



Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

July-September 2012

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God Blesses Diocese of Gary with New Priests

On Saturday, 23 June, two men of the Diocese of Gary were ordained to the order of priest and to share in Christ's ministry of preaching, shepherding and sanctifying God's holy people. Those who received the sacrament of Holy Orders by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands, were two men who spent several years in seminary preparing themselves to serve God and the Church as priests.

Father Jaime Perea was born in San Jose de la Isla, Zacatecas, Mexico to Jaime and Juliana Perea and is the second of seven children. After graduating from college in Mexico with a degree in accounting, Fr. Jaime



Fr. Jaime Perea

came to the United States, eventually arriving in East Chicago where his sister, Aurora was living. As a parishioner at St. Mary Church, he was helpful in various ministries and was known by many to be a man of prayer. It was then that he began thinking about priesthood with the encouragement of his pastor, Fr. Steve Gibson.

In 2006, Fr. Jaime began his seminary formation at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. While at Mundelein, he has worked hard to do very well in his studies, has held various elected positions, and has generously offered himself in his pastoral assignments. Most of all, Fr.

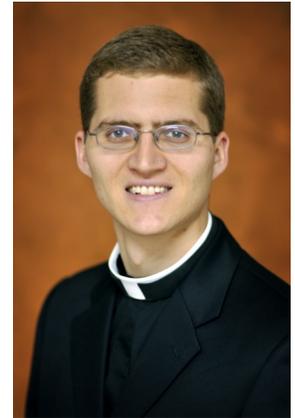
Jaime has been known to be a great man of prayer. In 2010, he participated in an internship at St. Paul Church

in Valparaiso where he made many friends and learned much about parish ministry from Frs. Joseph Pawlowski and Michael Hoffman. Last summer, Fr. Jaime was fortunate to serve and learn from Fr. Theodore Mens and the people of St. Mary Church in Griffith and St. Ann Church in Black Oak. Bishop Melczek has assigned Fr. Jaime as Parochial Vicar of St. Paul Church.

Father Benjamin Ross was raised in Highland by his parents, Thomas and Rose Ann Ross, and is the oldest of six children. He attended Highland High School and Franciscan University before being accepted as a seminarian. Fr. Ben has been a parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Hammond, St. James the Less Church in Highland, and is currently a parishioner at St. Stephen, Martyr Church in Merrillville where his uncle, Fr. Michael Maginot, is pastor. In the parish, he was an altar server and helped with the CCD program.

In 2006, Fr. Ben was accepted as a seminarian for the diocese and began his priestly formation at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Minnesota. After completing his degree, Fr. Ben began his theological studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. While in Rome, he has done exceptionally well in his studies and has revealed a heart disposed to helping the poor. Most people know Fr. Ben from his articles that ran in the *Northwest Indiana Catholic* newspaper over the last couple of years. During last summer, Fr. Ben ministered to and learned from Frs. Michael Yadron and Richard 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. Bishop Melczek has assigned Fr. Ben as Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas More Church.

Please keep our new priests in your prayers as they seek to minister to the Church in Christ's Name.



Fr. Benjamin Ross

Two Seminarians Accepted for the Diocese of Gary

One of the most exciting developments in vocations ministry in the Diocese of Gary was the recent acceptance of two new seminarians, Jeff Burton of Assumption Parish in New Chicago and Mark Muzzillo of St. Noel Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jeff Burton is the son of Barbara and Robert Burton, and the brother of Ryan. After graduating from Portage High School, Jeff went to Valparaiso University where he graduated with a degree in New Media-Journalism and Political Science. Since finishing college, Jeff has worked as a reporter for two regional newspapers covering many different kinds of news stories. When he is not working on a news report, Jeff has been very involved in his parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin in New Chicago, working in various liturgical and service ministries.

Jeff has been accepted at Sacred Heart Major Seminary where he will spend the next two years completing background studies in philosophy and theology. At the same time, he will be learning more about what it means to be a catholic priest, while discerning the ways that God has called and gifted him.

Mark Muzzillo grew up in Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio. After finishing high school, Mark attended the University of Detroit where he completed a degree in Philosophy, and the University of Notre Dame where he earned a doctorate in civil law. During this time, Mark discerned and began formation with the Society of Jesus. After discerning that his call was elsewhere, he worked as an attorney and later as a nursing home administrator and a tour group business owner. In time, Mark began discerning the diocesan priesthood, and after taking a brief leave from formation, renewed his vocational discernment.

Mark has been accepted at Mundelein Seminary where he will continue his theological studies. He will also continue to discern God's will for his life and his openness to participating in God's plan.

As Jeff and Mark enter this new phase of their lives, and of their discernment of God's call, please keep them in your prayers. May God help them to know their vocations and to accept them with generous and courageous hearts.

Vocations Calendar

4 June	Holy Angels Cathedral Ordination to Order of Deacon for the Gary Diocese
1 July	World Day of Prayer for Priests
7-9 October	Mundelein Seminary Exploring Priesthood Weekend



Summer for Seminarians

A good priestly formation must also help future priests know about their diocese and its people. It takes many people to help them learn that. Seminarians participate in various types of formation programs during the summer months. The priests and people of St. Thomas More, St. Mary (East Chicago), St. Casimir, St. Joseph (LaPorte), St. Matthias, St. Andrew, St. Michael, and St. Bridget are all giving of themselves to help form future priests.

In addition to parish ministry, three seminarians spent time in Mexico learning about the Mexican culture while practicing their Spanish language skills. One seminarian, besides serving in a parish, is spending time as a camp counselor at Camp Sharing Meadows, a camp for other-abled persons.

May God bless our seminarians as they continue in discernment and formation.

Support Vocations!

June 23 was a day of joy in our diocese as we saw two men ordained as priests. Family, pastors, friends, and fellow parishioners all thanked God for this blessing.

Each person takes their place not only in the joy, but in the labor that goes into discerning, forming, encouraging and correcting those called by God to serve as priest.

May God continue to call those whom He wishes to serve as priest. May we all cooperate with His love in taking our own part in fostering priestly vocations.