MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) 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 dioceses of the U.S. work to meet the challenge of the 21st century. The Institute directly serves diocesan seminarians and priests, as well as those who are responsible for diocesan priestly formation.

Make your donation to IPF at our redesigned website: www.creighton.edu/ipf/whygivetoipf

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION
Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68178-0207


CENTER FOR PRIESTLY SPIRITUALITY UNVEILED

At its annual Celebration of Priesthood dinner held in Omaha on March 29, 2008, the Institute announced plans for its new Center for Priestly Spirituality. The Center will facilitate implementation of IPF’s ever-expanding mission and vision for the spiritual formation of diocesan priests and seminarians in the United States and beyond.

This will be a center where seminary faculty, spiritual directors, bishops, and external formation personnel can come for training, seminars, retreats and sabbaticals to strengthen their own interior growth and deepen their unique mission in priestly formation. The Institute will develop a resource library on diocesan priestly identity and spirituality that serves priestly formation personnel.

The building will also serve as the center for all activity of the Institute for Priestly Formation. It will provide a space for administration and operations which is easily identifiable and accessible to all constituencies; in addition it will house IPF Publications which produces printed materials in support of the Institute’s Mission.

The Institute has worked with a local architectural firm to design a building of beauty that uplifts the heart to be drawn into deepening communion and healing through Mary’s heart into the heart of the Trinity. The Center will be dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Center, to be built on ground leased from St. Cecilia’s Cathedral parish in Omaha, features a Spanish design in order to reflect the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The design also incorporates the Spanish motif of the near by Cathedral.

Building on the long and excellent relationship between Creighton University and IPF, the 10 week summer seminarian program will continue to be held on campus, making use of Creighton’s classrooms, residence halls, fitness center, etc. The new Center will be approximately one mile from Creighton’s campus. The providence of the new location connects the beauty of being in close proximity to the archdiocesan cathedral, so important to diocesan priests and seminarians, with the continuing availability of Creighton’s facilities and technical support.

The structure is currently being put into place to facilitate a national campaign to raise the necessary funds to build and endow the Center and to further finance the expansion of its spiritual formation programs. For more information about the building and the campaign, or to discuss a gift to the Institute, please contact Father Gabuzda or Tom Pogge at 402-546-6384 or ipf@creighton.edu.
REALIZING THE FATHER’S LOVE

“I honestly would not want to be ordained without IPF. How can you be a holy priest, a father to your people, and a minister of the church without truly knowing the love of the Father for you, his son?”

Scott Wallisch, Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
In MEMORY of:

JOHN P. DUFFY
by Mrs. Joyce Duffy
ANN DUTCHUK
by Mr. Luke Schweitzer
PHIL AND MARIE FROST
by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stratman
GEORGE, JOSEPH AND LAWRENCE
GARUBUDA
by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Gabuzda
JOHN AND BERNITA HOLLIS
by Rev. Mark Hollis
AGNES AND REUBEN HUSSMAN
by Mrs. Elaine Hussman
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES LONGO
by Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Brown
FRANCIS E. MURPHY
by Rev. William F. Murphy
Letitia S. O'Mara
by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Aschenbrenner
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Aschenbrenner
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Connolly
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Connolly
Mr. and Mrs. Alice Daly
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Daly
Mrs. Joyce Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. James Dunlap
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dyer
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Haney
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Krames
Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Lampe
Mr. and Mrs. Virginia Lee
Robert McCaffery
Mr. and Mrs. Tim McMahon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pagge
Mr. and Mrs. William Ramsey
Mr. and Mrs. Betty Shriver
Mr. and Mrs. James Sullivan
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Tomassi
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ulling
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wiester
Mrs. Mary Wiley

In HONOR of:

