



# Diocese of Gary

## Vocation Office Newsletter

### OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2008

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## Ten Reasons for Hope in the Diocese of Gary

The Church in northwest Indiana has ten reasons to be hopeful for the future and they recently returned to the seminary to continue their preparation for the priesthood. God has blessed the Diocese of Gary with 10 men who are courageously responding to the priestly call. They range in ages 19-43, come from eight parishes throughout the diocese, and each man has experienced God's call in a unique way. The seminarians are also gifted men with talents that range from fluency in multiple foreign languages (French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin) to musical composition and performance.

The photograph on the left was taken on June 7, 2008 following the ordination of Fr. Richard Holy, Fr. Mick Kopil, and Fr. David Link. The seminarians are (from left to right) **Jordan Fetcko** (II College at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary), **Thomas Oram** (II Theology at Theological College), **Jaime Perea** (I Theology at Mundelein Seminary), **Ted Mauch** (III Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary), **Mark Cregger** (II Pre-Theology at Mundelein Seminary), **Stephen Kolodziej** (I College at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary), **Christopher Stanish** (III College at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary), **Benjamin Ross** (I Theology at Pontifical North American College, Rome), **Roque Meraz** (II College at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary), and **Mark Kurowski** (Pastoral Associate at St. John the Evangelist Church, St. John). †



## Vocation Office Web Page Gets a Face Lift

Websites have become primary sources of information-even when it comes to vocational discernment. In order to provide seekers with helpful information in an attractive and user-friendly format, the Diocese of Gary recently hired Catalyst Marketing Innovations, LLC to re-design the diocesan website. The new look includes an eye-catching color scheme, simpler navigation, and refined information.

Paula Trout, a representative from Catalyst Marketing Innovations, asked each office coordinator in the Pastoral Center to provide information for their own page on the site. Information on the Vocation Office web page includes frequently asked questions, brief biographies of the seminarians and vocation director, contact information, the newsletter, Prayer for Priests calendar, links to a variety of websites including communities of religious women, the Vatican, other sites of interest, and indicators of a priestly vocation. In the future, the users can find brief vocation reflections, information about upcoming events, descriptions of the seminaries used by the diocese, and a video presentation that highlights ministry in the Diocese of Gary.

To view the new Vocation Office webpage and to explore the ministry in the Diocese of Gary, please go to [www.dcgary.org](http://www.dcgary.org). †



## View from the Vineyard

By Fr. Kevin Huber,  
Vocation Director

Dear Friends,

On August 4, 2008, Bishop Melczek celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. Richard Ameling, Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Merrillville. I was sitting in the sanctuary and during Mass I looked up to see every bench, pew, and chair occupied and people lined up against the wall for the 75-minute celebration. I could not help but reflect on the impact Fr. Ameling made on the lives of the people who gathered on the rainy, humid day. I wonder if Fr. Ameling was surprised by the crowd!

In recent years, the Diocese of Gary has mourned the premature death of influential priests such as Fr. John Ambre, Fr. Richard Ameling, Fr. Edward Kennedy, Fr. Francis Lazar, Fr. Bill Martin, and Fr. Tony Valtierra. At their wakes and funerals, hundreds of women, men, and children filled church buildings. Lay people, priests and deacons traveled from the furthest points of the diocese to celebrate the contributions that each priest made during his years of ministry. The presence of so many people is an eloquent testimony of their ministry and their witness.

Even as I mourn the death of these men, I am also inspired to follow their example and make a contribution to the Catholic community and to the larger community. These men shared a variety of gifts: kindness, compassion, time, a sense of humor, vision, passion, and a willingness to meet people in their suffering. Judging from the participation at their funerals, these gifts made a difference for many people. This is what priests and religious can offer and this is what the faithful want: Witnesses of the kingdom of truth, justice, peace, forgiveness, and mercy.

On November 2, we will celebrate All Souls Day. As we remember the deceased priests and bishops of this diocese, please pray with me that their spirit of generosity may continue to swell in the hearts of priests and their intercession may lead many men and women to answer God's call to a life of witness as priests and consecrated religious!

Yours in the Lord Jesus,

*Fr. Kevin Huber*

## Three Ways to Remember Priesthood Sunday

October 26, 2008 will mark the annual remembrance of Priesthood Sunday. This nationwide event is coordinated and sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International. According to the website, [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org), Priesthood Sunday is more than an opportunity to focus on a particular priest, Priesthood Sunday is the chance for the laity to reflect upon and affirm the central role of the priesthood in the life of the Catholic Church. Priesthood Sunday is also a powerful opportunity for parish priests to reflect on their experience of being called and the priests who inspired them.

The lay faithful of all parishes in the country are encouraged to develop their own special way of marking the occasion of Priesthood Sunday. Below are three ways to remember Priesthood Sunday. More information and other ideas can be found at [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org).



