



FISHER'S NET

Diocese of Arlington Vocations *E-Newsletter*

Winter, 2008 - Vol. 4, No. 1

Visit our Web-Site: 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.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 4/6 | Nun Run |
| 4/12- | Men's Grp. Trip |
| 4/13: | to St. Charles
Borromeo Sem. |
| 5/27: | Men's Grp. Dinner
w/Bishop Loverde |
| 6/3: | Women's Grp.
Dinner w/Bishop &
Religious Sisters |
| 6/7 | Diaconate
Ordination |
| 6/13 | Vigil Holy Hour for
Priesthood Ord. |
| 6/14 | Priesthood Ord. |

See Web-Site for Details

HEADLINES:

- **2008 MID-ATLANTIC SEMINARIAN BASKETBALL GAME**
- **SEMINARIAN WINTER RETREAT/INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE PRIEST**
- **STUDENT VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK UPDATE**
- **SEMINARIANS MARCH FOR LIFE**
- **WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT**
- **EIGHTH GRADE VOCATIONS MASS**
- **LENTEN VOCATION REFLECTION**

2008 MID-ATLANTIC SEMINARIAN BASKETBALL GAME

The Diocese of Arlington More's Men faced-off against seminarians from the Institute of the Incarnate Word in the 4th Annual Mid-Atlantic Seminarian Basketball Game. Gathering first in the chapel at Paul VI High School, the seminarians along with some of their family members and fans assisted at Mass which was offered by Father Brian Bashista and concelebrated by one of the IVE priests. The game began after a period of warm-ups and Arlington was off to a strong start. Arlington was up by 8 at half time with 29-21, but IVE brothers owned the second half. Their good defensive effort and a dominating performance on the boards allowed them to chip away at the lead and gain the victory. With a final score of 59-47, IVE retained the trophy. Everyone played well and had a wonderful time.



SEMINARIAN WINTER RETREAT/INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE PRIEST

The seminarians of the Diocese of Arlington came together at the Dominican Retreat House in early January for their annual winter retreat. The theme of the reflections this year was the instrumentality of the priest. Father Robert DeMartino, pastor of St. Peter Church in Washington, VA, drew on the thoughts of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Bernadette to illustrate the need to develop detachment from expectations about one's usefulness as a priest. As an instrument, as a personal and sacramental channel of the treasury of God's infinite graces, the priest remains always just a man. He is a man chosen and ordained for a supernatural mission and is a priest forever. His mission is to draw others to Jesus Christ in known and unknown ways.



Father Charles Smith spoke to the seminarians on the topic of humility which dovetailed perfectly with Fr. DeMartinis's comments. Using the Litany of Humility which His Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val prayed after his celebration of daily Mass, Fr. Smith led them through the points of the litany showing how they each applied to the prideful pitfalls of priestly life. Father John Melmer's talk followed up with thoughts on obedience.

Vicar General for Pastoral Services Father Frank Ready was the main celebrant for the closing Mass. His homily focused on St. John the Baptist. Remarking on the virtues of the precursor of the Messiah, he highlighted the Baptist's sense of mission, detachment and humility as essential qualities of a holy priest. "I must decrease, He must increase" sum up the role of the priest whose mission is to present Christ to others and then 'back off'. ***Back to Headlines***

STUDENT VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK UPDATE

During National Vocations Awareness Week, January 13-18, the Diocese of Arlington Office of Vocations sponsored its Student Vocation Awareness Week program which includes vocation lesson plans, daily prayer for vocations and a prayer card contest. This year a total of 3,478 students in our Catholic Schools, Parish Religious Education Programs and Home School groups offered 32,749 prayers for vocations during the Spiritual Olympics.

The winners are as follows:

Catholic Schools Division

GOLD: St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School, Woodbridge

SILVER: St. William of York, Stafford

BRONZE: St. Michael School, Annandale

Parish Religious Education Division

GOLD: St. Philip Church, Falls Church

SILVER: St. Clare of Assisi Church, Clifton

BRONZE: St. Ann Church, Arlington

Home School Division

Faith, Hope and Charity

Children's Vocation Prayer Card Contest

Art: 5th Grader Maddie Dargis of St. John the Evangelist

Prayer: 8th Grader Kelley Planchak of St. Thomas Aquinas

Father Bashista will be visiting the winning schools and presenting the awards during the month of March.

Back to Headlines

A vertical yellow prayer card with black text. The text is a prayer for vocation, asking for guidance and courage. At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a cross and four children in colorful clothing. The card is titled 'Diocese of Arlington Children's Vocation Prayer' and includes the names of the artists and their schools.

Dear All-loving Lord,
Guide me
to my vocation.
Give me the
courage to embrace
my calling in
obedience and
love for You,
Who knows all.
My life is Yours
to mold
into something
beautiful.
Amen.

