Dear Friends,

M y life will never be the same! These words were spoken by a seminarian who attended the Institute’s retreat for vocation directors. This retreat, which will take place February 14-16, will offer you an opportunity to explore the spiritual and material aspects of your vocation through a lively and thought-provoking encounter with the Spirit of God.

As our mission grows, we remain ever more dependent on your prayers and sacrifices. We are grateful that this summer the Lord also called ten individuals to our service as seminarians and priests to live their vocations to be “sons” of the Father have provided new energy for the lives of priests and future priests, and place for the Lord to act powerfully, changing the lives of priests and future priests, and so right spirit for the Church who are capable of showing the Lord’s love to others as well.

May the Lord bless each of you as He alone knows how and as He lives as well.

Richard J. Gallagher

The Institute for Vocation Formation

Three Honored with Our Lady of Guadalupe Award

The ten saints of the first class of candidates include the following:
- St. Hilary
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- St. John Vianney
- St. Frances de Chantal
- St. Mary of the Angels
- St. Peter Claver
- St. John Berchmans
- St. Isidore of Seville
- St. Maria Goretti
- St. John Vianney

These candidates were chosen in June during the celebration of Mass.

Remember IPF in Your End-of-Year Tax Planning

W ith all approaching, many begin to think about tax planning. There is an attractive tax planning incentive which expires at the end of the year. Congress provided a short window to allow individuals to transfer tax-free from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charity.

Here is a quick overview:
- Donors must be age 70.5 and older.
- A rollover can be made in any amount up to $100,000.
- Gifts must be made directly to the charity from your IRA.
- Gifts from a 401(k) are not eligible but it may be possible to roll funds from a 401(k) to an IRA and then to the charity.
- Gifts are tax deductible.

This provision is obviously specific but it can be advantageous to individuals if they are in a position to allocate more in a given year. If age 70.5, one is obligated to start taking the required minimum distribution from an IRA or 401(k) or else the money is not needed. Making a donation to a charity will satisfy the minimum required distribution (including up to the maximum limit of $100,000) and avoid having to claim it as taxable income.

For Nebraska, there is an added incentive for charitable giving. Effective January 1, 2006, taxpayers are eligible for an annual state tax credit of up to $5,000 for charitable gifts made to Nebraska charities. Donations are also subject to the Federal tax deduction, so gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. Donors can take advantage of this full tax deduction of the gift of income interest due credit equal to 10% of the gift on their Nebraska income tax; some planned gifts can be complicated and the tax credit in isolation alone, donors should check with their tax advisor. Contributions by Nebraska income taxpayers are also eligible to make similar donations.

Your continued support of the Institute is greatly appreciated and urgently needed to further our mission.

P. Thomas Pogge, I.P.F. Founders’ Executive Director

Embrace the Healing Power of Christ in the Eucharist

T he Eucharist stands at the core of Catholic imagination and practice. It is the reaching out and drawing through time of the mystery of Christ’s salvific self-offering and through the ministry of the priest from within Christ’s own Christ. This offer of salvation in each of this offer is the scandal of Christ is oriented to respond in love, vulnerability and trust to the deepest level of our being.

When faith commits itself to this offer of the Church, the life of Mary is entrained into silence, contemplating all the things these things in her heart and for the Church and in the Church living, Christ’s way to always and everywhere achieve God of love so that the lives of each and every one so that the Church’s vulnerability before this gift is real, then participation in the Eucharist changes. Here personal history and personal suffering can be addressed here.

It is said that the Eucharist is the place where salvation is offered and it is said that the reception of such salvation by persons and people a conscious appropriation of the saving love of or simply a radically context of act of worship. All person of God is oriented, without the lives of participants, so that being can remain an interior reality hidden, unknown to the heart. The healing known in the Eucharist in one that Christ goes through and our lives. Our lives. Our groans, our pain, our need for healing must be satisfied.

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IPF Foundation Executive Director
MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute for Priestly Formation has been founded to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Working as a complement to already existing programs of seminary formation, the Institute responds to the need for a more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation.

The Institute for Priestly Formation
Creighton University
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Omaha, Nebraska 68178-0300

Please visit our web site at www.creighton.edu/ipf/

Hahn Special Guest of Celebration of Priesthood Day and Dinner

Dr. Scott Hahn was the keynote speaker that evening at the annual banquet where he spoke on topics of spiritual formation.

Both events were exceptionally successful in educating attendees as to the mission of the Institute.

Summer Programs Expand and Grow in God’s Honor

A new program was added to the IPF summer schedule on the Creighton campus this year with hopes of it becoming an annual occurrence. Dr. James Keating led a retreat designed for seminary theologians. Ten participated in the foundation course.

The retreat led faculty into a greater appreciation of their vocation of serving the spiritual formation needs of future priests. The goal of the retreat was to assist theologians and philosophers in recovering the spiritual core of seminary academics and drawing it out for seminarians to contemplate and then articulate. Participants regarded a sense that their ‘professio’ is truly a call from God.

Jant Smith, professor at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit commented, ‘I feel privileged to have been part of this inaugural retreat and can recommend it enthusiastically to others.’

The enrollment in the 10-week Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians hit an all-time high of 137, including seminarians from 30 dioceses across the nation.

Two priests from Thailand attended the program in hopes of creating a similar experience for other priests and seminarians in their home country.

Participants grew in holiness through daily prayer and one-on-one spiritual direction. Through apostolic work at many social agencies in Omaha, the seminarians were able to focus on the interplay between theology and practical faith.