



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

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THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

A Public Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha

CENTER FOR PRIESTLY SPIRITUALITY UNVEILED



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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 integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, this spiritual formation has as its goal the cultivation of a deep interior communion with Christ; from such communion the priest shares in Christ's own pastoral charity. In carrying out its mission, the Institute directly serves diocesan seminarians and priests, as well as those who are responsible for diocesan priestly formation.

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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.

The chapel is the heart of the Center and will serve as a place for daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and *Lectio Divina* prayer as well as other personal prayer, including prayer for the support of the mission of IPF, and intercessory prayer for priests world-wide. This chapel will be used by IPF staff, adjunct staff, program participants, members of the Public Association, and other visitors to the Center.

The Institute intends to incorporate state of the art communications equipment in its conference rooms in order to facilitate the possibility of an IPF staff member at the Center providing in-service formation training simultaneously in different locations nationally and internationally.

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 TomPogge at 402-546-6384 or ipf@creighton.edu



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Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Deacon Jim Keating, Fr. John Horn, Ralph Martin and Kathy Kanavy pose for a photo after celebrating Mass in the Champion House chapel Jan. 9, 2008.

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"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?"

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Those who gave to IPF in memory or in honor of a friend or family member during 2007.

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A FIRM FOUNDATION

"IPF gave me the theological foundations, the practical skills and the lived experience to assist diocesan seminarians in their spiritual journey. And to be with other priests sharing expertise and wisdom made this course 'just what the Holy Spirit ordered'."

Rev. Rafael R. Davila, M.M., St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX (participant in IPF's Seminary Spiritual Directors Seminar)

In HONOR of:

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GRACE-FILLED EXPERIENCE

"I truly believe it will be many years before I fully realize the grace this program has been for me. I prayed for a true hunger for Christ this summer and I thank God he has given it to me."

Andrew Hart, Diocese of Little Rock, AR



Msgr. Eugene Kerwin, recipient of the Pope John Paul II Award for Priestly Service is photographed with Fr. Rich Gabuzda, Ralph Martin, keynote speaker, and Tom Pogge, Director of the IPF Foundation, at the Celebration of Priesthood Dinner held March 29, 2008 in Omaha.

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).

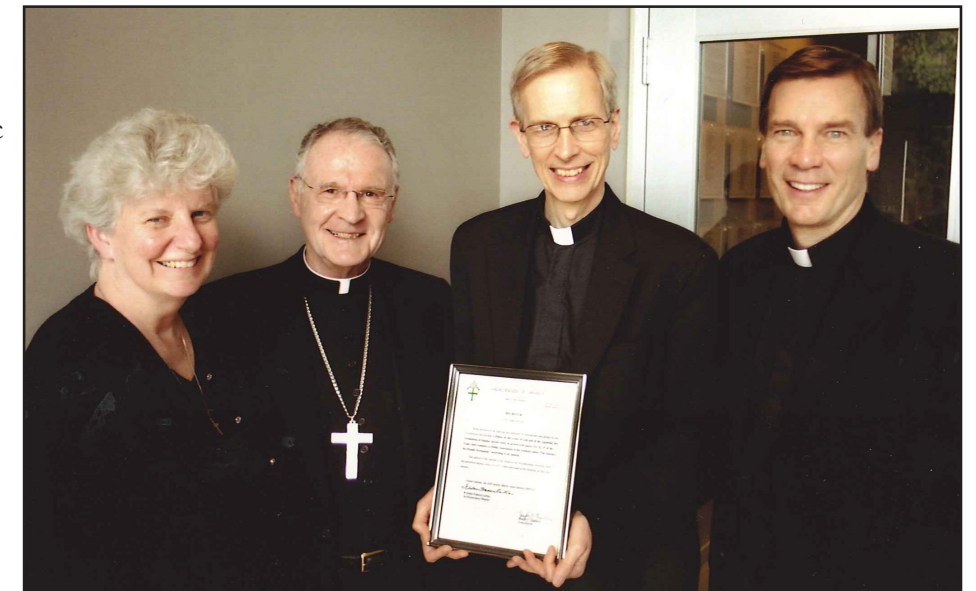
The particular gift of IPF constitutes a "way of Christian spiritual formation for diocesan seminarians and priests" so that they might realize their unique call to holiness as "contemplatives even in action." The unique call to holiness for the diocesan priest leads to the holiness of the lay faithful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

IFP Publications Debuts 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



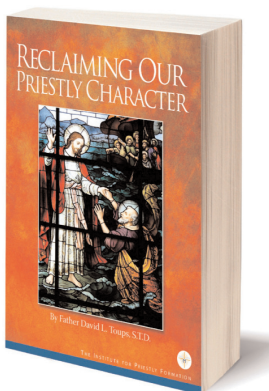
Celebrating the signing of the Public Association of the Faithful documents are Kathy Kanavy, Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss, Father Rich Gabuzda, and Father John Horn, S.J. Not pictured is Father George Aschenbrenner, S.J.

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.

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.





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From Our Executive Director ...

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 that the Risen Jesus wants us all to receive. The phrase also resounds in our hearts as we contemplate the events that have taken place and will soon take place in the Institute for Priestly Formation.



