



PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE
Office for Priestly Vocations

June 2017

Ordained To Serve

17 years ago, on May 13, 2000, on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, I was ordained to the Order of Transitional Deacon. My parish pastor, Fr. John Parr, very generously gave me a print of Ford Madox Brown's powerful painting, Jesus Washing Peter's Feet, a gift I have treasured.

The painting is based upon the Gospel of John, verses 13:1-15, when, Jesus, "rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter,... Peter said to him,

"You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.

I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."



You can see in the background how the other disciples are horrified that Jesus would be washing feet, the chore of a servant. You can see the humility of Peter in his vulnerability of allowing His Lord to serve him in such a servile manner. And too, you can see the love of Jesus gently



drying Peter's foot as he teaches this most important of lessons, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) Anyone who follows Jesus must do the same.

The artist captures so well the call to service in ministry. This issue of the Priest for Tomorrow Newsletter focuses on the call to serve through the transitional diaconate, the last order received before ordination to the priesthood. Read about our two newest transitional deacons, Kyle Laylan and Barry Saylor, who talk about their ministry of service. You will also learn about what service work our seminarians will be taking part in over the summer months.

Thank you for your financial support of our 29 seminarians, and please remember to keep them in your prayers.

- Fr. Alan Wierzba, Director of the Office for Vocations

Bishop Callahan's Homily from Diaconate Ordination

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I thank you for gathering to share in our joy as Kyle and Barry—your sons, brothers, and friends—are advanced to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate. This is a wonderful moment in their lives and in the life of our beloved Diocese, as they are ordained into Holy Orders. While it is true that their eyes look to the Priesthood, there is a singular value and a genuine wisdom to this moment, which in itself has a permanent effect in both their lives.



In addition to their families, I am honored to welcome our dear brother priests from Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, to whom we have entrusted the formation and training of Barry and Kyle in their preparation for Holy Orders.

It is true that for several years, these candidates have participated in the Church's intensive program of human, spiritual, intellectual, and social formation so that they would be found worthy of this call, this vocation to serve the Church as ordained deacons.

Baptism calls each of us to be disciples and to be servants, but the ordination of a deacon calls certain ones among us to exercise a unique and particular service for the community of the faith. This service is near and dear to the heart of the Church because it specifically manifests the Church's ministry of service in the manner of Christ Himself.

Theirs will be a service of the Word, not

the word of modern culture, which all too often leads those who follow that word down paths of comfort, expediency and convenience. No, theirs is a service of the Eternal Word of Truth, Salvation, and New Life. They will now have the authority to teach and to preach the burning Word of God with authority and mission. They teach now in the name of the Church and so they must do this with the profound recognition that what they teach is not theirs, but Christ's truth. They must teach so as to be aware that what they teach is passed on with integrity and fullness, never watering down the Faith, but presenting it in ways that are concise, complete and consistent with the Magisterium of the Church. The Church deserves nothing less from them and in that they are providing an invaluable service to us all.

They will now be preachers of the Word. Preaching is no easy task or

responsibility in our times. They will encounter from time to time, of course, a resistance to the message of the Gospel; but, in our society, they may sense in their listeners an inability to receive the Word, often as a result of the chaos and anxiety that so fills people's hearts and minds today. This may be difficult for them; but they must attend to this great service with dedication and tireless zeal, never surrendering to the temptation to speak only what people want to hear or to do so with inappropriate cliché's and less than useful and irrelevant humor or examples.

They must transcend all of this and preach with courage, authenticity and conviction, first hearing and receiving the Word themselves, and then offering it as food for spiritually hungry people who look to the Church for a deeper encounter with Christ. My sons, preach from your heart and teach what you have learned, and you will find a power that comes not from you, but from the Holy Spirit, who will be speaking through you.

Dear brothers, you will now be near the altar, assisting the priest with all that is sacred. Conduct yourselves there with profound reverence and humility, with awareness and a keen understanding of what you are doing. Assist in a purposeful way because in doing so you are helping the priest to offer the Sacred Sacrifice in a worthy and prayerful manner bringing the community to authentic worship.

