



INSTITUTE FOR
DIACONAL STUDIES

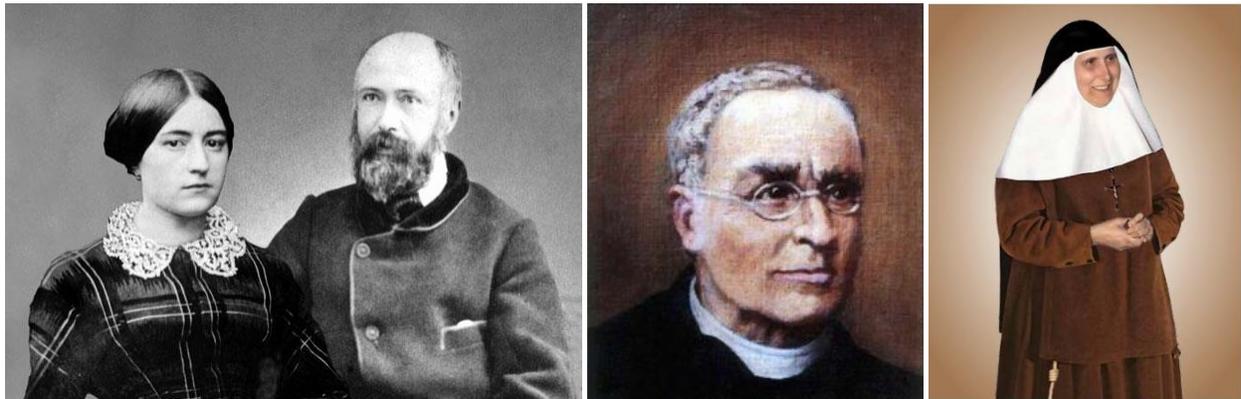
AD LUCEM!

FEBRUARY 2017

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR

Director's Message



Next weekend Years 1 and 2 candidates and wives will attend a retreat either for couples or for celibates. In light of this moment in the formation year, we turn for inspiration to four saints canonized by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 18, 2015: Fr. Vincent Grossi, Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and the married couple Louis and Zelig Martin. Each of these men and women embraced a distinct calling and state of life – priesthood, religious life, marriage – but each, according to the Pope, “unfailingly served their brothers and sisters with outstanding humility and charity, in imitation of the divine Master.”

Louis and Zelig, living in 19th c. France, both discerned a vocation to the religious life prior to their meeting and marriage. In their married life, they exemplified mutual love and support in matters of work, family, and faith. They assisted one another in the business of watchmaking – Louis' craft – and lacemaking – Zelig's craft. They lived in celibacy for one year before sharing the tremendous joys and sorrows of raising nine children, four of whom died at an early age. The family attended daily mass, fasted during Advent and Lent, prayed the Angelus and Vespers daily, visited the sick and elderly, and invited the poor to share their meals. Their five surviving daughters entered into religious life, the best known being the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux. Louis and Zelig had a remarkable love for one another, preserved in the letters they exchanged during their lives, and this married love and their strong faith carried them through times of joy and of tragedy.

Fr. Vincent Grossi, born in Italy was known for his lifestyle of austerity and obedience to the Church. His life of self-denial, however, was not without gentleness, joy, laughter, and genuine warmth toward others, be it his parents, sisters, or parishioners. He had a special concern for children and young people, seeking to build their faith through mass attendance and religious education. In 1885 he founded the Daughters of the Oratory for young girls. Fr. Vincent had a heart completely open to God and generously gave his life for the good of the church.

Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, born in Spain, lived a life of prayer and contemplation, but not without outreach. She attended to the needs to those less fortunate, including children of the poor and sick. Her human and spiritual qualities—joy, commitment, trustworthiness, ability to sacrifice, and her concern for the formation of other sisters—led to her election as Mother General of the congregation, and subsequently three reelections.

The common thread in these stories, which come from different time periods and different parts of the world, is the commitment to follow the call to holiness. Each of these four saints consciously chose to walk with God, remain rooted in prayer, to generously share their gifts and talents, and to give up the things that distracted from their purpose, to serve God and neighbor. And let us not forget that whether married or unmarried, ordained or lay, the saints found encouragement, love, and support through authentic relationships and vibrant communities.

Exploring the Diaconate

IDS is offering an *Exploring the Diaconate* informational meeting on **Sunday, February 26 following the 11:45am mass** at St. Philip the Apostle, Northfield (Vicariate II). Please spread the word of this opportunity to worship together and to discuss a possible call to diaconal ministry! A complete schedule of *Exploring* sessions may be found on our [website](#).

Around IDS

Fall Semester Courses

- Introduction to the Catechism (Aspirancy Path)
- New Testament (Year 1)
- Ecclesiology & Mariology (Year 1)
- Moral Theology (Year 2)
- Christology & Soteriology (Year 2)
- Homiletics III (Year 2)
- Presiding at the Rites II (Year 3)

February Formation Sessions

- Feb. 4 – Christian Anthropology III (Year 1)
- Feb. 10-11 – Celibates Retreat (Years 1, 2)
- Feb. 11-12 – Couples Retreat (Years 1, 2)

Mid-Semester Break takes place February 13-19 with classes resuming Monday, February 20.

IDS February Birthdays

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays during the month of February: 2 - Ed Sajdak; 5 - Chris Fisher; 7 - Sally Robey; 7 - Jim Cameron; 8 - Tom Donegan; 16 - Gina Buckley; 18 - David Pham; 22 - Kathy Benz; 25 - Patty Powers; 28 - Michael O'Neill

Let Us Remember in Prayer Those Entrusted to Our Care

Pray in a particular way for all of our sick: Deacon Jim Cozzo; Dolores Lomasney;

Pray for our beloved who have passed from this life to the next: Deacon Bob O'Keefe; Zita Kulekowskis; Ed Severson; Nelda Foggie; Socorro Magana; Eileen P. Barry

Please let us know for whom we should pray – either those suffering from an illness or those who have passed from this life to the next. We will include their names in our next newsletter. Please send names to DeAnne Besetzny at dbesetzny@usml.edu.