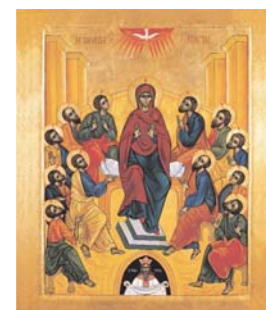
Reverend Richard Gabuzda

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 our third program offering spiritual direction training for diocesan priests. The enrollment for this program, 70 priests from across the country, will also be a record number.

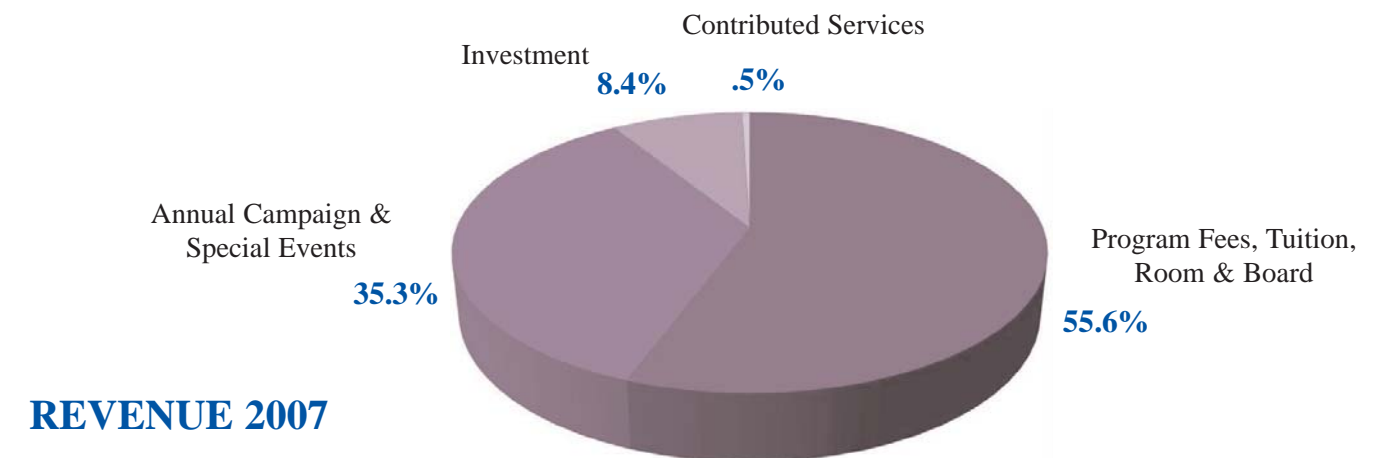
As the Lord continues to "make all things new," we pray that he may richly bless all those who have so generously supported the Institute's mission. May he lead us all into a future full of new things he wants to do for priests and for those whom they are sent to serve.



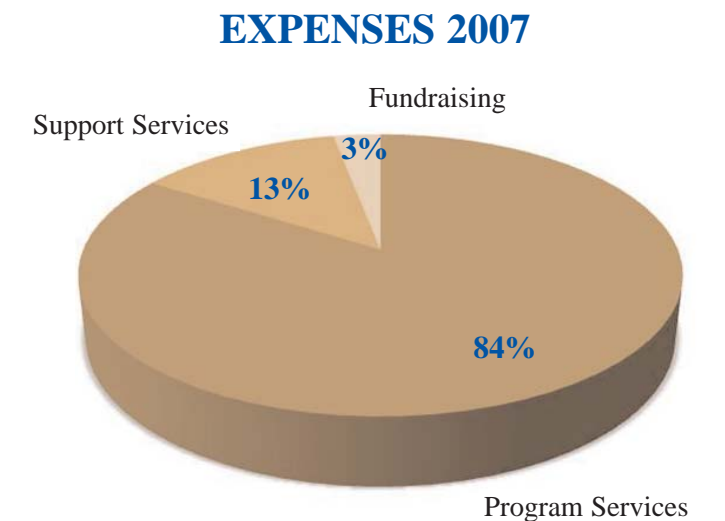
Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Richard J. Gabuzda, Executive Director

The Institute for Priestly Formation 2007 Summary of Activities



INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION Operating Revenue and Expenses for 2007	
REVENUE	
Annual Campaign & Special Events:	\$745,569.13
Contributed Services	\$11,372.00
Program Fees, Tuition, Room & Board	\$1,175,247.47
Investments	\$178,120.37
Other	\$920.50
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,111,229.47
EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$1,654,483.61
Support Services	\$262,426.72
Fundraising	\$61,911.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,978,822.30



Online Donations Available

You may make one-time or recurring contributions to IPF via credit card or ACH withdrawals by accessing the IPF website and requesting a form be sent to you. Remembering a deceased member of your family or a treasured loved one with a memorial contribution to IPF is a wonderful way to honor them. A contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, births, graduations, retirements, or any other special occasion. A special acknowledgement letter in your name will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential. This is a wonderful way to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan priests and seminarians in the Roman Catholic Church. IPF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and all gifts are deductible to the extent of the law.