Yours, also, is a service of justice and charity. The first deacons, Scripture tells us, were chosen to distribute the food to the hungry and the needy so that the Apostles could be devoted to the preaching of the Word and to prayer. And so for centuries, the Church has set apart certain men to fulfill this diaconal role. Today you will join them and you should never lose this call of service; and when, God willing, you are called to the priesthood, you will bring with you, a lifelong order to serve in the manner of Jesus. You will be called to look for concrete ways to help others by living and practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Indeed everyone is called to these acts of mercy, all the baptized, but you will do it now officially in the name of the Church. In so doing, associate yourselves freely with the poor, the sick, and those



who are powerless. As you serve them, you will serve Christ. I charge you today to make your service as deacons in the ministries of justice and charity, a hallmark of your entire life.

To signify your willingness to offer yourselves for this lifelong ministry as deacons, you give the Church two profound and indescribable gifts: the promises you will make to be obedient and to remain celibate for the sake of the Kingdom. These promises, so moving for all of us to witness, will never make sense to a world, to a culture that highly prizes one's individual freedom and one's natural desire to be united with a life-long spouse. Our society in this present age will no doubt consider your total gift of self to be senseless—foolish, in fact; but the living tradition of the Church, ever desiring to follow the transforming

example of Christ who gave Himself entirely as the obedient suffering servant teaches us of the heroic witness of such a life, the kind of witness of which the world is in desperate need. May your life be proof that such self-giving is not only possible but healthy and useful for the Church and the world. Always be joyful in that gift, never giving into the temptations to become cynical, humanly and emotionally cold, moody and lifeless. These attitudes will tarnish the gift you are giving today. Pray rather for deeper passion, a more intense desire to give of yourself to God and to others, knowing that God will surely hear your prayers since what you ask for will be for others and not for yourself.

From these promises, not easily lived, and challenged daily, you will find a deep joy and a life-changing freedom

You are encouraged to write to our seminarians as a way of showing your support and prayers throughout the school year at the following addresses:

Mundelein Seminary
1000 East Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Pontifical North American College
Via del Gianicolo, 14
Rome RM, Italy 00165

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary
750 Terrace Heights,
Winona, MN 55987

St. John Vianney Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary
3257 S Lake Dr,
St Francis, WI 53235

that will unfold for you as your ministry progresses. Your “yes” to God given in your freedom, your total gift of self, will be the foundation of God being able to do more with you and through you than you will ever think possible.

We will all pray for you as you give the entirety of who you are to God and to us, for as Jesus teaches: there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

As your Bishop, you know already that I have great pride in you and trust in the ministry of service you will provide in this local Church. In fatherly affection, I entrust you and your ministry to Our Immaculate Mother Mary. May She who schooled our Blessed Lord in the ways of service and obedience, continue to form you in the image of Her Divine Son. With Her guidance, may you assist others to know, love, and serve Her Son in His Church. Joyfully announce the Kingdom—to which may God lead us all!



Finishing my 5th year of seminary, I can honestly say I am not the same person that entered five years ago. I've gotten to know myself at a much deeper level and in doing so have been more receptive to what God is asking of me. Through self reflection, I have discovered my strengths and weaknesses, but in knowing them I feel more confident in carrying out God's will.

This next coming year is an important time, preparing for priesthood means not forgetting what you have been called to do while also remembering who you are; merging the two together into one. Being able to focus on Christ in one's daily life is probably the most important aspect of what I will be working on. With the world's hectic and chaotic requirements, it's so easy to lose track of time, and this is when Christ needs to be at the center of your day. To love and serve others and lose yourself to them, that is my goal for the upcoming year and into priesthood.

CONGRATULATIONS DEACON BARRY SAYLOR

Jeannine Saylor, Deacon Barry's mother

When people find out your son is in seminary, what reactions do you encounter?

Because of his age, some people were surprised, but with his dedication and outgoing personality, everyone thinks he'll be an amazing and caring priest.

What were your first thoughts when your son told you he was thinking of seminary and what do you think now that he is a Deacon?

I was so happy for him because I knew it had been on his mind and in his heart for many years. I'm just so proud and happy for him that he is a Deacon.

As a parent of a deacon, what would you like people to know about the formation process?

It's much longer than people think it is, but with the prayers and support from so many caring people as Bishop Callahan, Father Al, his church community, family and friends it becomes a reality. Also with the support of the Formation Staff and his Spiritual Directors, they help throughout the entire discernment process.

