

JANUARY 2010
NEWSLETTER FROM THE
DIOCESE OF JOLIET VOCATION OFFICE

Fr. Burke Masters
402 S. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
815-834-4004

Happy New Year! I pray that this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and in your homes. I had a wonderful Christmas celebrating Mass and spending time with family and friends.

The week prior to Christmas was a busy one as we moved into our new residence on December 18th. Fr. Jim Lennon and I now have a new home and address, which originally was Bishop McNamara's home and most recently was the Religious Education Office for the Diocese of Joliet:

John Paul II House
430 N. Center St.
Joliet, IL 60435
815-722-7361
Fax: 815-727-4675

December was another eventful month! I met with **Javier Aguilera** and two Hispanic young adults to discuss how we can promote vocations better among the Hispanic community in our diocese. We decided to begin by starting a **Spanish Spirit and Truth** young adult group, which focuses on prayer and formation in the faith. We have found that several of our seminarians were part of our English Spirit and Truth groups in the diocese. I am currently looking at possible locations. We are hoping to begin some time in February or March. Please keep this initiative in your prayers.

On December 13th we had a record number of young men (during my four years as vocation director) attend our **Discernment Group** at the old Fiat House. Thirteen young men joined Fr. Dan Bachner, Fr. Pat Mulcahy and Fr. Nate Gohlke to discuss "What makes a good priest?" There seems to be a real spirit of community forming among the men who are discerning priesthood. It was nice to have a few young men who were home for college break to be able to join us.

On December 16th I celebrated a Mass for the **Blue Knights** at St. Patrick Church in Joliet. This is a group of home school families who are promoting the faith among the young men in their families. The boys meet monthly to learn about the faith, share in fraternal experiences, learn how to serve Mass, etc.

The first official event at the new John Paul II House was the annual **seminarian Christmas party with Bishop Sartain**. We began the day with morning prayer and then

we went bowling. Fr. Dennis Spies led the way with an outstanding 245 game. After lunch took some photos in the new house for Christ is Our Hope Magazine. We celebrated a Holy Hour and were joined by Fr. Bill Dewan and Bishop-Elect Siegel. Bishop Sartain and Bishop Imesch joined us for Mass and dinner and we finished the evening with a small gift exchange. It was a wonderful day of fraternity! Eight young men who are discerning priesthood joined us for the day.

Please help us promote the upcoming **Jeremiah Day**. We had to move it up this year due to some scheduling changes. Jeremiah Day is for 7th – 10th graders **at Mundelein Seminary January 16, 2010 from 9:30am – 5pm.**

Another highlight of January is **Vocation Awareness Week January 10-16, 2010**. This will be highlighted by seminarians preaching in the parishes throughout the month of January, but especially while they are home on break January 2/3 and January 9/10.

Two of our seminarians have decided not to continue for the next semester – **Michael Bannon and Larry Thill**. Please keep them in your prayers. On the other hand, **Ismael Munoz** has decided to return to seminary formation. He will begin at St. John Vianney College Seminary in January 2010.

Please keep our seminarians in your prayers, especially **Steven Borello, Franklin Duran and Bryan Johnson**, who are in the midst of a 10-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land as part of their formation at Mundelein Seminary. They spent Christmas in Bethlehem. Can you imagine a better place to be for Christmas?!

Also remember in a special way **Mike Pawlowicz and John Lovitsch** as they continue their studies at the North American College.

I have a blog which includes my daily Scripture meditations. Go to <http://frburke23.wordpress.com> to see the blog. You can subscribe to receive the daily “thoughts” on the front page of the blog.

Please check out our web site www.vocations.com for up-to-date activities and profiles of our seminarians.

Important dates for January

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Kearney – January 14

Bill Vagenas – January 16

VOCATION CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

January 2-3 – Seminarians speaking at Masses around the Diocese of Joliet.

January 3 – 12 noon Spanish Mass at St. Patrick's, Joliet.

January 7 - Spirit and Truth young adult group, 7-9pm, St. Jude Parish, Joliet.

January 9-10 – Seminarians speaking at Masses around the Diocese of Joliet.

January 9-10 – Fr. Burke preaching on vocations at all the Masses at St. Peter's, Itasca.

January 10-16 – Vocation Awareness Week.

