



# FISHER'S NET

Diocese of Arlington Vocations *E-Newsletter*

Fall, 2007 - Vol. 3, No. 4

Visit our Web-Site: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations)

The *Office of Vocations 'Fisher's Net' E-Newsletter* is a periodic update of informative, inspirational and insightful news concerning aspects of discernment and formation to the priesthood and consecrated life, particularly among men and women from our diocese.

See end for subscribe and unsubscribe information.

## 4H Upcoming Events:

- 12/28- Hispanic Men
- 12/30: Discern. Retreat
- 1/6: Seminarians' B-Ball Game at PVI High School
- 1/22: March-for-Life
- 2/8-10: Christendom College Vocation Weekend
- 2/22- Women's Group
- 2/24: Discernment Retreat
- 3/14- Men's Group
- 3/16: Discern. Retreat

See Web-Site for Details

## HEADLINES:

- PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS WORKSHOP
- SERRAN VOCATION TRIP TO THE MOUNT
- 2008 NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK
- STEUBENVILLE VOCATION AWARENESS DAY
- SEMINARIAN ON THE CONSISTORY
- POPE BENEDICT ON THE INCARNATION

## PARISH VOCATION PROMOTERS WORKSHOP

Parish Vocation Promoters from around the diocese gathered at in Lake Ridge at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton on October 20, 2007 for their annual workshop. The morning began with the 9 am Mass celebrated by parochial vicar Father Duesterhaus and concelebrated by the Director of the Office of Vocations Father Bashista. A welcoming breakfast was made available afterwards in the parish hall, thanks to the very generous help of the setup volunteers from St. Elizabeth's. Father Bashista invited everyone to stock up on any promotion material they might have been running short of and to be sure to pick up copies of the new 2007-8 Seminarian Poster.

The workshop presenter was Father John Riley, pastor at St. Matthew Church in Spotsylvania. He noted that the shift in vocation responsiveness is now more in young adults rather than youth of high school age. Father spoke on the scriptural roots and the stages of development in a vocation. Encouraging the promoters' efforts, Father said that vocation work is as equally urgent and compelling today as ever and gave examples of those who assisted Jesus Christ in His vocation ministry. He recommended approaching vocation promotion with "wonder, awe and prayer" and to keep families involved. Father Bashista gave a brief run down of the upcoming vocations calendar and demonstrated the new retractable vocation banner. The office has two of them available for parish/school use. After taking in all this food for thought, lunch was served and all returned home strengthened in their apostolate.

**DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON**

**"COME FOLLOW ME"**

*Pray for Vocations*

Statement on Vocations  
Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde

*I want to ask you, dear sisters and brothers, to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in a very particular way. I am not asking you to pray for vocations in general, for example, "Dear God, please choose someone, like the person next door." Rather, I am inviting you to pray this way: "Dear God, if you will, please choose someone from my family - my family - to be a priest, sister or brother. And if you do, I will support that person with my prayer and encouragement." Admittedly, this is a more difficult prayer because it reaches the heart of each family. But it is also a more generous prayer and God responds to generosity!*

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## SERRANS VISIT MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY



Members of the Serra Club of Arlington traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland on November 17<sup>th</sup> to visit Mount St. Mary's Seminary and our seminarians. After arriving at the Mount, the Serrans joined our diocesan seminarians for a private Mass celebrated by Reverend Robert Malagesi, M.S.S.C.C. (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary). He is a IV theologian at the Mount and was ordained November 3 in Immaculate Conception chapel by Archbishop O'Brien of Baltimore. Since he is a Serran himself, it was a special blessing for him to offer the Mass as one of the newest priests prayed to the altar by the Serrans.

After the conclusion of Mass, Fr Malagesi pulled out his gold Serran prayer card and led them in the Serran prayer for vocations. The group was able to meet with the seminarians after Mass and was given a tour of the seminary. All enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant and then visited the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes near the grounds of the seminary. Their 'mini-pilgrimage' to her grotto was a blessed finish to the day.

The Serra Club of Arlington exists primarily to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life, as well as to assist its members to grow in a greater understanding, and public witness of our Catholic faith.

