



# Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

April-June 2014

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## Seminarians Instituted as Lectors

Following the Second Vatican Council, the minor orders of porter and exorcist were abolished, and the minor 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, would receive this commitment and formally institute these men in ministry. In practice, these ministries are received by those preparing for ordination as either a deacon or a priest.



Nate Edquist, Father Mick, and Greg Bim-Merle

On Wednesday, 19 February, Greg Bim-Merle and Nate Edquist were instituted as lectors. Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, acting for Bishop Melczek, presided at the evening liturgy. Greg, Nate, and twenty-eight of their 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.

## Reflection on Pilgrimage by Seminarian Mark Muzzillo

The grace of this pilgrimage is even more awesome than I had imagined. To be in the holy sites and really know what they mean to me, to our Church, and to God's revelation of Himself to humankind through what happened here is simply overwhelming at times.

I understand the statement I had heard from others who were able to visit the Holy Land – that once you have been here, you never read the bible the same way again. The references to different things in nature (hills, stones, the importance of water) and to the different places where things happened (wells, caves, Sea of Galilee, "high places" etc.) take on such a rich meaning.

Within that environment, my own prayer life has been very blessed and deep. I cannot tell you how moving it was to pray at the crypt of the Annunciation at 5:30 am – right after the Basilica over it opened and there was no crowd. I wept at 6:00 when the Angelus bells rang over my head knowing that Mary was visited by the angel right there! Truly, I will never experience the Angelus the same way.

After Bethlehem we went to Nazareth – and then spent time at a beautiful place on the Sea of Galilee.

Our time is actually very busy. We have two days of class each week. We also have our prayer time and Mass together. And on days there is no class we go to the different holy places.

We will finish in Jerusalem. We visited the museum dedicated to the Dead Sea Scrolls – it was fascinating! We also had Mass at the place of Calvary. It was so moving. We speak of the "Sacrifice of the Mass". I cannot tell you how moving it was to have Mass at the very place where Jesus sacrificed Himself for all of us.

*Note: Seminarians Mark Muzzillo and Jordan Fetcko spent a total of ten weeks in the Holy Land with thirty of their classmates and several seminary faculty members. They returned home in late March.*

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

“Vocations: Witness to the Truth”

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 Francis begins by instructing that it is God Himself Who planted the harvest, the harvest of grace, His presence and action in the world personified in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Father continues, “Every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to centre one’s life on Christ and on his Gospel. Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking and acting that do not conform to the will of God. It is an “exodus that leads us on a journey of adoration of the Lord and of service to him in our brothers and sisters”.

This “exodus” is a journey to be taken both by all who are on the journey, not only those called to lead. Pope Francis asks all bishops, priests, religious, Christian communities and families to work in an intentional way by helping young people on the path to holiness by use of time-tested ways and new associations of the faithful.

In concluding his remarks, the Holy Father writes, “The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and lived in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives.”

As we in the Diocese of Gary keep this year’s World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 11 May, 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

12-14 April

Mundelein Seminary

Exploring Priesthood Weekend

17 May

Parish Vocations Ministry Workshop & Andrew Dinner

7 June

Cathedral of the Holy Angels

Ordination to Orders of Priest and Deacon for the Diocese of Gary

17-20 June

Bishop Brute Days Camp (for ages 13-17)



## Support Vocations!

By Baptism, each of us is called and gifted by God to love, to care about the needs of others and to do what we can to assist them in their needs. This is the “Universal Call to Holiness”. We are most fully human, made in the image of God, when we love. Our greatest joy should be in the giving and receiving of love.

Our individual vocations are also bound up in love. God calls and gifts each of us in a unique way to find joy in giving and receiving love. God calls married people to know joy in giving love to and receiving love from a spouse. He calls consecrated religious to know that joy in their community. He calls priests to find joy in giving love to and receiving love from a parish family.

The Easter Season is the time when we are 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 a new priest and two new deacons 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.