



Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

July-September 2011

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

God Blesses Diocese of Gary with New Deacons

On Saturday, 4 June, twelve men of the Diocese of Gary were ordained to the order of deacon for service to God and the people of this diocese. Those who received the sacrament of Holy Orders by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands, included ten men from our parishes who will serve as permanent deacons. Also ordained were two men who are in seminary preparing themselves to serve God and the Church as priests. These men are Deacon Jaime Perea and Deacon Ben Ross.

Deacon Jaime Perea has been in formation at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois since 2006. This summer, Deacon Jaime will be fortunate to serve with and learn from Fr. Mens and the people of St. Mary Church in Griffith and St. Ann Church in the Black Oak section of Gary.

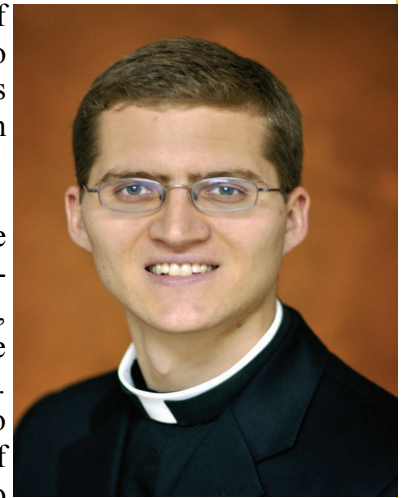
Deacon Benjamin Ross began formation in 2006 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Minnesota and at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. During this summer, Deacon Ben will minister with and

learn from Frs. Yadron and Holy and the people of St. Thomas More Church in Munster while also learning more about pastoral care with the patients and staff of St. Margaret Mercy Hospital in Hammond.

During the rite of ordination, Bishop Melczek received the new deacons' promises to exercise ministry in humble charity, to teach the faith according to the Gospel and the Church's Tradition, to pray daily for and with the Church, and to be respectful and obedient to the Bishop of Gary. Deacons Jaime and Ben also promised celibacy, to forego marriage for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. The bishop encouraged all the deacons to remain faithful to the hope promised by the Gos-



Deacon Jaime Perea



Deacon Benjamin Ross

pel they proclaim as he said, "Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

As deacons, these twelve men are called to put themselves at the service of our bishop, our priests, and the people of God in the Diocese of Gary. In fact, the word 'deacon' comes from the Greek word 'diakonia' meaning 'service'. They follow in the tradition of St. Stephen, St. Lawrence and the many holy deacons whose stories are known throughout the Church's history, offering themselves in love wherever the Church had need of their ministry. By special association with the bishop, deacons administer Baptism, distribute Holy Communion as ordinary ministers, officially witness marriages in the name of the Church, bring Viaticum to the dying, proclaim the Gospel and instruct the faithful, preside over worship, give blessings, and officiate at rites of Christian funerals. In our diocese, many faithful deacons have served for decades in parishes, jails and prisons, hospitals and nursing homes, and wherever God has called them to support the ministry of the bishop.

Please keep our new deacons in your prayers as they seek to serve God and serve His Church. May God grant them many years of faithful and fruitful ministry to Him and to His Church.

Summer for Seminarians

The seminaries where our seminarians study do a wonderful job of preparing men for priesthood. Ministry as priest to a diocese, though, means more than how to be a priest. A good priestly formation must also help future priests know the particular history, liturgical tradition, devotional life, cultural influences, and specific needs of the people in a diocese. It remains the job of the bishop, Vocations Director, pastors, and people of the diocese to do that. To help with that goal, seminarians participate in various types of formation programs during the summer months. This summer, our seminarians are involved in parish ministry and ministry to those with special needs.

Seminarians Chris Stanish, Jordan Fetcko, Roque Meraz, Greg Bim-Merle, Nate Edquist, Steve Kolodziej, and Robert Sarwacinski will all be serving in parishes this summer. The parish community at Holy Spirit in Winfield will have a seminarian for the first time this summer as they welcome Chris Stanish to both minister and learn. Meanwhile, the parishes of St. Andrew in Merrillville, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Eliza, and St. John the Evangelist in St. John will have seminarians with them for the first time in a long time. Jordan Fetcko, Robert Sarwacinski and Steve Kolodziej will be mentored in those parishes. St. Bridget in Hobart, St. Casimir in Hammond, and St. Mary in East Chicago, three parishes experienced in forming seminarians, will be guiding the formation of Greg Bim-Merle, Nate Edquist and Roque Meraz, respectively. A special thanks to the pastors and people of all these parishes who generously help form our future priests.

In addition to parish ministry, Jordan Fetcko will spend six weeks ministering and learning as a camp counselor at Camp Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie. During those six weeks, Jordan will help the campers experience fun, fellowship, adventure, affection and togetherness.

Over the course of the summer, the seminarians will also spend time together discussing their experiences, learning from each other about fraternity and ministry, and praying together asking God to help them discern His call and gifts and to help them have courageous and generous hearts. May God bless them as they continue in discern-

Vocations Calendar

4 June	Holy Angels Cathedral Ordination to Order of Deacon for the Gary Diocese
16-19 June	Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary Bishop Brute Days Camp-Retreat
1 July	World Day of Prayer for Priests
7-9 October	Mundelein Seminary Exploring Priesthood Weekend



Support Vocations!

Summer is a time for marking endings and beginnings. All over the diocese, young people are graduating from schools and saying “goodbye” to the familiar. At the same time, many of them will begin studies at new schools or be looking for new jobs. “Hello” and “welcome” will be recurring greetings. Many engaged couples use this time to mark the beginning of their new, married life together.

Summer is also a time for remembering the past and dreaming of the future. Many young people are dreaming about what life will bring, who will be important in their lives and where is God intending them to find joy. Many are thinking about their vocations.

Together as bishop, clergy, religious and lay Catholics, we owe it to each other to help discern God’s call and His gifts, and to encourage each other in accepting and living this call.

This summer, as many experience endings and beginnings, let us ask God to help them know His love as they mark new moments in their lives, and to embrace the joy God intends for them in their vocations.