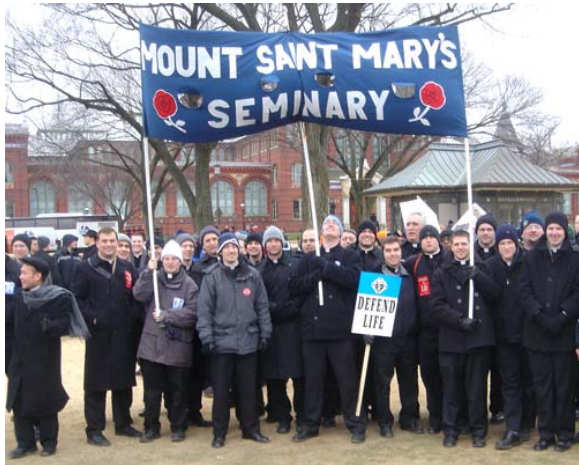
Diocese of Arlington
Children's Vocation Prayer

Artwork:
Maddie Dargis
5th Gr. 2007-8
St John the Evangelist

Prayer:
Kelley Planchak
8th Gr. 2007-8
St. Thomas Aquinas

SEMINARIANS MARCH FOR LIFE

The 35th annual March for Life was a first for Arlington's first year Pre-Theologian Mike Bussman who is studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. He had seen political marches and rallies on television before, but serving in the military for twelve years, he had never had an opportunity to participate in one and had no idea what to expect. He writes,



"...when our seminary busses arrived for the Mass at the Verizon Center, I was very moved and inspired by the vibrant energy and faith of the thousands of people, particularly young people, who had come from all over the country. The great number of priests and bishops was also very impressive, and when we moved out onto the street after Mass to begin the March all of us were excited and motivated for what we were participating in. I did not realize that the actual march began at the national mall, and so as we were walking towards the mall I turned to one of my brother seminarians and asked, "Is this it, is this the march?" He laughed and told me no, to

just wait and see. Once we arrived at the national mall I could hardly believe the number of people who were there: young and old, families, seminarians, religious, and college students; a broad cross section from all across the country. It was terrific. The whole experience made me proud to be a Catholic, and very happy to be a seminarian doing God's will."

Some seminarians also had the opportunity to meet the energetic founder of Catholic Athletes for Christ, Ray McKenna, and get to know a bit more about this organization that seeks to spread a Catholic culture among athletes at all levels. The event was well attended by those already involved in CAC and those looking to know a little more.

Back to Headlines

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Winter Weather Advisory on February 22nd was no match for those determined to attend the annual Women's Discernment Retreat in Emmitsburg, Maryland. While two of the orders of consecrated women religious who had been invited could not make it down from the northeast, sisters from ten religious communities were present. They beautifully represented the various charisms of the Heart of Jesus through which they live and love Him and His people. Father Brian Bashista was the retreat master this year and his talks focused on scripture. Through the story of St. Andrew's hopeful willingness to bring to the Lord the meager offering of five loaves and two fishes, Father encouraged the discerners not to fail to bring to Jesus what little they have. "Little is always much in the hands of the Lord," he reminded them. Another example of vocation discernment was the prodigal son and his brother who each in their own way had struggles knowing the will of their father. Sunday's final conference was a shared reflection on Moses' encounter with the burning bush and the intimacy of his discovery of



the Lord God in prayer and his mission. Many of the women on the retreat joined the Women's Discernment Group so as to be able to participate more fully in the support given by our diocese for vocations.

Back to Headlines

EIGHTH GRADE VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Loverde celebrated his annual Mass for Vocations for the eighth graders of the diocese On March 4th. Gathering again this year at Holy Spirit Church were students from 35 area schools. Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop were Fr. Brian Bashista, Director of Vocations, and five diocesan priests. Students from Saint Francis of Assisi School proclaimed the readings and the petitions were read by students from Our Lady of Hope School. Presenting the offertory gifts were students from Holy Cross School while the ushers and altar servers came from Holy Spirit. The Youth Choir of the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, under the direction of Mrs. Pat Cappolino, led the singing and Dr. Richard Gibala was the organist.



Back to Headlines

LENTEN VOCATION REFLECTION

...[T]he forty days of Lent form as it were the great spiritual exercise which the church presents from year to year, in preparation for the great Paschal Mystery and to deepen our awareness of it. To make a retreat is to go into training to be Christian. In the same way that walking and running are a means of exercising the body, a retreat is a spiritual exercise which prepares the soul to make an ever-better response to the call we have received. The central mystery of our vocation is the same as that to which Lent is leading: the death and Resurrection of the Lord.

Thus the liturgical period in which this retreat was set was an invitation to look more closely at the sacramental dimension of our Christian life, and especially at the two properly paschal sacraments, baptism and Eucharist—the primary source and the normal food of that life.

Pope Benedict XVI—*Journey to Easter*



Back to Headlines

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

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of Vocations

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 901

Arlington, VA 22203

(703) 841-2514

vocations@arlingtondiocese.org

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE: The Office of Vocations *E-Newsletter* is free. If you know of others who would like to receive this periodic electronic newsletter, please respond to vocations@arlingtondiocese.org providing the new subscribers e-mail address. If you would like to unsubscribe, please respond to this e-mail by writing 'UNSUBSCRIBE' either in the body of the e-mail or on the subject line.