Fr. Jerome Patric, Deacon Barry's pastor St. Vincent De Paul Church, Wisconsin Rapids

I am immensely happy to say that Barry Saylor is a deacon moving towards priesthood from Saint Vincent De Paul Parish in Wisconsin Rapids.

This rich vocation is most frequently attributed to the success of Divine Grace given in response to prayer. "We know that it is the work of the Holy Spirit!", and the deacon's awareness of the call."

We are blessed to have many such men serving the people as a "witness of faithful, dedicated, and joyful men serving Christ and His Church as a committed priest."

While talking about diaconate vocations, each one has interesting and amazing stories. Whatever it may be, the bottom line is the same, the aim is same, and the Caller is the same. A call of vocation - whether Asian, American, African, Australian, or European - all are striving to walk in the footprints of Jesus. All around the world, discerner are looking for a way to seek God more deliberately, and to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and follow in the footsteps of ancient tradition; That is the call to Catholic priesthood - learning how to witness Christ in the normalcy in one's life.

Deacon Barry will become a Catholic priest

to continue his diaconal mission of propagating the Gospel in service to the Church; living a life of celibacy and focused purely on praying and getting to know the Lord.

A vocational call often begins with altar serving. At the high school level he may be approached by somebody, with the idea of being a priest. His mind is on other interests of the world like history, politics, science, or medicine, but at a wedge of time he let himself be open to hear God's call like Peter, Andrew and James before him. The Call grows by attending daily Mass, going to a weekly hour of Eucharistic Adoration, and hearing more and more of his friends suggesting he think about being a priest.

I strongly believe in every one of us the call to vocation should happen like the incident of Emmaus; "Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke to us on the way?" We know God has spoken to us! All that time, all we wanted to do is to be with Him and do what He wanted. Let us share our joy of vocation with many young minds. And let them be a part of God's call to be an instrument of life, as in the words of St. Francis of Assisi; "Make me a channel of your peace". Thank you so much!

How has seminary changed you? Seminary has changed me in numerous ways. This is my sixth year in seminary and a lot has happened over these years. The experiences that have most changed me were the ones that challenged me most. Experiences such as regularly visiting patients in a hospital in Bolivia as part of a summer placement to work on my Spanish, teaching RCIA and figuring out how to articulate responses to difficult questions, or simply seeking to surrender more to God's will each day, all have challenged me and brought about growth.

What will you be doing to prepare for priesthood? I will be doing several things to prepare for priesthood this year as a deacon. One way I will be preparing for priesthood is by trying to be a good deacon. It seems that the better I live out my call to be a deacon the better I will live out my call to be a priest. Whether it be through acts of charity, or preaching and assisting during the liturgy, my actions as a deacon will prepare me well to serve as a priest. One priest told me that he would practice saying Mass every day when he was a deacon, which I think would also be a good practice for me to do. I will make sure to spend a good amount of time reflecting on the priesthood, for example through reading, and also praying for God's grace.

Al & Mary Laylan, Deacon Kyle's parents

When people find out your son is in seminary, what reactions do you encounter?

We've had mixed reactions depending if the person is Catholic or not. If they are Catholic they are generally happy for us. If not Catholic, they will direct a question similar to "how do you feel about that?" and they usually don't understand why a young man would want to give up marriage and children.

What were your first thoughts when your son told you he was thinking of seminary and what do you think now that he is a Deacon?

We were not surprised as we both thought that he may follow that path one day. Seminary is such a long process that we are both comforted knowing



Monsignor Gilles, Deacon Kyle's pastor

Perhaps I am a bit biased, but I believe that Queen of the Apostles Parish in Tomah and Warrens is a vibrant community of faith, which is proud of its Catholic heritage. In fact, we are celebrating 150 years of Catholic Faith. One sign of a Spirit-filled parish is the gifting of deacons and priests for service to the Diocese. It is with great pride that Queen of the Apostles Parish celebrates the ordination to the diaconate of Kyle Laylan, whose priestly ordination will, God willing, take place in June 2018. It is a confirmation that the Catholic Faith

we are striving to live as faithful disciples of the Risen Lord is alive and well. His reception of Sacred Orders is a great encouragement for us to live our faith more fully. It is a signal to each and every one of us in the parish community (and indeed in the wider, civil community) that without exception we are called to imitate Christ who came to serve and not to be served. Kyle's embracing of the Order of Deacon is a poignant reminder that if we claim to be disciples of Jesus, then we must do as He did: to serve others with love, loyalty and humility.

that Kyle is at the point of being ordained, and we thank God that he is living his life joyfully in the Lord.