MATILDE ARJONA
by Maria E. Arzno
REV. GREGORY BAXTER
by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Conzett
MR. AND MRS. RICHARD BENE
by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dyer
REV. M. WASSEL AND HERMINE DUDA
by Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Wayt
Mr. MICHAEL CEPEPO
by Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Mendez
MARY JANE CHRISTOFFERSEN
by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ryan
MIGUEL ANTONIO DE LA FE
by Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Mendez
MR. ROBERT T. DONALDSON
by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sommer
REV. MSGR. WILLIAM FITZGERALD
by Mr. Claire McSwiney
Mr. AND MRS. DAVID HANFELDT
by Mrs. Joseph Galvez
REv. JOSEPH HANFELDT
by Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Blanchard
DR. AND MRS. DAVID HOOVER
by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Kreski
REV. CARMELO JIMENEZ
by Mr. Bruce Paco Macion
Mr. TUCKER LUTTER
by Mr. and Mrs. Lea Lutter
MR. MICHAEL MICALISTE
by Mrs. Anne VoelDullan McAlister

LEN A REIS
by Rev. Edward Michalek
REV. MSGR. FRANCIS L. SHERMAN
by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Krehm
KATHLEEN SPECK
by Mrs. Carol Landford

IPF Becomes a “Public Association of the Faithful”

On March 25, 2008, Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss, Archbishop of Omaha signed a decree recognizing the Institute for Priestly Formation as a Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha. A ‘public association of the faithful’ is an officially recognized body in the Church which receives a mission from the Church to achieve the purposes of its ‘charism’ (the gift which the Holy Spirit has given to it).

The particular gift of IPF constitutes a ‘way of Christian spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians and priests’ so that they might realize their unique call to holiness as ‘contemplatives even in action.’

The unique call to holiness for the diocesan priest leads to the holiness of the lay faithful to whom they are sent.

As a Public Association of the Faithful, IPF will gather to itself ‘members’ of the Association. These members may represent any call to holiness in the Church, including laymen and laywomen. Members of the Public Association of the Faithful are called to support, nurture and promote the charism of IPF, offering a concrete expression of availability and co-responsibility for its mission. Members are identified as ‘Friends’ or ‘Associates.’ The first is a broader affiliation, the latter is more in-depth.

IPF Publications Debut With Book on Priestly Character

The publication of a new book entitled Reclaiming Our Priestly Character marks the beginning of IPF Publications. The book by Father David Toups, Associate Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, has sold over 2,000 copies in the first few months since its publication.

The emergence of IPF Publications fulfills a long-standing dream of Institute staff: to offer books and other publications that extend IPF’s mission to promote the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests. As time allows, IPF Publications will offer a continuing series of new books, reprints of classic texts and other publications that assist the Institute in its mission.

Copies of Father Toups’ book may be purchased at IPF’s website: www.ipfpublications.com.  

In turn, the Institute pledges to pray for all members and their intentions daily in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, to foster a fellowship and network of relationships among members, and to communicate IPF’s activities and development on a regular basis.

In time, individuals will be invited to consider joining the Association as Friends or Associates. More information on the process of becoming a member will be provided as that becomes available.
Dear Friends,

“Behold, I make all things new!” These words from the Book of Revelation resound in our hearts as the Easter season continues to bring us the fresh graces of renewal as we contemplate the events that have taken place and will soon take place in the Institute for Priestly Formation.

Accompanying articles in this newsletter will acquaint you with the new graces of becoming a Public Association of the Faithful as well as being able to move forward with plans for a new building. These new graces are helping to propel our mission more steadily toward offering more programs for seminary staff and faculty, as we continue to offer programs for seminarians and priests both in Omaha and in other places.

The generosity of so many friends has allowed these graces to flow into the Institute’s life and mission. We are pleased to acknowledge these gifts which represent many hearts who have responded to the need to form priests and seminarians. We hope and pray that all of our benefactors may know how deeply their sacrifices are appreciated.

As we look forward to this summer, I am pleased to announce that we will welcome 160 seminarians to this summer’s program—a record number. And, in May, we will open a third program offering Continuing Education for diocesan priests. The enrollment for this program, 70 priests from across the country, will also be a record number.

As the Lord continues to “make all things new,” we pray that he may richly bless all those who have so generously supported the Institute’s mission. May he lead us all into a future full of new things he wants to do for priests and for those whom they are sent to serve.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda, Executive Director