



From Our Executive Director ...

Dear Friends,

My life will never be the same! These words were spoken by a seminarian who attended the Institute's ten week program for diocesan seminarians this past summer. He was just one of 137 seminarians in this program (a record number) and yet his words echo the experience of so many whom we were privileged to serve in all three of our summer programs for diocesan seminarians and priests. Deepening experiences of their identity as "beloved sons" of the Father have provided new energy for seminarians and priests to live their vocations to be "on mission" with Jesus as his priests and future priests.



Father Richard Gabuzda

As we abide in gratitude to the Lord for these graces, we are especially grateful that this summer the Lord also called ten individuals to our first retreat for seminary faculty members. This great gift has moved us forward in our call to work more with seminary formation personnel, helping them appreciate the centrality of a deepening relationship with the Lord in all of seminary formation.

In this regard, we are delighted that the leadership of the National Association of Diocesan Vocation Directors has invited IPF to present a retreat for vocation directors. This retreat, which will take

place in February of next year, will further extend our mission of helping to "form the formators."

As our mission grows, we remain ever more dependent on the prayers and sacrifices of our many friends who continue to support this important work in the life of the Church. We thank all of you who so generously offer the spiritual and material means for us to continue to serve diocesan priests and seminarians. You are helping us provide the time and place for the Lord to act powerfully, changing the lives of priests and future priests, and so supplying priests for the Church who are capable of being the Lord's instruments for changing others' lives as well.

May the Lord bless each of you as He alone knows how and as He alone knows best!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Richard J. Gabuzda

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda
The Institute for Priestly Formation

Three Honored with Our Lady of Guadalupe Award



The 2007 recipients of the Our Lady of Guadalupe medallions are Margaret Schlientz; Bishop Samuel Aquila, Fargo Diocese; and Fr. Joseph Kelly. They are pictured with IPF founders Fr. Richard Gabuzda, Fr. John Horn, Fr. George Ashenbrenner, S.J. and Kathleen Kanavy.

The Awards were conferred on June 13th during the celebration of Mass.

Summer Programs Expand and Grow in God's Honor (continued from cover)

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Christopher West, Catholic author and speaker, best known for his work on Pope John Paul II's series of audience addresses entitled the *Theology of the Body*, addressed the seminarians on Christian Spirituality and Sexuality.

Twenty-two participated in the 30-day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola while 10 Seminary Spiritual Directors gathered here for a three week seminar occurring simultaneously with the other summer programs. Together with the IPF faculty and spiritual directors, well over 200 participated in the summer programs, a new record!

At right: Omaha Serra Clubs hosted the summer



Remember IPF in your End-of-Year Tax Planning

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

Here is a quick overview:

- ◆ Donors must be age 70.5 and older.
- ◆ Gifts to charity 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 free to the donor.

This provision is obviously limited to a specific group but it can be advantageous to an individual if there are funds in a retirement account that will not be needed. Generally, at age 70.5, one is obligated to start taking the required minimum distribution from an IRA or 401(k), even if the money is not needed. Making a donation to a charity will

satisfy the minimum required distribution (up to the maximum limit of \$100,000) and avoid having to claim it as taxable income.

For Nebraskans, there is added incentive for charitable giving. Effective January 1, 2006, taxpayers are eligible for an annual state tax credit of up to \$5,000 for planned gifts earmarked for endowments of charities based in Nebraska. As noted in the last IPF newsletter, the Institute has created the IPF Foundation, a Nebraska not-for-profit entity which has received 501(c)(3) designation, so all gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. Donors can take either an income tax deduction of the gift or obtain a tax credit equal to 15 percent of the gift on their Nebraska tax return. Since planned gifts can be complicated, and this tax credit is relatively new, donors should check with their tax advisor. Corporations paying Nebraska income taxes are also eligible to make similar donations.

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

P. Thomas Pogge, IPF Foundation Executive Director

Embrace the Healing Power of Christ in the Eucharist

The Eucharist stands at the core of Catholic imagination and practice. It is the reaching out and down through time of the mystery of Christ's salvific self offering in and through the ministry of the priest from within Christ's own Church. This offer of salvation is such that the bride of Christ is invited to respond in love, vulnerability and trust at the deepest level of Her being.

