



Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

April-June 2012

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

Seminarian Jordan Fetcko Instituted as Lector



Bishop Pfeifer and Jordan Fetcko

One of the reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council, was a reform of what used to be called the “minor orders”. The orders of porter and exorcist were abolished, and the orders of lector and acolyte became instituted ministries. Pope Paul VI had the intention that after an appropriate time of discernment and preparation, some in the Church would make a public commitment to serving through these ministries. The Church, represented by a bishop, would receive this commitment and formally institute these men as either an acolyte or a lector. In practice, these ministries are taken on by those preparing for ordination as either a permanent deacon or a priest.

On Wednesday, 8 February, Jordan Fetcko was instituted as a lector. Bishop Michael Pfeifer, the Bishop of San Angelo (Texas), acting for Bishop Melczek, presided at the evening liturgy. Jordan and thirty-eight of his first theology classmates were called to the bishop, who to each in turn directed, “Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His people.”

Lectors are instituted to serve the Church by proclaiming the Word in the liturgical assembly, teaching the faith to children and adults, and by bringing the message of salvation to those who have not yet heard it. In order to do so effectively, instituted lectors are challenged to meditate on the Word so that they might have a deeper love of the Scriptures and show forth Jesus to the world.

Summer as a Seminarian of the Diocese of Gary

For seminarians, the approaching summer means a break from studies and a chance to put into practice what they’ve been learning throughout the school year. Very often, as it is this year, that also means ending one chapter and beginning another.

For two seminarians, Deacons Jaime Perea and Ben Ross, this Spring will not only bring a completion of studies, but will also mark the end of their seminary days. More importantly, it will also mark the time for their commitment to serve the diocese as priests.

The other seminarians know that the approaching summer means new opportunities for discernment and formation, new experiences, new people and new ministry opportunities. Some will be working in parishes, and some will be traveling to Mexico to immerse themselves in the study of the Spanish language and the Latino culture.

Summer internships are important for many reasons. These experiences help the seminarian learn more about their gifts and how they might use them for God’s glory and for the salvation of souls. Discernment of God’s

will for their vocation can also be clarified during an internship. Internship experiences also give the bishop, clergy and people of the diocese an opportunity to discern the seminarian’s gifts and whether those gifts might be what the Church needs from her priests.

May the Lord help our seminarians grow in love through their experiences of formation and discernment.



Seminarians of the Diocese of Gary

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

“God is Love”

Every year since 1963, the Fourth Sunday of Easter has been designated as Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Paul VI and every pope since has asked us as Catholics to remember our pastors and pray that the “Master of the Harvest to send out laborers for His harvest”. (Mt 9:38)

In his message to Catholics in anticipation of this event, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that it is because of God’s love for us that He calls us to know His joy. As unique persons, God calls and gifts us in unique ways. Pope Benedict writes, “Every specific vocation is in fact born of the initiative of God; it is a gift of the Love of God!” As God has given us His love, so He wants us to know love and to give love to others. The Holy Father continues, “Through prayer, constant recourse to God’s Word and to the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, it becomes possible to live a life of love for our neighbors”.

His Holiness desires that every parish community will become a place “where vocations are carefully discerned and their authenticity tested, places where young men and women are offered wise and strong spiritual direction” so that the “Christian community itself becomes a manifestation of the love of God in which every calling is contained”.

Each of us can do our part in realizing this desire. Spirituality Commissions can write intercessions and sponsor prayer events. Teachers and catechists can invite a priest, deacon, sister or seminarian to speak about discernment and vocation. Parish Life groups can sponsor a “Meet the Seminarian” event. Children can draw posters. Even shut-ins can offer a novena for vocations. When we all work together to bring about God’s will, our Church and our world more completely reflect His glory.

As we in the Diocese of Gary keep this year’s World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 29 April, let us turn to the Lord who loves us. Let us together ask God to inspire our daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, friends and fellow parishioners to courageously and generously follow where God is lovingly leading.

Vocations Calendar

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 22-24 March | Sacred Heart Seminary Discernment Weekend |
| 11 April | Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary Seminary Information Day |
| 20-22 April | Mundelein Seminary Exploring Priesthood Weekend |
| 23 June | Holy Angels Cathedral Ordination to Order of Priest for the Gary Diocese |



Support Vocations!

Mention the word ‘vocations’ to some people and the first thing that comes to their mind is the apparently low number of men in seminaries or men and women in religious houses of formation. I think that’s unfortunate.

When we think of vocations, I wish that our first thought would be joy. If we believe that God desires for us to know joy, and that in His wisdom He knows what way of life would bring us the greatest joy, then we’d also believe that He calls and gifts us for a way of life where we will know joy. One way joy comes to us is in giving and receiving love whether from a spouse, a community of religious, or a parish family.

The Easter Season is the time when we’re invited to know the joy of the Resurrection, the joy that comes from knowing God has perfectly loved us in Christ Jesus. This year we also know joy in that God has loved us by giving us two new priests for our diocese. May they know God’s joy throughout their ministry. May we know joy in knowing that God has loved us and will always care for us with a Father’s love.