As a parent of a deacon, what would you like people to know about the formation process?

Formation is both an education process and more importantly, a discernment

process whereby the seminarian grows in holiness and knowledge of our faith leading him down the path that God wills for him. Sometimes the path takes him to the Priesthood and sometimes to another vocation. What's important is that the seminarian is discerning the will of God for his life and willingly follows that path, regardless of where it leads.

Diaconal Ministry

By Very Reverend John D. Hemsing,
Rector, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

When a man is studying for the priesthood, one of the final steps is to be ordained a deacon. Deacon, along with priest and bishop, constitute the three orders in the sacrament of Holy Orders. The ordained ministry of the diaconate finds its scriptural foundation in the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6. There were some within the community of the early Church that were being neglected, so the apostles chose seven men to ensure that the needs of all were met. The apostles laid hands on the chosen men and ordained them for the sacred task of doing works of charity. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word “diakonia,” which literally means “service.”

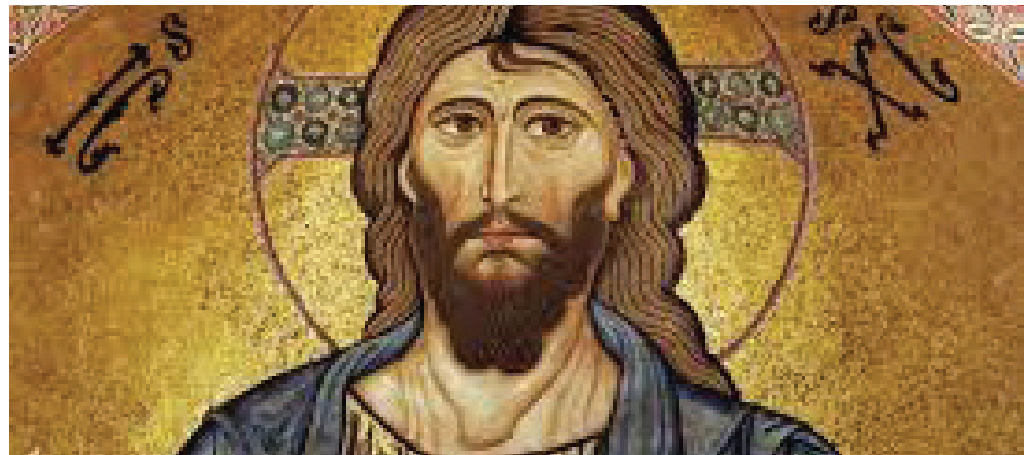
There are two forms of diaconal ministry within in the Church – deacons who are preparing for the priesthood and those who are called to serve as deacons for the rest of their lives. The former are commonly called “transitional deacons,” because they will eventually transition into the priesthood, and the latter are often called “permanent deacons.” The ordination for both forms is the same and shares the same responsibilities. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council states in regard to deacons, “Strengthened by sacramental grace, they are dedicated to the people of God, in conjunction with the bishop and his body of priests, in the service of the liturgy, of the Gospel and of works of charity.” (Lumen gentium 29)

We have several men from the Diocese of La Crosse studying at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, and two of them are now deacons. Deacon Kyle Laylan and Deacon Barry Saylor were ordained on May 6 at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. To reach this milestone, they spent three years fully

participating in the Program of Priestly Formation set-forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program encompasses four areas of formation: human, spiritual, pastoral and academic. Deacon Kyle and Deacon Barry worked on goals to develop proficiency in personal maturity, spiritual maturity, commitment to the Church and its mission, commitment to justice, leadership in prayer and worship, theological competence, pastoral effectiveness and leadership, and effective communication. They were evaluated

on their progress in these areas and then were recommended to Bishop William P. Callahan for ordination. They will return to the seminary for a final year before their anticipated ordination to the priesthood in June 2018.

