

VOCARE

A Vocations Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Detroit

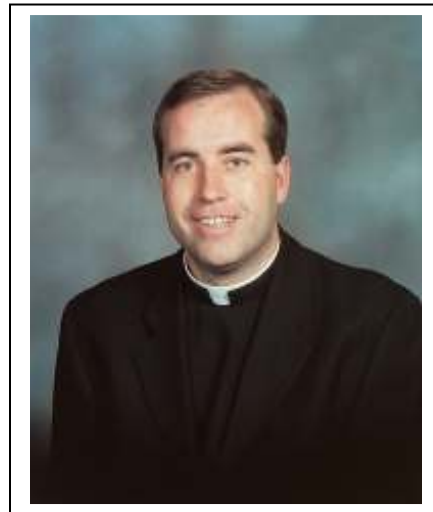
September 2007

Meet Fr. Tim Birney New Vocation Director

It is with great joy that I begin my ministry within the Archdiocese of Detroit as the new Director of Vocations. I am very thankful to Cardinal Maida for entrusting me with this work to help the Church with 'new laborers for the harvest.' I also look forward to working with and for my brother priests in the Archdiocese, to bring more men to service at the Altar of the Lord. Equally important is the close collaboration with the many Consecrated Religious, lay ministers and volunteers who so faithfully serve in our parishes and schools throughout this vast Archdiocese. With reliance in the Holy Spirit, the cooperation of our Vocation Committees, pastors, and lay leadership, and direction of our Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishops, I am confident we can see a visible increase of quality candidates for the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

A little bit about myself. I was born February 8, 1971 to Jim and Grace Birney. I have six brothers, one sister and fourteen nieces and nephews. I was raised in Beverly Hills, MI where my family is a member of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish. I attended Our Lady Queen of Martyrs elementary school and graduated from Brother Rice High School (class of '89). After high school I entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, where I earned two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts (1993) and a Masters of Divinity (1998).

On May 30, 1998, along with six classmates, I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Detroit by Adam Cardinal Maida at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Pastoral



Assignments have included: Associate Pastor, St. Lawrence, Utica (1998-2001); Associate Pastor, Divine Child, Dearborn (2001-2003); Pastor, Holy Cross, Marine City (2003-2007). In 2004 Holy Cross was clustered with St. Catherine, Algonac, and St. Mark, Harsens Island and in 2007 the three parishes merged to become Our Lady of the River Parish. I have also served the Archdiocese as a member on the Assignment Board, 'Try It On' Vocations Committee, Presbyterian Council and Chairperson of the Bi-Annual Priest Convocation Committee.

Building upon the strong foundation set by Fr. Jim Bilot, these past seven years that he so faithfully and dutifully served in this office, I am most confident that the Archdiocese of Detroit will continue to grow in the area of
(Please see Fr. Tim p.2)

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Six new seminarians begin formation for the Archdiocese of Detroit

Representing parishes from throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit, six men answered the call from God and have begun their studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

When asked “What or who was the greatest influence in your decision to begin formation for the priesthood?” Patrick Gonyeau pointed to the influence of a parish priest: “The pastor of my parish was a positive influence in me being active in our parish. I taught catechesis, assisted in marriage prep and the parish council. I was able to see first hand the great responsibility a priest has in the parish. The priest can impact the lives of others in a unique way.”

For Jim Grau, his response reflects an ongoing journey: “I felt that Christ might be calling me to the priesthood, but knew I had hit a sort of wall in my discernment process. I decided that since I felt there was a real possibility Christ was calling me, the best place to fully discern was at the seminary. The advantages of having a spiritual director, a regular discipline, and fewer distractions were the primary reasons I felt the seminary would help in my discernment. I guess, in the end, I felt a call, so I entered.”

