



EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND APRIL 16–18

EPW is a retreat held at Mundelein Seminary for men discerning the priesthood. Tour the Seminary, meet priests and seminarians, and hear talks on discernment and the priesthood. Mass, adoration, and free time for prayer and reflection will be included.

Contact Fr. Joe Noonan

312-534-8298 or jnoonan@archchicago.org



Save these Dates! Summer will be here soon!

Camp Totus Tuus Our annual Camp Totus Tuus will be held on **Monday, August 2nd, 2010** at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines, IL. This one-day camp experience for youth entering grades 6-through 12 will include games, food, discussions, prayer and Mass. Participants will meet new friends, seminarians, college students, priests, religious sisters, and most important — Jesus in the sacraments! Contact Pat Pacer at 312-534-2587 or go to www.TotusTuusChicago.com and look for more details in the coming months.

Leadership Camp A High School Men's Leadership Camp will be held at Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford, IL. on **Sunday, August 8 through Wednesday, August 11, 2010**. The camp is designed to help young men grow in the skills needed for strong Christian leadership and to discern what God is calling them to do with their lives. The camp days will include discussion, Adoration, prayer, daily Mass, and quiet time for reflection . . . and of course, fun and food! The High School Men's Leadership Camp is sponsored by the Vocation Offices of Chicago, Joliet, and Rockford. Contact Pat Pacer at 312-534-2587 or ppacer@archchicago.org



World Day of Prayer for Vocations—April 25, 2010

“Witness Awakens Vocations” is the title of Pope Benedict’s message for the 47th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated on April 25, 2010 Good Shepherd Sunday.

“A fundamental element, one which can be seen in every vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life, is friendship with Christ.”

“May this World Day once again offer many young people a precious opportunity to reflect on their own vocation and to be faithful to it in simplicity, trust and complete openness.”

Fr. Joe Noonan
Vocation Director
312-534-8298
jnoonan@archchicago.org

Fr. Gerald Walsh
St. Joseph College Seminary
Assistant Vocation Director
773-973-9706
gwalsh@luc.edu

Susanne Smith
Assistant Director
Vocation Office
312-534-5234
susmith@archchicago.org

Patrick Pacer
Vocations Program
Coordinator
312-534-2587
ppacer@archchicago.org



INTRODUCING OUR SEMINARIANS

Jason Parzynski is a Seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago – Class of 2011. Photo was taken during the Mundelein Seminary Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2010.

My name is Jason Parzynski and I am 29 years old. I am one of four children, two girls and two boys. I was born and raised in Michigan, however we have always had a close connection with the Chicagoland area through a number of relatives. While growing up there were three careers I often thought about: (1) the Catholic Priesthood, (2) being an astronaut, and (3) being the President of the United States. Although these three paths in life couldn't be further apart, they summarize my zeal for serving others, being creative, and not letting obstacles prevent me from achieving the goals my heart has set itself on or the tasks given to me.

During my junior year of college my best friend and I stopped at Gameworks on our way home for Christmas break. While playing videogames Rick and I began talking about the future and what we would be doing. Amidst that conversation, certainly through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the topic of priesthood was raised. During this conversation we decided to make a pact to discuss our possible vocations publicly in order to arrive at a point of clarity, so that we both would not end up later in life wondering, "what if?" The pact I made with Rick gave me the courage to approach a priest over that Christmas break to discuss the possibility of priesthood, which ultimately brought me to the point where I decided to enter seminary upon graduation.

Although at the time I entered seminary I remained uncertain as to how I was supposed to live out my call to the priesthood, the seminary formation program alongside the opportunity I had to spend time with a Cistercian Community helped me gain the clarity I needed to better understand God's invitation to His priesthood. During the time I have been in seminary three Chicago parish priests have had an influence on me and have helped me understand what it means to be *priest*: Fr. Bill Zavaski, my pastor, Fr. Ed Upton, and Fr. Ron Lewinski. I hope and pray that God grants me the graces to serve the good people of the Archdiocese of Chicago with the same zeal, love, and compassion as these three priests!

One thing God has taught me through the time I have been discerning priesthood, and in formation at the seminary, is that it takes a community to form a young man into the priest God is calling him to be. It was through the examples provided by priests I have known over the years that encouraged me to think about priesthood, and it was also through the support and prayers of so many people I have come to know while in seminary, alongside the support of my family, that have given me the strength to make the sacrifice necessary to commit to becoming one of Christ's Priests. The road to the priesthood is truly one that opens the mind and heart to the power of Christ's Sacred Heart!

BREAD OF LIFE

Youth Retreat

April 16 - 18, 2010

Guerin College Prep High School

8001 W. Belmont Ave.

River Grove, IL

A
Weekend
For, Of, and By
Young People!
All Teens age
13 + are
invited!

Illinois Catholic Prayer Breakfast

April 30, 2010 - 6:00-10:00 AM at Hyatt Regency Chicago

The Illinois Catholic Prayer Breakfast invites Catholics throughout the State to gather as one to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on our country, to reaffirm our faith, promote the teachings of the Catholic Church, pray for our nation and its leaders, and give glory and honor to God as a visible witness to our culture. The Illinois Catholic Prayer Breakfast offers a morning program intended to permit all people to attend and not significantly disrupt their day. The program seeks to be powerfully edifying and enriching to the participants and draw participants from every diocese in Illinois. [Google Illinois Catholic Prayer Breakfast for event and ticket information.](#)