



The Desert's Catch

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Monthly Newsletter from the Vocations Office

Seminarian Convocation Held

At the beginning of August, the yearly Seminarian Convocation was opened with members of different youth and young adult groups gathering at the parish hall of Sacred Heart Parish in Nogales, Arizona. A sizable number came from as far as Coolidge, Tucson and the 2 parishes in Nogales. Fun games were held where even Bishop Kicanas was seen in a happy banter. He actually did quite well – managing NOT to be “kicked out” for a long time.

A mass followed in the packed church with Bishop Kicanas presiding and concelebrated by several priests. In his homily, he spoke about the fervor of the youth in their faith and how it is very important to keep this alive.

The following day, the seminarians were treated to a presentation by Fr. Pete Neeley of the Kino Border Initiative who spoke about the very important work that they do in caring for the migrants at their “comedor” in Nogales, Sonora. Thereafter, a talk was made by a team of Customs and Border Patrol Agents who even took our seminarians on a ride for a close up view of the border in areas not usually seen.

Continuing the convocation at the Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks, Bishop Kicanas spent the entire day on one-on-one meetings with each seminarian. In the evening, the traditional Benefactor’s Mass and Dinner was hosted by Fr. John Lyons, Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. It was a wonderful time for our seminarians to meet and personally thank our numerous benefactors.

On the last day of the convocation, Dr. Rosemary Celaya-Alston gave a presentation on “Addictive Behavior” which would greatly assist our seminarians in future ministry work. Lastly, Mrs. Marty Hammond of the Vocations Office gave the administrative talk which officially ended the convocation.

Meet Our New Seminarians

Bill Duffert – Bill is originally from Ramsey, Minnesota where his family still resides. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from St. Mary’s University in Winona, Minnesota in 2010, he came to live in Yuma, AZ and taught in San Luis. Bill is a keen long distance runner who runs daily. He is now in Pre-Theology 1 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois.

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Tom Quirk – Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Arts Administration from Butler University in Indianapolis Indiana. He worked with CODAC Behavioral Health Services of Pima County, Inc. for 5 years caring for those with psychological challenges. An active parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Tom was an altar server, Eucharist Minister, RCIA Team Member and sings with the Parish and the Diocesan Choirs. He is now in Pre-Theology 2 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois.

Seminarian Roundup

We have a total of 14 seminarians in formation. There are 4 College (Philosophy) Seminarians at Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon namely:

1. Paul Grandi
2. Zach Ferrell
3. Ivan Garcia
4. Jesus Sanchez

We have 10 seminarians in Major Seminary (Theology) namely:

Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois:

1. Bill Duffert - Pre-Theology 1
2. Tom Quirk - Pre-Theology 2
3. Callistus Iyorembor - First Year
4. Martin Moreno - First Year
5. Edson Elizarraras - Second Year
6. Alan Valencia - Third Year
7. Albert Miranda - Fourth Year
8. Marco Carrasco - Fourth Year

Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners, Wisconsin:

1. John Gonzales - First Year
2. George Holley - Second Year

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Seminarians Receive Candidacy

On Sept. 6, 2013, at the Mass of the Holy Spirit to be celebrated by His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, 4 of our seminarians at Mundelein Seminary will be receiving “Candidacy” . It is at this mass that seminarians are deemed worthy “candidates” on formation towards priesthood. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, D. D., Bishop of Tucson will also be there to concelebrate. Those to receive “Candidacy” are the following: Callistus Iyorembor, Martin Moreno, Edson Elizarraras and Alan Valencia.

Vocations Director Visits San Juan de Los Lagos and Guadalajara, Mexico

The Vocation Director, Fr. Ricky Ordoñez, recently visited the Diocese of San Juan de Los Lagos and the Archdiocese of Guadalajara to establish closer Vocations cooperation. The Bishop of San Juan de los Lagos, Bishop Felipe Salazar Villagrana, and the Seminary Rector Fr. Cristobal Asencio met with Fr. Ricky and agreed to further explore possible programs that would enhance the relationship of our dioceses. An invitation to visit was extended to Bishop Kicanas. As it was the feast of the Assumption, the Bishop invited Fr. Ricky to concelebrate at the outdoor mass attended by thousands of people. The celebration in honor of Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos is said to be the second largest Marian festival in Mexico after Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In Guadalajara, Fr. Ricky was met by the Rev. Javier Magdaleno Cueva, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Guadalajara. They discussed the viability of programs for Tucson priests and seminarians to learn Spanish and Hispanic customs and traditions. Also discussed was the possibility of a pilgrimage group from Tucson composed of seminarians to visit next year. Inspections were also made at a couple of language schools offering intensive Spanish and English courses. While there, Fr. Ricky also visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Zapopan and closely observed the “*Quinceañera*” tradition.

Two Tucson Seminarians Attend World Youth Day in Brazil

Seminarians Alan Valencia and Paul Grandi attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Both report that it was a truly “awesome” experience to be with millions of the world’s youth worshipping and celebrating Jesus Christ together. For those of you who may want to hear their experiences, they will return to the diocese in December. I am sure your Youth Groups would be interested to hear their experiences.

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St. Mark' s Parish Hosts Dinner for Young Men Interested in Priesthood

Recently, Fr. Patrick Kennedy, Pastor of St. Mark' s Parish, and its Youth Minister, Bill Buhs hosted a dinner with 7 young men who showed interest in a Vocation to the Priesthood. Fr. Ricky Ordoñez, Diocesan Vocations Director, answered their many questions about the life of a priest and the journey towards it. It is very encouraging that our Pastors and their Youth Ministers are actively keen on promoting Vocations. We pray that other parishes will follow.

Andrew/Miriam Dinner Scheduled for Sept. 25 at the Newman Center

On Sept. 25, 2013 at 5:30 PM, Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P., Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish (The Newman Center) at the University of Arizona will be hosting an Andrew/Miriam Dinner. This is a gathering of men and women who may be interested in a Vocation to Priesthood and the Religious Life. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D., Bishop of Tucson and Fr. Ricky Ordoñez, Diocesan Vocations Director, will be present to meet with those attending and answer questions they may have. Anyone interested to join this may contact the Vocations Office (838-2531) or directly with the Newman Center.