Please pray for the following men studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit:

First College: John Strieter;

Second College: Gregory Pearson, Louis Lapeyre, Eric Tarachowski;

First Philosophy: Marko Djonovic, Patrick Gonyeau, Charles Russell;

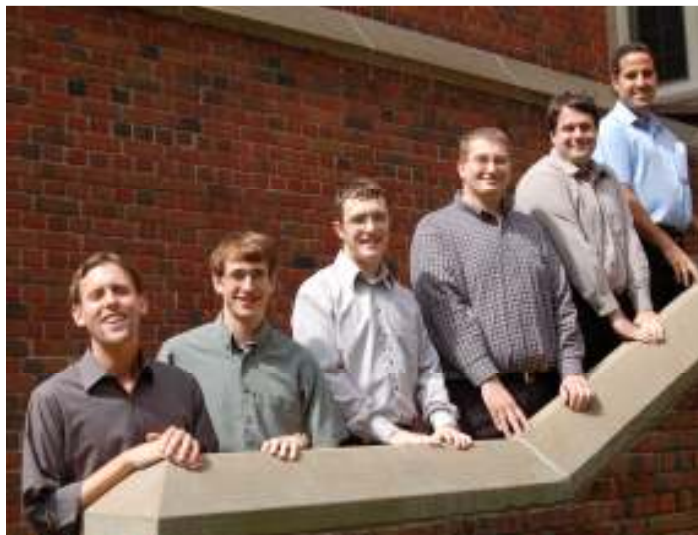
Second Philosophy: Jeffrey Allan, Richard Ambrow, James Grau, John Kopson, Brent Kryda, Steven Mateja, Salvatore Palazzolo, Paul Snyder, Joseph Wienclaw;

First Theology: David Bechill, Eric Fedewa, Steve Pullis, Robert Slaton;

Second Theology: Brian Buckley, Bernardo Cruz, John Dumas, Craig Giera, Michael Zuelch;

Third Theology: Philip Ching, David Cybulski, Adalberto Espinoza, Charles White, Michael Wilkes;

Fourth Theology: Lee Acervo, Charles Altermatt, James Arwady, Raymond Arwady, Clint McDonnell, Sama Francis Muma, Mark Prill.



New seminarians, from left to right: Patrick Gonyeau, James Grau, James Strieter, Gregory Pearson, Brent Kryda and Marko Djonovic

Men's Discernment Weekends

November 8-11, 2007

January 24-27, 2008

March 27-30, 2008

May 9-10, 2008 (one night only)

For men 16 years of age and older who are considering the priesthood

(Begins at 7:00 pm Thursday and ends after Mass and brunch on Sunday)

At Sacred Heart Major Seminary

2701 Chicago Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48206

Pre-registration is required

Contact the Vocation Office

313-237-5875

www.vocationsdetroit.org

(Fr. Tim continued from front page)

vocations to the priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life. I pledge myself fully to ‘filling the seminary’, to the point that our next issue will not be ‘where are the seminarians?’ but rather, ‘where will we put them all!’ I look forward to accomplishing this goal with your help, prayers and support.

All God's blessings to you,

Fr. Tim Birney, Director of Vocations

REMEMBER
PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY
 October 28, 2007

This date has been set aside as a special day to celebrate priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. To learn more about how to celebrate this special day, visit Priesthood Sunday website at www.priestsunday.org

Be My Guest Dinner at the Seminary

Treat a guest (16 to 50 years of age) to prayer, dinner and short presentations.



Wednesday
October 10, 2007

Prayer: 6:30 pm, Dinner: 7:00 pm

\$13.00 per person
 For more information,
 please call 313-237-5875



Sponsored by the Vocation Office and the Detroit Archdiocesan Vocation Association

Fishermen's Fund Update

Through the efforts of a few dedicated lay volunteers, the Fishermen's Fund is achieving what it promised to do from its inception three years ago: advise students at Sacred Heart Major Seminary that aid is available and that money should not stand in the way of a vocation to serve the Church; generate a pool of financial aid for deserving students; inform Catholics about the financial hurdles students must overcome to pursue an education at the seminary; and to serve the archdiocese.