January 11 – Vocation Day at Joliet Catholic Academy (JAVA).

January 13 – Fr. Burke speaking to 7th and 8th graders and their parents at St. Anthony's, Frankfort, 6-8pm.

January 14-16 – Official visit to Mundelein Seminary.

January 15-17 – Exploring Priesthood Weekend at Mundelein Seminary. This is open to all men who are juniors in college and older interested in learning more about seminary life. Contact Patty Drummond to register: pdummond@usml.edu or 847-970-4814.

January 16 – **Jeremiah Day** at Mundelein Seminary. This is for boys in grades 7-10 who are interested in learning more about the seminary. Registration begins at 9:30am and the day will finish around 5pm. Contact the Vocation Office at 815-834-4004 or noral@dioceseofjoliet.org to register.

January 17 – Fr. Burke celebrating 9:30am Mass at St. Anthony, Joliet.

January 18 – 5pm Solemn Vespers for priests and seminarians at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center for Bishop-Elect Siegel (formal attire).

January 19 – 2pm Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Joseph Siegel, Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet.

January 20 – 2pm JAVA meeting.

January 20-23 – March for Life in Washington D.C.

January 24 - Fr. Burke celebrating 9:30am Mass at St. Anthony, Joliet.

January 24 – 3-6pm Discernment Group at new John Paul II House, 430 N. Center St., Joliet, IL 60435. Topic – The Eucharist in the life of the priest. Contact the Vocation Office at 815-834-4004 or noral@dioceseofjoliet.org to register.

January 26 – 7pm meeting with Spanish young adult group to further plan for the Spanish Spirit and Truth.

January 27 – 6-8:30pm JAVA Vocation night for Generations of Faith at St. Bernard's in Homer Glen.

January 28 – 7-9pm Spirit and Truth young adult group, St. Jude's, Joliet.

January 29 - 6-8:30pm JAVA Vocation night for Generations of Faith at St. Bernard's in Homer Glen.

January 30 – 10am-12:30pm JAVA Vocation day for Generations of Faith at St. Bernard's in Homer Glen.

January 30-31 – Fr. Burke preaching on vocations at all Masses at St. John the Baptist in Winfield.

Important Vocation Dates in the coming months:

February 6-7 – Fr. Burke speaking at all Masses at St. Joan of Arc in Lisle

February 8 – Operation Andrew Dinner with Bishop Sartain at St. Isidore Parish, Bloomingdale, 6-8pm.

February 11-13 – Visit to St. John Vianney College Seminary.

February 13-14 – Fr. Burke speaking at all Masses at St. Joe's in Manhattan.

February 14 – Discernment Group meeting.

February 24 – Fr. Burke speaking at Lecture Series at St. Joe's, Joliet, 7pm.

March 5-15 – Pilgrimage to Rome with Bishop Sartain and official visit to North American College.

March 17 – Discernment Group meeting.

March 18 – Operation Andrew Dinner, St. Joseph, Bradley 6-8pm. (NOTE – changed from March 3!)

March 24-26 – Official visit to St. Meinrad Seminary.

March 27 – 9-11am, Quo Vadis meeting for boys in grades 7-10.

April 1 – Holy Thursday Mass at Cathedral with Bishop Sartain 7pm followed by young adult pilgrimage to several Joliet churches.

April 11 – seminarian parent gathering, 3-5pm.

General Information

- 1) You are welcome to write to our seminarians and let them know of your support. It is very important to realize that they are not alone in this mission to serve the Lord in the Diocese of Joliet. If you'd like to "Adopt-a-Seminarian", please contact the vocation office. Or you can go to http://vocations.com/seminarianbios_09-10/index.htm to find the seminarian pictures, biographies, address and birthdays. Their names and addresses are attached at the end of this newsletter as well.
- 2) Thank you to all of the **parish vocation committees** for all that you are doing in your parishes to support vocations! Your support is so helpful to me since I cannot be present at all 121 parishes of the diocese. If you do not have a parish vocation committee and would like to start one, please call me and we can help you start this important ministry in your parish. If your parish has not yet received its two binders on how to start and develop a vocation committee, please contact our office. We currently have about 60 parishes with active Vocation Committees. My goal is to have all 121 parishes with Vocation Committees within five years.
- 3) It is my goal to visit every parish over the next 4-5 years and preach about vocations at all of the Masses. This has been a joy in my first 3+ years in the

office as I have met so many wonderful people who are very supportive of vocations. Please call my office if you would like me to come speak at your parish 815-834-4004.

