

PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW



Diocese of LA CROSSE
Office for Priestly Vocations

October 2016



SEMINARIES

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

This morning I GOOGLED the phrase, “What one book would I want if I were stranded on a deserted island” and it came up with 1,940,000 hits. Nearly two million other people have pondered that question as well. I only perused a few of the sites and enjoyed a few answers, my favorite was, “An Idiot’s Guide to Getting off a Deserted Island”. Besides the Bible, I would probably want a James Michener novel such as Centennial.

Some days I think we all would like to be stranded on a deserted island just to escape the busyness of life and the pressure of life off the island. I guess this accounts for the popularity of island vacation get-a-ways. The Church has always taught that it is a good practice to occasionally get away from everything around us to better focus ourselves on God; to retreat from daily life for an extra-ordinary experience of God’s love. We learn from these retreat times and clear our minds to see the things of God in a deeper and more personal and profound way. These are times of learning.

Of course, we don’t have to physically go somewhere to retreat; it is easy to take a short retreat several times during the day and create our own desert island experience using our imagination. St. Ignatius Loyola taught his followers to use their senses imaginatively in order to enter into special prayer experiences, especially using stories from

Scripture. Ignatius would ask, “What do you feel? See? Taste? Smell? Hear?” And once you are comfortably present to your imagination, image Jesus there with you. What does he look like? What does He say to you? We can learn quite a bit about Jesus’ love for us on one of these mini “retreats”.

This edition of our Priests for Tomorrow Newsletter asks two questions: First, what book, besides the Bible, would you take with you on a deserted island? And second, what was one thing you learned today? In Scripture, Jesus encourages us to spend time with Him as He says, “Come me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest.” On second thought, maybe the only book I would want if I were stranded on a deserted island would be the Bible. I just learned that would be enough for me.

Fr. Wierzba

WHO ARE THE NEW GUYS?



JOHN DURANSO

I come from Wausau, at the far flung end of the diocese. I was baptized at Holy Name of Jesus Parish and went to kindergarten there before the school shut down. Afterwards I attended St. Michael's Catholic School until the end of 2nd grade when the family moved to southern California, where we started attending St. Martha's Catholic Church. Out there I started attending public school and continued to attend public school until graduation. After 3rd grade we moved back to Wausau and have been here ever since.



DAVID DACHEL

I was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. I have two younger brothers named Joshua and Michael. My parents have raised us in a very Catholic household, where attending Mass at least once a week has been a requirement. This has greatly helped to form who I am. I attended Assumption Catholic Middle and High School, from where I graduated this year as the Bishop's Medal winner.



ALEX KREN

I am the youngest of 4. I grew up on a dairy farm in Neillsville, WI. I belong to St. Mary's Parish. I love playing golf. I am currently in the Regency Program and looking forward to my discernment.



DAVID REITHER

I'm from Elk Mound WI. I live out in the country on a hobby farm and have been home schooled my entire life. I come from a family of six and my older brother is in his last year of college seminary. We are both going to same seminary, which is nice because we are using his car.



DANIEL BUCHAL

I grew up in Wilson, Wisconsin. I played paintball as a hobby from my first year of high school up until I entered seminary. During the winter and fall months I worked as a farm hand for a local dairy.



BRAD HAAS

I am originally from Eau Claire Wisconsin. I graduated from Iowa State University (Go Cyclones!) in May with a Bachelor degree in Aerospace Engineering. I am now starting as a 1st Pre-Theology seminarian for the Diocese of La Crosse at Immaculate Heart of Mary seminary in Winona Minnesota. Some of my pastimes include card games, board games, video games, and sports (especially curling).



NAME ONE THING YOU LEARNED TODAY....

Aaron Becker - I learned that WI upset LSU 16-14.

Matthew Bowe - I learned that 100 percent communication is not possible in part that no two people have the same frame of reference.

Daniel Buchal - I learned about the first two participles of Latin.

Jared Clements - Today I learned the importance of allowing God to transform you by allowing him to work inside you, requiring you to be quiet.

David Dachel - To become a better writer, you should become an avid reader. It will help you write better.

John Duranso - Something I learned about today was sidewalk counseling outside of abortion mills, how to greet the women or couples entering the building and how to try to get them to rethink their decisions.

Andrew Dushek - One thing I learned today is that reseeding grass patches in a lawn is at least a six step process.

Philip Grygleski - I learned the peace that comes from the community at the seminary. It is so fruitful to be able to talk and listen to guys who support one another.

Brandon Guenther - Today I was blessed to be at the canonization of St. Teresa of Calcutta and I learned that Pope Francis wants us to feel comfortable continuing to call her Mother Teresa because that is who she was and is to so many, a mother!

Bradley Haas - I've learned almost all the names of the seminarians at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Ethan Hokamp - I learned that many of the problems people with different personalities have with each other are simply misunderstandings of the other. If they would see things from the other person's perspective, the problem would not be as big of a deal to them. Problems between people often arise out of an inability to see things from another's perspective.

Michael Iwanski - One thing I learned today was that God tends to give me "humility boosters" in very small, but lethal doses. (No, I will not be describing the incident!).

Deacon Peter Kieffer - I learned that things do not always go according to plan, but that some of the unexpected things that happen are better than what I initially planned.

Zechariah Kitzhaber - I learned the Greek alphabet!

Austin Klemen - What I learned today was that it is very difficult to think of just one thing that I learned today.

Alex Kren - I learned that you don't need ink to get your fingerprints taken.

Kyle Laylan - I learned that Peter Kieffer can put up a good fight in a tennis match.

Eric Mashak - How generous God is in blessing me with good friends.