If you would like more information about becoming a Serran, please contact the Office of Vocations or visit <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/vocations/serra-arlington.html> ***Back to Headlines***

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## 2008 NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

National Vocations Awareness Week will be held January 13-19 in 2008. The week follows the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and is especially set aside for more focused prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. May we all increase our efforts to help those whom the Lord is choosing to share His mission in this unique way, to discover and be faithful to their particular vocations in Christ. The Office of Vocations will be sponsoring its bi-annual Student Vocations Awareness Program during the 2008 National Vocation Awareness Week which promotes vocation awareness in schools, religious education programs and home-schooling groups.



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## STEBENVILLE VOCATION AWARENESS DAY



As part of his efforts to promote vocations, Father Brian Bashista attended the annual Vocations Awareness Day at Franciscan University in Ohio on October 26. The event was sponsored by the Franciscan University's Pre-Theologate Program and Chapel Ministries. It is the largest of its kind with vocation directors from more than 100 religious orders and dioceses on hand to answer questions about how they live out their particular charisms, their missions in the Church and about discernment. This year Father Bashista had some company to help represent our diocese. Three of our men in formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in neighboring Columbus, Ohio, helped Father set up and talked with many of the visitors to the Finnegan Fieldhouse that day.

Third Collegiate Brian Lowell remarked that he enjoyed his visit to Steubenville and seeing all of the religious orders and dioceses represented at the vocations fair. "I enjoyed talking to some of the religious order vocations directors about their orders. It was good to see some students from our diocese and it was particularly good to meet with and talk to some men in discernment. I remember not long ago how I was in their shoes, asking the very same questions."

Commenting on the day, Eric Shafer, also in Third College, said, "The first thought I had when I walked through the gym and viewed all of the displays was how much that would have helped me if I had attended something like that in college. It was quite exciting and I was encouraged by the participation of many of the students. Overall the trip was a great success because it provided support for young men considering entering the seminary, which is a significant step in one's life. I felt really happy in whatever assistance I could provide them."



Our other seminarian in Third College David Dufresne recalled his own similar visit just last year and being the one asking the questions. He remembers "how hospitable the seminarians were then and what an example they left for me. I can only pray I said something that helped the young man Father brought with him or the other men we met at Franciscan University."

After the seminarians finished packing up at the end of the day they all went out to dinner with a few of the students and shared their vocations stories. Several of the men said they wanted to visit the Josephinum to experience seminary life

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## **SEMINARIAN THOUGHTS ON THE CONSISTORY**

This past November saw the creation of 23 new cardinals here in Rome. It was a true expression of the universality of the Church as the cardinals attracted pilgrims from all parts of the globe. After the Consistory itself on Saturday, we had the rare opportunity to visit with the cardinals in the Apostolic



Palace, only opened for important visitors or special occasions. Here, in the halls connecting the Sistine Chapel with St. Peter's, cardinals greeted and offered their prayers for all who wished to speak with them. In one hall, one could visit with the Chaldean patriarch from Baghdad as well as Polish, South American and African cardinals. On Sunday, the Pope held the Ring Mass--which was by far the most profound part of the weekend for me. After the homily in which the Pope called the new cardinals to be "authentic heralds of Christ in the modern world" up to the point of shedding their blood for Jesus Christ, the Pope presented each cardinal with a

ring- a symbol of unity among the College of Cardinals. As he presented the ring, the Pope said "Accipe anulum de manu Petri..." Receive this ring from the hand of Peter! The weekend was a visible sign that the Pope is the Successor of Peter, commissioned by Jesus Christ himself to baptize all nations. *Submitted by 2nd Theologian Rob Kennedy*

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## ON THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

*The glory of God is manifest ... in the salvation of man, whom God so loved as "to give", as the Evangelist John affirms, "his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).*

*Hence, love is the ultimate reason for the Incarnation of Christ. The God we contemplate in the crib is God-Love.*

*At this point the message of the angels resounds for us as an invitation: glory "be" to God in the highest of heavens, peace "be" on earth to those whom he loves. The only way to glorify God and to build peace in the world consists in the humble and trusting welcoming of the gift of Christmas: love.*

*The song of the angels can then become a prayer to repeat often, not only in this Christmas season. It is a hymn of praise to God in the highest of heavens and a fervent invocation of peace on earth, which translates into a concrete commitment to build it with our life. This is the duty that Christmas entrusts to us.*

Pope Benedict XVI – 2006

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*We wish you a Blessed Christmas  
And a New Year full of grace!*

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**MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH AND MOTHER OF VOCATIONS, PRAY FOR US!**

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