It is truly an honor and a joy to help form the future priests of the Diocese of La Crosse. The men are of the highest caliber and will make good, holy priests. We are grateful for the opportunity and appreciate the trust that Bishop Callahan and Fr. Alan Wierzba have placed in us.



Do you remember why God made You?

By: Chris Carstens,
Director of Sacred Worship

Do you remember why God made you? Our Catechism tells us we are “to know, love, and serve God in this life, and to be happy with him forever in the next.” A deacon, in a special way, is ordained “to serve.”

Each of us is made not only to be ourselves, but to be like Christ. Is this not what a “saint” is—someone who thinks, loves, and serves “like Christ”? And while we can become made like Christ in a number of ways, the Sacraments are the most powerful way to form us into his likeness. Baptism is the first sacrament that gives us his characteristics; Confirmation strengthens that resemblance; the Eucharist nourishes the conformity.

Similarly, the Sacrament which ordains men to the diaconate “marks them with an imprint (‘character’) which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the ‘deacon’ or servant of all” (Catechism, 1570). And along with Christ’s imprint comes his grace and power to help the deacon live up to this new, glorious standard.

As we pray at the end of the Ordination Rite, “May God, who has called deacons to the service of others in his Church, give them great zeal for all, especially the afflicted and the poor.”

STAR WARS

VS.

STAR TREK

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER?

DEACON AARON BECKER - The Robot Camels from Star Wars

MATTHEW BOWE - I like both Star Wars and Star Trek. I relate to C-3PO from Star Wars and Spock from Star Trek.

DANIEL BUCHAL - Star Wars is the best. I would have to say my favorite character is Jango Fett.

JARED CLEMENTS - Star wars: Qui-Gon Ginn

DAVID DACHEL - STAR WARS! My favorite character is Jar-Jar Binks.

JOHN DURANSO - Star Wars, but my favorite character is Spock.

ANDREW DUSHEK - Star Wars. Favorite character is Chewbacca because I can do a perfect impression of him.

PHILIP GRYGLESKI - I do not follow either series, but I know Star Wars better. So I'll choose Star Wars, and R2D2.

BRANDON GUENTHER - Star Wars - Chewbacca

BRADLEY HAAS - I like both Star Wars and Star Trek though I am more familiar with Star Wars so that would be my favorite. While there are many characters in the Star Wars universe I like (and dislike) Bastila Shan would be one of my favorites.

ETHAN HOKAMP - Star Wars. My favorite character is Obi-Wan Kenobi.

DEACON PETER KIEFFER - Star Wars; favorite character - C-3PO

ALEX KREN - Not a huge fan of either, but definitely Star Wars. My favorite character is Chewbacca.

KYLE LAYLAN - Star Wars - Boba Fett

ERIC MASHAK - Star Wars- Obi-Wan Kenobi

SAMUEL MCCARTY - Star Wars. Favorite character: Nute Gunray

BLAIR RASCHKE - Star Wars, Chewbacca

DAVID REITHER - Definitely Star Wars and my favorite character is General Grievous

TIMOTHY REITHER - Definitely Star Wars. My favorite character is Admiral Ackbar.

JOSEPH RICHARDS - Star Wars all the way. Up until a few years ago I would have said differently, but Rey has officially become the most awesome star wars character ever!!

BARRY SAYLOR - Luke Skywalker would have to be my favorite in Star Wars. He always went with what his heart was telling him, not always knowing why, but going where the Force directed him to go.

LEVI SCHMITT - Star Wars: The Bounty Hunter Boba Fett

ARTURO VIGUERAS - I am not a fan of either one of these movies.

STEVEN WELLER - Star Wars is better, especially since they have fairly competent leaders, both good and evil, like Emperor Palpatine. He is smarter, more powerful, scarier, and more of a bad guy than any Borg Queen or other Star Trek brains and bulk. A Manichaeistic Force ability that affects any Star Wars character is also by far more impressive than the metaphysically bizarre time travel and drama of Star Trek.

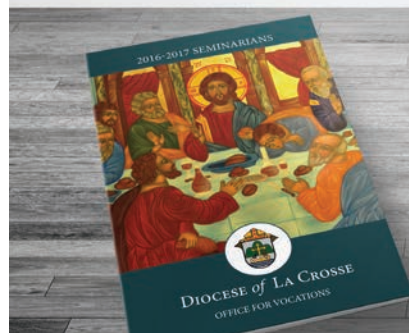
DANIEL WILLIAMS - To be honest, I haven't ever gotten into Star Wars or Star Trek. From my limited experience, I believe Chewy is a safe bet!

