Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Father John Horn, SJ, IPF Co-Founder, Named as Rector-President of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

The Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, announced today that Father John Horn, S.J., has been selected as the rector-president of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, the seminary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Father Horn, a member of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, and a co-founder and Director of Program Development for the Institute for Priestly Formation, Omaha, will begin his duties as rector on July 1, 2011.

In making the announcement, Archbishop Carlson said, “I have had the privilege of working closely with Father Horn in his leadership of the Institute for Priestly Formation and in his work as a spiritual director for diocesan priests. I know him to be a man of deep faith who loves the Church and her priests, and I am confident that he will provide outstanding leadership as rector and president of our seminary, carrying out the vision of the Program of Priestly Formation #115 which sees spiritual formation as ‘the heart of seminary life and . . . the center around which all other aspects are integrated.’”

Father Gabuzda, Executive Director of the Institute for Priestly Formation, pointed out how Father Horn’s mission with the Institute for Priestly Formation has uniquely prepared him for this new undertaking. “For over sixteen years, Father Horn has served as spiritual director and teacher to many seminarians and seminary faculty members. He has likewise been a leader in the Institute’s plans to deepen its commitment to ‘forming the formators,’ i.e., providing programs which help foster the growth and development of all those who are involved in the process of priestly formation. He comes well-equipped to help implement Archbishop Carlson’s vision for Kenrick-Glennon which honors the Church’s desire to place spiritual formation at the heart of all priestly formation.”

The Institute for Priestly Formation, which offers programs of spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians and priests, has enjoyed a close working relationship with Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for a number of years. Many seminarians from the Archdiocese have participated in the Institute’s ten-week program of spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians. In addition, numerous faculty and spiritual directors from Kenrick-Glennon have attended other Institute programs over the years.
Father Horn will remain an associate member of the Institute for Priestly Formation and will continue to serve on its Mission Advisory Council. The Institute plans to conduct a search for a replacement for Father Horn to take over his responsibilities at the Omaha office of the Institute, said Father Gabuzda.

The Institute for Priestly Formation, a Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha, was founded in 1994 and since 1995 has been located in Omaha on the campus of Creighton University. According to the Institute’s Mission Statement, it was founded “to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. The Institute responds to the need to foster spiritual formation as the integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation.”