The Institute for Priestly Formation Mission Advisory Council

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Mr. Richard J. Hauser, S. J.
Msr. Michael Caruthers
Ms. Mary C. Consentino
Dr. Andrew Consens
Deacon Karen J. Dwyer

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.

We invite you to visit our website at www.creighton.edu/ipf/

The announcement by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis came on February 9th: Father John Horn, S. J., had been appointed as Rector-President of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, the seminary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. From that time until the present, Father Horn has been moving into his new role. Though his appointment formally begins on July 1st, he has been living in St. Louis since April 1st so as to facilitate the transition.

Serving a seminary community has some familiar elements—Father Horn has been working extensively with diocesan seminarians for all the years of IPF’s existence. Yet, the role of Rector, with its many administrative demands, presents many new challenges.

Nonetheless, the vision for Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, as outlined by Archbishop Carlson, has a familiar ring to it. In his remarks made at the time of Father Horn’s appointment, Archbishop Carlson indicated that his vision for the Seminary is clearly focused on the Church’s desire for seminaries: “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.’”

Such a vision lies at the heart of IPF’s mission as indicated by our Mission Statement: “The Institute for Priestly Formation 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.” Because of IPF’s close association with Archbishop Carlson, the already-close relationship of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary to the Institute was destined to grow even deeper. Now with Father Horn at the helm, IPF will be able to serve the Seminary’s needs in an even more focused way.

Father Horn remains an associate member of IPF as well as a member of its Mission Advisory Council. A search is underway for his replacement on the Omaha staff. Please pray for the Lord’s blessing on Father Horn and the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary community.

“… a man of deep faith who loves the Church and her priests…”
Dear Friends,

With the announcement of Father John Harr, S.J.’s appointment to the post of rector-president of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, the Institute has embarked on a new phase of its mission. Although we will miss Father Harr’s presence with our Omaha staff, we know that God will be doing good things through his mission in St. Louis. We look forward to seeing all that the Holy Spirit will bring about through this new initiative as IPF continues to be at the service of bishops in the spiritual formation of seminarians and priests.

We recently welcomed 175 seminarians from across the country and beyond for our ten-week program of spiritual formation. They will be joined by others who will participate in these additional summer programs: Seminar for Seminary Spiritual Directors, The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola (30 day retreat) and the Retreat for Seminarians Theologians.

God’s grace have been abundantly poured out on the Institute in recent months. We celebrate another successful symposium on the spirituality and identity of the diaconate priests, this most recent our bold in collaboration with St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. The publication of “WRAP Yourself in Scripture,” a helpful guide to lectio divina prayer, authored by Karen and Larry Dwyer, marks another milestone in the ongoing work of IPF Publications.

Most importantly, the pages of this newsletter contain the names of the many individuals whose faithful sacrifices are helping to sustain and grow the mission of IPF. We are deeply grateful to all our friends who have chosen to join with us in this important task of helping in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests. We are especially grateful to those who have responded to our “$20 a Month Club” and our “Sponsor a Seminarian” initiatives. To all of you we express our heartfelt thanks!

Together let us give praise and thanks to God for the many blessing which have been poured out on the Institute. Let us pray for God’s continued blessing and protection of our mission.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Rev. Richard J. Galuszka
Executive Director

From Our Executive Director...
**Intricately Painted Cross: A Gift to IPF**

A beautiful Russian processional, passion crucifix, pictured here, was recently presented to IPF as a gift from Jon and Martha Crane. Jon served IPF as the chairman of the Celebration of Priesthood Underwriting Committee in 2009 and Martha has prayed for the seminarians as a Spiritual Mom. The circa 1875 cross, intricately painted on both sides in the miniature technique depicting the life and passion of Christ, was most likely created in or near the village of Palekh or by a Palekh artist working in Moscow. The lower margin of the cross is inscribed with the matins exapostilarion which translated reads: *The Cross is the guardian of the whole earth; the Cross is the beauty of the Church; the Cross is the strength of kings; the Cross is the support of the faithful; the Cross is the glory of angels; the Cross is the plague of demons.* IPF wishes to thank the Cranes for their generosity and kindness towards the institute.

**Favorable Tax Treatment for IRA Distributions**

Congress has extended for 2011 the opportunity to make distributions from IRAs to charities without triggering any tax consequences.

Here is a quick overview:

- **Donors** must be age 70 ½ or over.
- **Gifts** are tax free to the donor.
- **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 add such distribution to taxable income.
- **Donors** are obligated to start taking the required minimum distributions from an IRA or 401(k) even if the money is not needed. Making a donation to a qualified charity will satisfy the required minimum distribution (up to the maximum limit of $100,000) and avoid adding such distribution to taxable income.

Please support the annual operations of the Institute by other contributions such as cash, appreciated stocks and bonds, life insurance policies, and other assets. Cash donations can be made by check, credit card, or online through the IPF website. For assistance please contact Tom Pope, Director of Mission Advancement, at 888-528-5668 or 402-280-3528. Thank you for your generous support of the mission of The Institute for Priestly Formation.

**Gifts Honor Loved Ones**

Anniversaries of ordinations, birthdays, or celebrations of retirement after years of faithful service to the Church are all occasions to honor beloved priests with gifts to IPF. A letter acknowledging your gifts will be sent to the honoree, with IPF’s congratulations. Remembering deceased members of your family or other treasured loved ones with a financial gift to IPF is also a beautiful way of honoring them. Supporting IPF financially is a compassionate way to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan priests and seminarians. IPF is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and all gifts are deductible to the extent of the law. To make a donation on line using our secure website, go to www.creighton.edu/ipf/ and click “Donate.”