JOHN ZWEBER - My Favorite Star Wars Character is Han Solo.

Available Now!

Free Meal/Vocation Prayer Tents and Vocation Prayer Books

Contact **Reneé** at **608-791-2667** or rorth@diolc.org



Watch for new Seminarian Prayer Booklets and posters coming this Fall!

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING THIS SUMMER?

DEACON AARON BECKER - Parish Priesting!!!!

MATTHEW BOWE - I will be going to a Summer Seminarian Spirituality Program through the Institute of Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

DANIEL BUCHAL - This summer I will make a couple of trips to package food for an organization known as Feed My Starving Children and I will also be working in the Diocesan Center.

JARED CLEMENTS - This summer I will be going on the annual Diocesan Mission Trip to Tennessee helping those who were affected by a fire.

DAVID DACHEL - The "Service Work" that I will be doing this summer is helping out in my neighborhood as much as I am able to.

JOHN DURANSO - I'll be working at La Crosse Diocesan Center over the summer. What I'll be doing there, I have no idea.

ANDREW DUSHEK - I'll be helping out at the Place of Grace in La Crosse, being with and serving food to those in need.

PHILIP GRYGLESKI - This summer I will be serving with TOTUS TUUS (Latin for "Totally Yours") - St. John Paul II's motto offering one's whole self to Jesus through Mary. TOTUS TUUS is an 8-week program where myself and 3 other young adults will travel around the diocese giving week-long retreats to elementary, junior high, and high school students.

BRANDON GUENTHER - I will be on parish assignment at St. Florian in Hatley and St. Agnes in Weston.

BRADLEY HAAS - This summer I will be working at the diocesan center helping with whatever jobs need to be done.

ETHAN HOKAMP - I will be at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Newman Center this summer with Fr. Dan Oudenhoven. I am looking forward to helping out at the parish there in any way I can.

DEACON PETER KIEFFER - God-willing, I'll begin priestly service at my new assignment in the Diocese.

ALEX KREN - That's a good question, I'm still looking for a job!

KYLE LAYLAN - I will be a deacon at a parish in the diocese. I hope to serve the community through assisting during the liturgy, especially by preaching. I hope to participate in the various charitable outreaches of the parish, especially visiting the sick and home bound.

ERIC MASHAK - This summer I will be doing an Italian immersion in Verbena.

SAMUEL MCCARTY - For service work... I'll be helping out at Adventure Camp.

BLAIR RASCHKE - Visiting people at the hospital,

DAVID REITHER - For service work I will be helping my family clean up the farm.

TIMOTHY REITHER - This summer I will be doing an Italian immersion in Verbena.

JOSEPH RICHARDS - I'm going to be at IPF down in Omaha this summer. While there we are given an apostolic work as-

signment at a hospital, so I'll be visiting residents and patients.

BARRY SAYLOR - My summer will be building onto my future ministry. I will be visiting the sick and homebound, along with nursing homes and hospitals. Learning my role as clergy and working more in the community

LEVI SCHMITT - I will be actively ministering to patients in a hospital chaplaincy program.

ARTURO VIGUERAS - I will be helping out at the parish this summer.

STEVEN WELLER - I will be working an apostolic assignment at IPF. It will most likely be in hospital ministry, but I will not know for a few weeks.

DANIEL WILLIAMS - I will be spending much of the summer doing extra classes that include three weeks in the Holy Land. I am very excited about this opportunity to study the Gospels where Jesus walked! After I return, I will complete a month of internship at a parish here in the diocese.

JOHN ZWEBER - This Summer I will be helping with our diocesan discernment retreats.



June 5 - Levi Schmitt

June 12 - Blair Raschke

June 28 - Juan Pedro

Roblez Baltazar

July 11 - Ethan Hokamp

July 26 - Daniel Williams

August 16 - David Dachel

August 16 - Isaac Pecha

August 23 - Jared Clements

August 26 - Matthew Bowe

August 26 - Daniel Buchal