Samuel McCarty - Yesterday I learned about three-stage Christology, how Christ first existed with the Father, then humbled himself in the Incarnation and his Passion, and finally was exalted and returned to the Father's side.

Nicholas McNamara - One thing that I learned today was a good way to get more reading into your day would be to read as you're walking to and from class.

Blair Raschke - I learned to expect the unexpected.

David Reither - I learned how to use a scanner.

Timothy Reither - One thing that I learned about today was the founding of the Roman empire

Joseph Richards - Today I learned that if you don't want your clerical shirts to fade from black to dark grey you need to wash them with special dark-friendly detergent, which means a whole different purchase from Target or Walmart. Life is hard.

Christian Ruf - One of the things I have learned today in doing homework for my "History of the Early Middle Ages" class is that not all of the Roman Emperors were vicious and violent people but that Marcus Aurelius at least was a fairly thoughtful and conscientious person. He was a stoic philosopher (as many of the better class of Romans were) who wrote in his Meditations "Bear in mind that as a Roman and a man you should perform your duties well and with dignity and in a spirit of kindness, liberality, and justice." Even as an emperor he took thought of and tried to abide by what was good and just.

Barry Saylor - Expressing your concerns leads to a positive outcome.

Levi Schmitt - Learning that one of the Eucharistic prayers used during the mass was pulled from a second century document called The Apostolic Traditions.

Arturo Viguera - I learn today a heretic has to be a very smart person because often in the history of the church it would take a lot of smart people to defend a particular doctrine of the Church. Often it would take several church councils in order to figure how to respond to a particular heresy.

Steven Weller - I learned that ancient Greek has a much more complicated verb system than what I originally anticipated. It has more tenses, endings, and rules than Latin or English.

Daniel Williams - I learned today that patience is the key to being able to encounter God. This is something I encounter every day, and something I have to keep learning. If I am patient with every moment and every person I encounter, then I can see how God has a specific way He wants to speak to me and love me in those moments and persons.

John Zweber - Today I learned about some of St. Thomas Aquinas's proofs for God.

September

28 - Arturo Viguera | 30 - John Zweber

October

2 - Brad Haas | 2 - David Reither

6 - Timothy Reither

November

13 - Aaron Becker

December

12 - Andrew Dushek

If you were stranded on a deserted island – what book would you want with you? (in addition to bible)....

Aaron Becker - The La Crosse seminarian handbook. Haha! No, actually it is David Copperfield.

Matthew Bowe - The Hunger Games

Daniel Buchal - If I were stranded on a desert island I would read the Hobbit.

Jared Clements - How to Build a Boat for Dummies

David Dachel - Father Elijah

John Duranso - I would bring the book Lord of the Flies or something like it, so I would at least remember the warning signs of going crazy.

Andrew Dushek - Stranded on a desert island with just one book, I'd take the Summa Theologiae because it's almost five different books in one and has great philosophical/theological concepts and teachings.

Philip Grygleski - If I were stranded on an island, I would bring the Christian Prayer book, so that I could pray the Liturgy of the Hours still. This isn't technically a Bible, although it may be pushing the line a bit!

Brandon Guenther - I would bring Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.

Bradley Haas - I would need to know more specifics about the island to make a definitive choice but if survival is not possible an Atlas would be useful to try and make an escape either to civilization or to another uninhabited island that is survivable for an extended time. If the initial island has the needed resources to be survivable some sort of survival guide would be helpful.

Ethan Hokamp - the complete edition of The Lord of the Rings

Michael Iwanski - One book I would want with me on a deserted island would be My Life with the Saints by Fr. James Martin (or the Bourne trilogy by Robert Ludlum if I'm feeling adventurous).

Deacon Peter Kieffer - The Summa Theologica by St. Thomas Aquinas

Zechariah Kitzhaber - I would want a book with instructions how to survive on a desert island

Austin Klemen - "To Kill a Mockingbird" because it is my favorite book and I have read it 14 times now.

Alex Kren - Man's Search For Meaning

Kyle Laylan - Lord of the Rings by J.R.R Tolkien.

Eric Mashak - "The Basic Works of Aristotle"

Samuel McCarty - On a deserted island, the book I would take: "Physician's Desk Reference" - hollowed out. Inside: waterproof matches, iodine tablets, beet seeds, protein bars, NASA blanket, and, in case I got bored, "Brideshead Revisited."

Nicholas McNamara - The Power of Positive Thinking. That book has some really good techniques that would help me maintain a positive attitude that would help me survive as I await rescue.

Blair Raschke - Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

David Reither I would bring the summa theological

Timothy Reither - The one book I would bring with me on a deserted isle would be the Lord of the Rings.

Joseph Richards - I would take The Great Divorce. It's not about divorce—it's a loosely allegorical story of a dude's journey to Heaven, and it is legit. Too legit.

Christian Ruf - If I was stranded on a deserted island and could only choose one book to have (supposing that I already had the Bible and my breviary) I would probably choose The Ballad of the White Horse By G.K. Chesterton.

Barry Saylor - Father John's Joke Book; The Complete Series from 1934 – 2007

Levi Schmitt - If I were stranded on a deserted island I would prefer to have The Cardinal.

Arturo Viguera - I would take book on the history of ships.

Steven Weller - My one book to bring to an island would be my favorite book, Dale Carnegie's How to Win Friends and Influence People. It's not because I would be around a lot of people on a deserted island, however, it certainly would give me enough time to memorize and maybe master my favorite book.

Daniel Williams - I would bring Pope Benedict XVI's book Jesus of Nazareth because it really focuses in on the life of Christ and would be a tremendous way to encounter Christ on a deserted island.

John Zweber - A Survival Guide