- Coffee cake reception following Masses
- School essay, poster or poetry contest
- Photograph and biography of parish priests in the bulletin

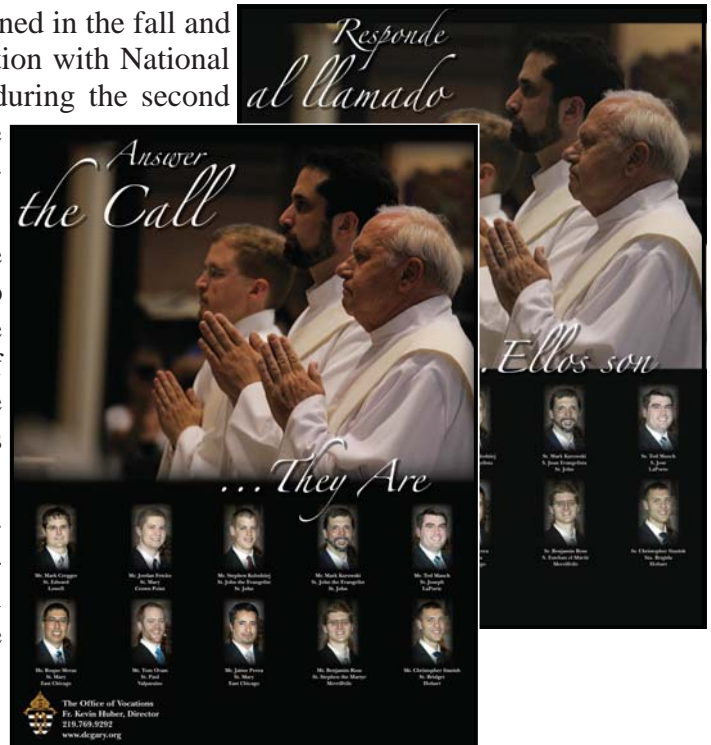


## Vocation Awareness Posters Ready for Viewing

Normally, the vocation awareness poster is designed in the fall and distributed to diocesan parishes and schools in conjunction with National Vocation Awareness Week, which is commemorated during the second week of January. To prolong the life of the poster, the Vocation Office designed the poster which was distributed in the first half of the month of September.

Highlighting the three men ordained to the priesthood in June 2008, the poster prompts viewers to “answer the call” to the priesthood. Photographs of the 10 men preparing for priestly ministry in the Diocese of Gary are included, as well. The posters will also feature English and Spanish translations, printed on both sides of the paper.

The posters were printed and sent to pastors, directors of religious education, principals, Knights of Columbus and Serrans at the end of September. If you would like to obtain a poster, please contact the Diocese of Gary Vocation Office to submit a request. †



## Local Women Progress in Religious Life

While the primary mission of the Diocese of Gary Vocation Office is to promote vocations to ordained priestly ministry in the Diocese of Gary, the Vocation Office also supports women’s religious communities in their effort to promote vocations to the religious life. The Vocation Office is happy to highlight two women from the Diocese of Gary who recently entered more deeply religious life in different religious communities in the Midwest.

**Sr. Gayle Lynn Rusbasan, O.S.F.** professed her perpetual vows as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart on August 2, 2008. She is from originally from Merrillville and was a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish. Sr. Gayle’s parents, William and Carol Rusbasan, continue to live in Merrillville and actively participate in the life of their parish. Sr. Gayle received her BA in Theology/Philosophy from St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, IN and her MA in English from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. She currently ministers as a campus minister at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN.



**Sr. Veronica Lopez, O.S.F.** professed temporary vows for a period of three years as a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana on August 10, 2008. Sr. Veronica is from Hammond, Indiana and claims St. Joseph Church as her home parish. After completing a BS degree in Nursing and working in the medical field for 20 years, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis three years ago. She is currently a nurse at Our Lady of the Angels Retirement facility for the Sisters of St. Francis in Mishawaka. Sr. Veronica is also a student at the University of Notre Dame where she is enrolled in theology classes. †

## Discernment Weekends Scheduled at Seminaries

The Vocation Office will sponsor three trips to seminaries this Fall for discernment weekends. Discernment weekends are opportunities for men ages 14 and older to experience daily life in the seminary, to meet and spend time with seminarians from around the country, attend classes, and to find time for prayer and reflection about the possibility of a priestly vocation. Highlights during the weekend include vocation stories offered by the seminarians, tours of seminaries and schools, athletic competition that includes, but is not limited to, soccer, basketball, racquetball, swimming at some seminaries, and plentiful food. All of the seminarians in formation for the Diocese of Gary have participated in discernment weekends and have found them very helpful.



The dates and places are as follows:

**October 10-12, 2008 at Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois**

**November 1-3, 2008 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, Minnesota**

**November 23-26, 2008 at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, Michigan**

If you are interested in participating in a discernment weekend, or know someone who is open to the opportunity, please contact the Vocation Director, Fr. Kevin Huber, at the Diocese of Gary Vocation Office, 219-760-9292, or send an e-mail to [khuber@dcgary.org](mailto:khuber@dcgary.org), for more information. †

## Formation Isn't All Prayer and Study

Before they started their summer assignments, the Diocese of Gary seminarians asked for a brief retreat to promote fraternity, recuperate from the anxiety of studies, and prepare for the rigors of their summer assignments. May 29-31, 2008, nine seminarians participated in a two-day retreat at Mount Alverno Convent at the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, Indiana. Their time of retreat included two reflections each day, Mass, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and time to watch a movie or two.

The highlight of the retreat came on the first evening of the retreat when the sisters challenged the seminarians to games of water balloon volleyball and badminton. Judging from the photographs below, you can decide who won these hotly contested games! It is true...formation is more than just prayer and study. It's also about competition and playing by the rules! †



Sr. Veronica and Ted Mauch prepare to cradle the incoming water balloon. They were successful!



Sr. Lucetta, Jordan Fetcko, Mark Cregger, and Fr. Kevin Huber are ready to begin the badminton competition!