



# Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

January-March 2012

9292 Broadway • Merrillville, IN 46410 • 219.769.9292 • www.dcgary.org

## New Seminarian Accepted for the Diocese of Gary

Once in a while, God grants someone a special gift, the gift of knowing early on in life where they find their joy. For several years now, Adam Antone of St. Patrick Church in Chesterton has known that he finds his joy in ministering in Christ's Church. At the same time, Adam has been dreaming about the possibility of being a parish priest.



Adam is the son of Pat and Fran and the brother of Pat (Jr) Antone. After attending St. Patrick Elementary School, Adam attended Chesterton High School. When he is not studying, Adam is involved at his school in community service and in supporting the various sports teams. Most of his free time, however, is spent in helping his parish as an altar server and as an instructor in the religious education program.

After finishing high school this year, Adam expects to begin seminary at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis next fall. While in seminary, Adam will continue to discern God's will for his life as he learns more about the priesthood and works toward a degree in Catholic Studies.

As Adam prepares to enter seminary, please keep him in your prayers. May God help him know his vocation and accept it with a generous and courageous heart.

## A Letter from Seminarian Roque Meraz

After having been away for almost twelve years, I went back to Mexico. It has been almost five months since I arrived. At first, it felt strange to be back because I am here alone. Most of my family and friends are back in the US and I miss all of them so much. However, the Lord is working on me and showing me that no matter where He calls me to be, He will be there to help me. This time has not been easy, but the Lord is giving me strength to stay true to my vocation during this difficult time away from the diocese.

This time has been filled with new experiences. One of the most amazing ones was December 12<sup>th</sup> the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. This is the first time that I've been to the basilica on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was the most amazing experience seeing the faith of the people. That is something I will never forget. More than eight million people visited the shrine in two days. I also had the blessing of serving at Midnight Mass on Christmas.

I had the opportunity to consecrate my vocation to our Lady of Guadalupe. I also prayed for all the people of the Diocese of Gary, asking Mary's intercession for more vocations to the priesthood in our diocese. I kindly ask that you keep me and all the seminarians of the Diocese of Gary in your prayers, and please know of my prayers for you.



## Seminarians of the Diocese of Gary

Though the seminarians are caught up in beginning new classes and participating in extracurricular activities, they also participate in spiritual, pastoral and human formation. Amidst this business, certain formation milestones occur each semester.

In February, Jordan Fetcko will be instituted into the ministry of lector, promising to proclaim, study and teach the Sacred Scriptures. Deacon Jaime Perea will take a weekend assignment here in the Diocese of Gary beginning in March. This will be his last internship before his anticipated ordination to the priesthood in June.

Please keep the seminarians of our diocese in your prayers as they seek to learn more about God's gifts to them and His call.

## A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience By Deacon Ben Ross

To be with the Holy Father for Christmas Midnight Mass was a privilege and a blessing. There are so many things that I could mention about this experience. I am most happy that it was so amazingly beneficial for my friends and family to see me on television for the Christmas celebrations.

A question that I have received and one you might be asking is, "What was it like?" It was quite incredible to be sitting next to the Pope and to look out at all the people in the basilica.

It was quite humbling to see the priests, bishops, cardinals and dignitaries all sitting out in the crowd. It was also quite odd when processing down the aisle just in front of the Holy Father as cameras were flashing and people were shouting, "Viva il Papa!" (Long live the Pope!)



To be honest I was nervous. From that morning when we had the practice with the Master of Ceremonies until entering the basilica that evening, I was nervous. The Lord gave me a great gift of peace during the liturgical celebration. I attribute this gift to the Holy Father's prayerfulness which drew me into the Eucharistic celebration. Pope Benedict is a great witness to me for my vocation to the priesthood to always prepare well for and prayerfully celebrate the Mass no matter what occasion or circumstances. The Eucharist is life's most precious gift, because it is the gift of Jesus himself.

## Vocations Calendar

13-15 January	Mundelein Seminary Exploring Priesthood Weekend
9-14 January	National Vocations Awareness Week
17 January	Sacred Heart Seminary Day of Discernment
26-29 January	Sacred Heart Seminary Discernment Weekend
17-19 March	Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary Information Weekend
22-25 March	Sacred Heart Seminary Discernment Weekend
30 March	Jordan Fetcko Installation as Reader
20-22 April	Mundelein Seminary Exploring Priesthood Weekend



## Support Vocations! - National Vocations Awareness Week January 9-14

On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the Lord called out to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Immediately, they left their nets and followed Him. (Mt 4:19-20)

In Christ, we have the assurance of the promise that God will always provide for the Church, and He will do so by using those whom He is calling and gifting for a particular ministries in the Church: priests, deacons and women and men religious. From among our families, parishes, schools, and workplaces, Christ is asking for some to enter into the service of the Church with a commitment of their whole lives.

The covenant promise to them is that if they follow Him, love and serve as He loves and serves, He will lift them up and bless them with a new mission among men. They will participate in His mission of drawing people into closer relationship with the Father.

Regardless of our vocation, God is calling us all to help build a culture where everyone is open to following the Lord, where everyone is ready to immediately leave all behind and follow Him. For when we help others follow Christ, we help them find the joy that God has always intended for them, in whatever way of life He is calling them to live.