**Healing, Freedom Found in Training Program in Spiritual Direction**

I received a letter from my Archbishop in the spring of 2007 inviting me to participate in the Training Program in Spiritual Direction of the Institute for Priestly Formation. As I had been ordained only four years at the time and had no direct experience with IPF I approached my first week with only vague expectations of what to expect, all the while very much at peace in my Archbishop’s decision.

What I received during the course of that week, and the eight weeks that followed, alongside priests from throughout the country, is difficult to fully express. The entire experience was a tremendous gift. I was renewed in my identity as a beloved son and as a diocesan priest in ways I did not know that I needed or could even expect from the Lord. In learning a new manner of actually being with Jesus in a meaningful way amidst all of life’s unexpected moments in priestly life and ministry, a new ground for hope opened up before me. There was definitely much healing and newfound freedom I received from the self-reliant mode that I could so easily find myself slipping into as I responded to the many and diverse needs and responsibilities that fell to me as a parish priest. Growing as a competent guide for others in the spiritual life—learning the art of spiritual direction—grew almost imperceptibly and in proportion to my being more firmly grounded in my identity as a Beloved Son, Chaste Spouse, Spiritual Father, Spiritual Physician, and Good Shepherd.

**Archbishop Carlson Serves as Celebration Speaker**

Archbishop Carlson, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, commented further on this model: “In many ways there’s a need to develop today a new, long-term model for seminary formation that allows the seminarian to become a man of communion...who has the capacity to foster and engage in pastoral leadership with Jesus as the model and shepherd.” He added, “It will be a great blessing for the Church of the United States and some day, perhaps, beyond.”

At the banquet, the Institute presented its Pope John Paul II Award for Priestly Service to Msgr. James R. Cain, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. In accepting the award, Msgr. Cain said, “I’m most grateful for this honor this evening, in honor of service not only for myself, of course, but for all of the priests who are with us this evening. The Priesthood is a precious gift, and we carry it in earthen vessels. Our relationship with the Lord is the only way to serve.”

**Intricately Painted Cross: A Gift to IPF**

By Fr. Peter Williams, priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul - Minneapolis

Fr. Peter Williams

The 340 attendees at IPF’s Celebration of Priesthood banquet were privileged to hear an address by the Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis.

Archbishop Carlson expressed his desire that Father John Horn, S. J., in his role as Rector of Kenrick Glenon, integrate in the Seminary over the next few years, an IPF “model” of spiritual formation. He spoke of this as an “expansion” of the IPF mission and invited those in attendance to pray for the success of this “new experience.”

Participants in the latest Training Program in Spiritual Direction, which began in May, gathered for a group photo. Seventy-six seminary faculty members and priests are enrolled in the three year program which takes place at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago.

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Individuals like Joanna, with a sincere love for the diocesan priesthood who feel called by the Lord to enter into a closer relationship with the Institute’s mission, now have an opportunity to become members of IPF, either at the Friend or the Associate level. Members are called to support, nurture and promote the charism of IPF, offering a concrete expression of availability and cooperation for its mission.

All members are to embody and cultivate receptivity to the Living Word of God, joyful, humble and obedient acceptance of the Church’s Magisterium, transforming devotion to Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist, frequent celebration of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance and sincere love for the diocesan priesthood.

If you occasionally offer intercessory prayer, attend sponsored events, provide financial support, or volunteer time or talents to promote IPF’s mission, you are already a Friend of IPF. By filling out an application (available on-line), you merely formalize the relationship you already have with the Institute.

The Associate level of commitment is more involved, requires a deeper prayer commitment and a specific way of living Ignatian meditation and contemplation. IPF encourages you to learn more about becoming a member by consulting the IPF website (www.divineprovidence.org/ipf) or by calling the toll free number 1-888-528-5668.
The Good Shepherd: Living Christ’s Own Pastoral Authority

In March we saw the annual IPF Symposium successfully hosted by St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia. This year’s theme was The Good Shepherd: Living Christ’s Own Pastoral Authority. The Symposium attracted priests and laity from around the Philadelphia region as well as all the seminarians from St. Charles. Cardinal Rigali visited the Symposium to preside at evening prayer.

The keynote speaker this year was Bishop Samuel Aquila of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota. Bishop Aquila gave a dynamic and prophetic speech challenging the seminarians and priests present to ask this question, “Do I desire to be possessed by the authority of Christ or do my ears itch for teachers suited to my liking, moving away from the truth, and entering into the myths of the present age?” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The Bishop further exhorted the audience with these words, “Our world today is in urgent need of Jesus Christ, and while the world sees Jesus as ‘out of season’, we as the servants of Christ and the Church must teach boldly and without hesitancy. The ‘new evangelization’ means following the teaching authority of Christ exhibited by St. Paul, the Fathers of the Church, and the saints and martyrs who have gone before us.”

Other speakers were Sr. Gill Gaulding, Fr. Scott Traynor, Fr. James Rafferty, Fr. Jon Vander Ploeg, Fr. Albert Esposito, and Msgr. Gregory Schlesselman. IPF is grateful to Fr. Shaun Mahoney and the Staff of St. Charles for all they did to welcome this Symposium into their seminary. Further thanks to the Eseff Foundation for their financial assistance.

With personal conviction we need to rediscover the vigor and boldness of the teaching authority of Christ…”

Symposium attendees listen to a presentation.