- 4) We are planning to take our seminarians to World Youth 2011 in Madrid, Spain with Pope Benedict XVI. We are raising funds now for the trip so if you'd like to make a donation, please make checks payable to "Diocese of Joliet Vocation Office" and mail to

Diocese of Joliet Vocation Office
Rev. Burke Masters
402 S. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446

Thanks again for all that you do. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or you have ideas to support vocations.

For Vocations,
Fr. Burke Masters
Frburke23@aol.com

Joliet Diocesan Seminarians 2009-2010

(Summer Addresses may be different)

(updated January 2010)

Seminary Addresses:

Mundelein Seminary

1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

St. Meinrad Seminary

200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1301

The Pontifical North American College

00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary

3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

St. John Vianney College Seminary

Mail # 5024
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095

Conception Seminary College

P.O. Box 501
Conception, MO 64433

Deacon Raed Bader

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 5/20
4th Theology
Parish: St. James, Glen Ellyn

Steven Borello

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 12/10
3rd Theology
Parish: St. James, Glen Ellyn

Shaun Cieslik

Conception Seminary College
P.O. Box 502, 37174 State Highway VV
Conception, MO 64433
DOB: 7/24
2nd College
Parish: St. John the Baptist, Winfield

Thomas Dunn

St. Meinrad Seminary
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1301
DOB: 2/20
Pre Theology - 1
Parish: St. Michael, Wheaton

Franklin Duran

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 3/26
3rd Theology
Parish: St. Pius X Parish, Lombard

Deacon Stephen Eickhoff

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 11/2
4th Theology
Parish: Our Lady of Mercy, Aurora

Felix Esquivel

Conception Seminary College
P.O. Box 502, 37174 State Highway VV
Conception, MO 64433
DOB: 8/14
3rd College
Parish: St. Mary's West Chicago

Vicente Fernandez

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 8/10
1st Theology
Parish: St. Mary's, West Chicago, IL

Sebastian Gargol

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324
DOB: 4/30
2nd Theology
Parish: Ascension of Our Lord Parish,
Oakbrook Terrace

Bryan Johnson

Mundelein Seminary
1000 Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 3/4
3rd Theology
Parish: SS. Peter & Paul, Naperville

Michael Kearney

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 1/14
1st Theology
Parish: St. Raphael, Naperville, IL

Chris Lankford

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #2268
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 11/28
2nd College
Parish: Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills

Deacon John Lindsey

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 8/21
4th Theology
Parish: Visitation, Elmhurst, IL

John Lovitsch

North American College in Rome
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
DOB: 11/28
1st Theology
Parish: St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield, IL

Matthew Malicki

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #1996
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 8/07
3rd College
Parish: Maternity B.V.M., Bourbonnais

Deogratias Massawe

St. Meinrad Seminary
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1301
DOB: 3/31
3rd Theology
Parish:

Deacon Joshua Miller

Mundelein Seminary
1000 Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 7/22
4th Theology
Parish: St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield

David Mowry

Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 7/11
1st Theology
Parish: St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn, IL

Ismael “Ish” Munoz

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 4/25
2nd College – St. John Vianney College Seminary
Parish: St. Mary, West Chicago

Mike Pawlowicz

North American College in Rome
00120 Vatican City State
Europe
DOB: 7/16
1st Theology
Parish: St. Joan of Arc, Lisle

Gabriel Payne

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #7192
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 2/5
4th College
Parish: Sacred Heart, Lombard

Jacob Pratscher

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #1619
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 12/17
1st College
Parish: St. Andrew Parish, Romeoville

Paul Solomon

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #3393
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 10/10
3rd College
Parish: Sts. Peter & Paul, Naperville

Sam Sorich

St. John Vianney College Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue, Mail #6626
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
DOB: 5/13
3rd College
Parish: St. Joseph, Bradley

Deacon Jason Stone

Mundelein Seminary
1000 Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 10/21
4th Theology
Parish: St. Walter’s Parish, Roselle, IL

William Vagenas

Mundelein Seminary
1000 Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060
DOB: 1/16
2nd Theology
Parish: St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale