. The program aims to educate and evangelize God's holy people regarding the gift and mystery that is the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Each evening performance takes place



in a different parish. In the Omaha Archdiocese, two rural and three urban sites will host the performance, potentially as part of an evening of reconciliation and Mass. Reviews and more information are available online at www.vianneydrama.com. ✚

UNO Students Participate in Eucharist Procession

Upon his arrival to Omaha, Archbishop George Lucas said, “The Archdiocese of Omaha is looking for men who are drawn to the Eucharist, find strength in participating in Mass, and relate to the Lord in Eucharistic adoration.”

Aligned with Archbishop Lucas’ insight about the Eucharistic devotion of young men considering the priesthood and in response to the general thirst for Eucharistic devotion that is evident among young people, the MAVCatholic students of UNO participated in an Eucharistic procession on October 1st. “MAVCatholic” is the collective name for students involved with Catholic Campus Ministry.

The date was chosen because it is the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness

of missionaries. Because a growing number of students are involved with FOCUS and the leadership of those missionaries, the feast of the patroness seemed most fitting for this inaugural occasion.

Mass was celebrated at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Parish. The Eucharistic procession followed at 8 p.m. and continued through the UNO campus. The Omaha Police Department graciously assisted as more than 120 students, local parishioners, high school students, and prospective candidates for priestly formation crossed Dodge Street.

After the procession, all were welcome to a reception in the parish’s Suneg Center. It was a great celebration of our Blessed Lord’s presence to us. ☩



Year for Priests Schedule of Events

The Life of St. John Vianney Production
May 2010

Deacon Ordination
Friday, May 28th 7 p.m.
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha
Reception to follow.

Pre-Ordination Prayer Service
Friday, June 4th 7 p.m.
St. Pius X Parish, 69th & Blondo, Omaha
Reception to follow.

Priesthood Ordination
Saturday, June 5th 10 a.m.
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha
Reception to follow.

**Archdiocesan Eucharistic
Week Holy Hours**
May 30th — June 5th
Praying for Vocations!