When fully conscious of this offer, the Church, like Mary, is stunned into silence, contemplating all these things in Her heart. He died for the Church and yet, through signs, Christ left a way to always and everywhere access His act of love so that the salve of its truth might anoint Her. If the Church's vulnerability before this gift is real, then participation in the Eucharist changes Her moral character over time.

It is said that the Eucharist is the place where salvation is offered, and so it is; but is the reception of such salvation by priest and people a conscious appropriation of its healing power or simply a rubrically correct act of worship? All worship of God is virtuous; without the love of participants we know that liturgy can remain an inert reality barely welcomed into the heart. The healing known in the Eucharist is one that Christ grants through His power and our faith. Christ is a healer. The leper said, "Lord, if

you wish you can make me clean." Jesus replied, "Of course I will it." (Mt 8:1-4). Are we eager recipients of the gifts He wants to give us? In the Mass the healing of sinful affections may happen at such deep levels as to escape our capacity to articulate it. God answers our groans, our sufferings, with the silent coming of the Holy Spirit...instilling within us the reality of Christ living His Mysteries over again in our lives. Our groans, our pain, our need for healing is met by the silent power of Love itself taking up residence within us. Our free "yes" meets the free gift of the mystery of Christ's self-offering upon the cross, reaching new depths within us; thus in this HOLY COMMUNION we are healed in peace, not with emotional upheaval or storm...but as quietly as the epiclesis (the renewing Spirit) itself.



Rev. Mr. James Keating

Deacon James Keating, Ph.D., Director of Theological Formation



Hahn Special Guest of Celebration of Priesthood Day and Dinner



IPF welcomed Scott Hahn to Omaha April 14, 2007. Dr. Hahn, a nationally known author and popular speaker, gave talks during the day to a sell out crowd, reflecting on his book *Lamb's Supper, The Mass as Heaven on Earth* and on forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Dr. Hahn was also the featured speaker later that evening at the annual banquet where he spoke on priests as "spiritual fathers".

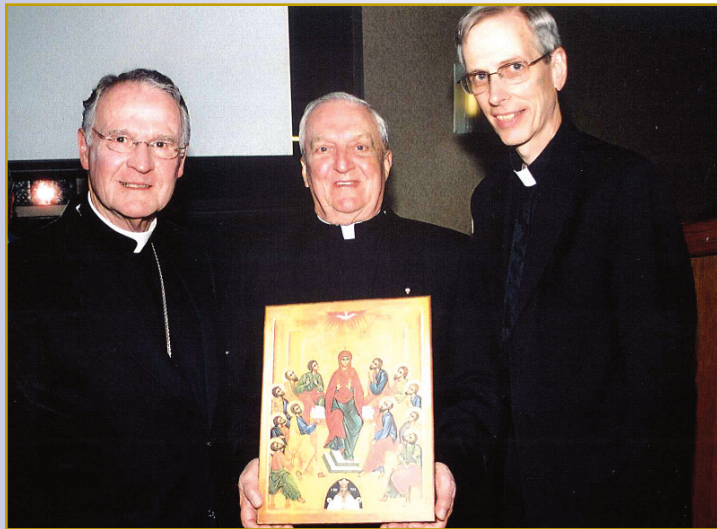
Both events were exceptionally successful in educating attendees as to the mission of the Institute.



Top: Scott Hahn spoke to IPF supporters at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha.

Middle: Dedicated IPF supporters Mary Lindsay, Joyce Duffy and Betty Shrier pose for a photo op with Scott and Kimberly Hahn at the annual IPF banquet.

At left: Msgr. Andrew Meister, priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha for over 60 years, standing between Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss and Fr. Richard Gabuzda, was presented with the Institute's Pope John Paul II Award for Priestly Service at the annual banquet in April.



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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. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, the Institute's programs present a spirituality that can inspire, motivate and thus sustain the busy daily lives of contemporary diocesan priests.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Summer Programs Expand and Grow in God's Honor



Thai priests, Fr. John Somchai and Fr. Peter Charoen, present Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss with gifts from their native land.

A new program was added to the IPF summer schedule on the Creighton campus this year with hopes of it becoming an annual occurrence. Deacon James Keating led a retreat designed for seminary theologians. Ten participated in the foundational 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 regained a sense that their "profession" is truly a call from God.

Janet Smith, professor at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit commented, "I feel privileged to have been part of the

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 50 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.