As of July 2007, nearly \$300,000 has been granted to both lay undergraduate students and men in undergraduate formation studying for the priesthood. The Fishermen's Fund committee is seeking volunteer "disciples" to help spread word of the Fund to parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. A "Tackle Box" containing facts and figures has been developed to aid "disciples" in their outreach to parish communities.

If you would like to join the ranks of Fishermen's Fund supporters as a donor or volunteer, kindly contact the Fishermen's Fund office at 313-883-8779 or visit the website at www.fishermensfund.org.



Vocation Activities

The **Thumb Vicariate** Vocations Committee celebrated their first ever Mass for Vocations on September 13, 2007 at Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in North Branch. **Bishop Daniel Flores** presided the Mass concelebrating with **Fr. Tim Birney**, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Detroit and six of the Thumb parish's pastors and associate pastors. It was attended by about 150 members of the various Thumb parishes and all were invited to refreshments after Mass in the Social Hall and a time of sharing with a table full of vocation materials for their perusal. The praise and worship for the mass was performed by St. Cornelius and Ss. Peter & Paul Teen Youth Choir. **Don't forget** to sign up for the Vocation Office Annual Parish Vocation Committee Gathering on **Saturday, November 3, 2007** at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call 313-237-5875 for reservations.

Fishers of Men DVD. Every parish was sent a copy of this excellent and moving Gabriel Award winning production on the Catholic priesthood, commissioned by the USCCB. It is well worth viewing for your parish/school/youth group. The USCCB website has more information: www.usccb.org/vocations.

Support the **Southeast Oakland Vicariate Mass for Vocations**, at Guardian Angels Church in Clawson on **Sunday, November 18** at noon.

Contact Information:

Father Tim Birney
Director of Vocations

Archdiocese of Detroit
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 Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 237-5875

Visit our Website at:
www.vocationsdetroit.org

Email:
vocations@aod.org

October/November 07 Vocation Events

October 10

- **Be My Guest Dinner** at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, sponsored by the AOD Vocations Office and DAVA, for men and women, 16 to 50 who are considering the priesthood or consecrated life.
 - Prayer at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm
 - Cost \$13.00/person
 - Reservations required, Vocation Office: 313-237-5875

October 16

- **My Heritage**, a "mini" Come and See event sponsored by the Detroit Mercy Community, in the Heritage Room of McAuley Center, 28750 Eleven Mile Drive, Farmington Hills, MI; 7-9 p.m.
 - Contact: Sr. Joan Margret, RSM at 319-329-1357 or schwagerjm@mchsi.com
 - Pre-registration required

October 26-28

- **Come and See Weekend** sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. For single Catholic women ages 19-35 being called by God to "something more" in life; at Weber Retreat and Conference Center, Adrian, MI.
 - Contact: Sr. Carleen Maly, OP at 866-744-0005 or vocations@adriandominicans.org
 - Registration deadline, October 19, 2007

October 28

- **PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY**

November 3

- **Archdiocese of Detroit Vocation Office Planning and Brainstorming session**, for new and experienced Parish Vocation Committee members; 9:30 a.m. - at Sacred Heart Major Seminary
 - Contact: Vocations Office, 313-237-5875

November 8-11

- **Men's Discernment Weekend**; Sacred Heart Major Seminary; for men 16 years of age and older who are considering the priesthood. Begins 7:00 p.m. Thursday ends around noon on Sunday.
 - Pre-registration required
 - Contact Vocation Office: 313-237-5875, www.vocationsdetroit.org

November 9-11

- **Veni Si Amas Retreat**, for young women from 17-30 years of age, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr of St. George, in Alton, IL.
 - Contact Sr. M. Beata Ziegler, FSGM at 618-463-2757 or at vocations@altonfranciscan.org

November 18

- **Southeast Oakland Vicariate Mass for Vocations**, at noon; Guardian Angels Church, 581 E. Fourteen Mile Road, Clawson, MI 48017
 - Bishop Daniel Flores presiding.
 - Contact: Fr. Hoang Lam 248-588-1222