



INSTITUTE FOR
DIACONAL STUDIES

AD LUCEM!

MAY 2016

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR



On Saturday, April 30, Archbishop Cupich met with the Cohort 2016 ordination candidates and their wives at University of Saint Mary of the Lake. The Archbishop expressed that it was important to him to meet ahead of time with any candidates he is going to ordain. He affirmed that he greatly “treasures” deacons and their wives.

The morning began with prayer, led by Bob Conlin, and a general introduction of the cohort, led by Greg Krame. Then, each candidate and his wife had an opportunity to introduce themselves more personally. A series of presentations followed, beginning with a vocation story by Herbert Johnson and reflections on the Service to the Word, Liturgy, and Charity experiences by Michael Fekete, Neil Rogers, and Kevin Blindauer, respectively. Finally, Carrie Szarzynski spoke about the experiences of the wives during the formation process, followed by a personal perspective by Mary Jo Fekete.

Archbishop Cupich offered many words of encouragement to the cohort. After hearing the presentations, he said that God was clearly a factor in their lives, but moreover that the cohort members were also “a factor in God’s life,” a part of God’s work, and an inspiration to those around them. The Archbishop reflected on his own transition from shepherding smaller dioceses to the church of Chicago, and noted the various past experiences that had prepared him well for the task. He in turn exhorted the ordination candidates to look back on their past

experiences and see how they have been prepared to take on roles and responsibilities which they never dreamt possible – to be “up to the task of the Church today.”

Following the presentations, responses, and general Q&A, Archbishop Cupich presented each candidate with a lectionary, each wife with a copy of Pope Francis’ book, *Walking with Jesus*, and joined the group for lunch and further conversation. On behalf of the cohort and the program, IDS is deeply grateful for the Archbishop’s time, energy, and support.

Institution of Reader

The recent Institution of Reader, with Most. Rev. Joseph N. Perry, was a joyful liturgy celebrated by the entire IDS community and the many families, friends, pastors, and others who support the candidates and wives of the program. During his homily, Bishop Perry exhorted the candidates not only to be good proclaimers of the Word, but to also be passionate in learning more of what Scripture teaches us.



The liturgy was followed by a reception in the newly refurbished Conference Center where

congratulations and fellowship reigned. The newly instituted readers are: Mike Bednarz, Tom Biegel, Bob Birck, Pat Brenner, Bill Burns, Tom Carlson, Tom Donegan, Jim Farina, Colin Huie, Rich Korepanow, Pete LeTourneau, Paul Onischuk, David Pham, Christopher Weiland, and Conrad Wojnar. Mark Buckley, who previously had been instituted into this ministry, received a blessing.

USML Convocation

Congratulations to all Year Three candidates who will be honored at this year’s Convocation on May 7 for completing the IDS formation program. They will receive certificates of study for their accomplishments from Archbishop Cupich, who also will distribute diplomas to all who have completed course work for the various degrees conferred by the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. Of course, our candidates could not have followed the Lord’s call without the love, support and sacrifice of their wives and families. So this is truly a special day to celebrate!

Around IDS

- May 6 - Spring Semester officially ends
- May 7 - Convocation (Key Event - Year 3)
- May 18-22 - Ordination Retreat (Key Event - Year 3)
- June 1 - Ordination Rehearsal (Key Event - Years 1, 2, 3)
- June 4 - Diaconate Ordination (Key Event - Years 1, 2, 3)
- June 11 - End of Year Day of Reflection (Key Event - Aspirancy Path)
- June 18 - Admission & Scrutinies Board (Key Event - Aspirancy Path)

The 2016-2017 formation year officially begins with the Welcoming Mass on Sunday, August 28. Cohort 2020 aspirants and wives will attend their Opening Retreat on August 27-28.

Fall Semester courses officially begin on Monday, August 29.

Until then, IDS wishes everyone a safe, relaxing, enjoyable summer!

Exploring the Diaconate

The application deadline for the 2016-2017 Aspirancy Path passed on May 1. IDS is pleased to have received a considerable response from inquirers throughout the diocese. And we already look forward to hosting a series of *Exploring* sessions in all the vicariates of the archdiocese during the upcoming year.

In the meantime, we are counting on all of you to spread the word and the awareness about the possibility of a diaconate vocation. Please remain active in surfacing candidates in your parish and bringing these names to the attention of your pastors. For more information, contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu, (847) 837-4564.

IDS May Birthdays

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays this month:

5/4 - Guillermo Tejada; 5/9 - Tom Schutzius; 5/13 - Herbert Johnson; 5/14 - Monica Babczak; 5/19 - Colin Huie; 5/22 - Rita Reyes; 5/24 - Dan Coughlin; 5/25 - Rod Reyes; 5/25 - Mary Jo Fekete; 5/26 - Mary Souta; 5/27 - Greg Krame.

Let Us Remember in Prayer Those Entrusted to Our Care

Pray for our beloved who have passed from this life to the next: Johnny Miller, Bridget Lenihan, Ann Chester, Elizabeth Ruth Lynch, Dr. Gerry Girdaukas, Maria Carmen Woodard, Kathy O'Brien, Robert Kunkel, Rev. Richard Mueller, Rev. Luc Tran, Tom Tricarico, Anna Georgen, Jerry Cerabona, Deacon Joseph Walsh, Kathy Fekete, Alice P. Anthony, JoAnn Streppa, Ron Szarzynski

Pray in a particular way for all of our sick: Stanislaw Ciomek, Marites Negrón, Catherine O'Hearn, Rita Farina, Justin Souta, Tom Seehausen, Yuki Birck, Lorraine Olley, Barbara Kupsak, Gloria Enriquez, Joan Madej