



The Desert's Catch

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Monthly Newsletter from the Vocations Office

- On Oct. 12, 2013, over a thousand people converged at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Church for the Annual Arizona Rosary Crusade. Together with Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, D. D., Bishop of Tucson, the Knights of Columbus, various parish groups from all over the Diocese, priests and religious prayed the rosary together. The Vocations Director, Fr. Ricky Ordoñez, led in praying a decade of the rosary in ten different Philippine dialects.

- The Vocations Director, Fr. Ricky Ordoñez, made a presentation at the Knights of Columbus Council meeting on Oct. 14, 2013. He spoke on the various needs of the Diocese of Tucson and presented the possibility of a project to be done next summer that may assist us in addressing challenges in vocations. The Councils were very supportive and have since shown a lot of enthusiasm. Let us pray that this will succeed!

- Mt. Angel Seminary has been forming our College seminarians for quite a number of years now. Every year, the Episcopal Council is convened to discuss the progress in the formation of seminarians. The Vocation Director represented Bishop Kicanas in the Council during this year's meeting on Oct. 24, 2013 with about 10 Bishops, Religious Superiors and Vocations Directors. While Fr. Ricky reports that there is no question about the seminary's sterling academic standards, equal focus should also be given to the "non-quantitative" aspects of formation (i.e. a sense of mission, compassion, charity, respect, gratitude, etc.). This part of formation will greatly impact their affectivity as future pastors.

- Currently, we have 4 seminarians at Mt. Angel on their third year. They are: Ivan Garcia of St. Helen Parish, Eloy, Paul Grandi of the Newman Center and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Zachary Ferrell of St. Mark's Parish and Jesus Sanchez of San Judas Tadeo, San Luis, Arizona. A meeting with their formator revealed that they are all doing well and are competent, spiritual and talented men.

- The Youth Fest was held on the 26th of October at the Tucson Convention Center. Over a thousand youth group members and their leaders participated in a day filled with activities, music and presentations. The Vocations Office had a table filled with information on Priesthood and the Religious Life along with chocolates and the "San Damiano" Crucifix.

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- When priests are asked about their “Vocation Story” , almost always, there would be a priest or religious who served as a great influence or inspiration. Following along this line, Bishop Kicanas has now appointed Priest Chaplains for the Catholic high schools in Tucson and Yuma. They are as follows:
 - Fr. Ramonito Celestial - Yuma Catholic High School
 - Fr. Jorge Farias Saucedo - St. Augustine High School
 - Fr. Emilio Chapa - San Miguel High School
 - Fr. John Paul Shea - Immaculate Heart of Mary High School
 - Fr. Ricky Ordoñez - Salpointe Catholic High School

As Priest Chaplains, they will devote one day in a week to celebrate mass, hear confessions or give witness to the faith complementary to their religious instruction.

- On November 6, 2013, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish hosted an Andrew/Miriam Dinner. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, D. D., Bishop of Tucson, had an opportunity to speak with those who may have a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life. It was a very pleasant evening where questions were answered over a delicious meal. Sr. Jeanne Bartholomeaux, Vicar for Religious, Fr. Jorge Farias Saucedo, Parochial Vicar of Our Mother of Sorrows, Deacon Andy Corder, Michelle Benzenhoeffler, and the Vocations Director, Fr. Ricky V. Ordonez were also in attendance.