

VOCARE

A Vocations Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Detroit

Spring 2008

Blessed Monstrance for Vocations Returns to the Archdiocese of Detroit May 17-26, 2008

During the month of May, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit will once again have the opportunity to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance blessed by the late Pope John Paul II.

In 2004 Pope John Paul II blessed six monstrances that were sent to six continents during the *Year of the Eucharist*. The monstrances were designated for Eucharistic adoration for vocations for each major continent or geographic area as a symbol of the connection between the Eucharist and priestly vocations. It was his hope that through the power of intercessory prayer before the Blessed Sacrament vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life would increase.

After the initial tour ended in October of 2005, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops were entrusted with the care and stewardship of the monstrance designated for North America. Currently, the Bishops' Committee on Vocations arranges for the monstrance to be sent

to various dioceses throughout the United States and Canada, for use in cathedrals, parishes, campus/youth ministry programs, and seminaries/religious houses to facilitate prayer for vocations. The US Serra organization is responsible for coordinating the visit of the monstrance among the dioceses.

In 2006 the monstrance came to the Archdiocese of Detroit at the beginning of the *Year of Vocation* designated by Cardinal Maida. Several thousand people came to twelve different parishes and the IHM Motherhouse to partake in a Holy Hour for vocations.

This May, the monstrance will be present in various parishes, Religious Order Motherhouses and Shrines throughout the archdiocese.

Pope John Paul II once said "every vocation is part of a divine plan." Come and pray with sincere hearts for yourself, your family, for others and for our Church.

See pp. 4-5 for a complete schedule of events.



INSIDE NEWS: 2 SERF'S UP!; 3 VOCATIONS P.I.L.L.; 4-5 BLESSED MONSTRANCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS; 5 FISHERMEN'S FUND UPDATE; 6-7 VICARIATE/PARISH VOCATION ACTIVITIES; 8 CALENDAR OF VOCATION EVENTS

SERF's UP! V.I.V.A. Update

Having recently completed visits to the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy Vicariate during the months of January and February, Fr. Tim Birney, Director of Vocations, has now turned his sights and energies to the SERF Vicariate.

Visiting fifteen parishes, including weekend liturgies, schools and Religious Education programs in seven weeks can prove to be daunting; however, Fr. Tim is convinced that the best way to raise vocational awareness is by personal contact and communication to both adults and youth alike.

The need is greatest with the young. Whenever Fr. Tim speaks to a group of young people, the first question he asks is "how many of you have a vocation?" Invariably, the response is the same, no one or perhaps just one person raises their hand. When asked about this, Fr. Tim responded that "our children live in an atmosphere where the notion that they have a vocation, i.e. they are a child of God, is not something that is readily on their radar or in their thoughts. Even though they have heard the word 'vocation' and it's meaning has been explained to them, the reality hasn't become a concept they easily apply to their daily routine."

Fr. Tim takes the time to let them know that God calls everyone; and the calling is to live your



Fr. Birney speaks to the Middle School students at St. Joan of Arc Parish as part of the SERF VIVA program.

life in holiness either as a single, or married person or as a Religious Sister or Brother or an ordained Priest or Deacon. "God's call hasn't changed, but our response to it has changed. The world tells a different story about what will make our young people happy."

When talking about his own vocational call to the priesthood, Fr. Tim is quick to point out that the example of a healthy and holy marriage as lived and witnessed to by his own parents, opened the door for him to consider what God was calling him to be in his own life. "My parents were the first ones to teach me about what the word 'vocation' meant. It is important for parents today to understand the role they have in their children's lives and to help direct their children to seek and follow God's call in their life."

During weekend Masses, as part of the homily, Fr. Tim elaborates on what a vocation means and how the faithful can contribute to nurturing vocations and encouraging the young to be open to God in their lives. His formula is simple, it involves prayer, invitation, love and living your faith. The result of everyone taking ownership of promoting vocational awareness will lead to a healthier and holier Church. (See article on P.I.L.L. p. 3)



Fr. Tim Birney discusses vocations with Fr. Jim Bjorum, pastor of St. Germaine's Parish, prior to speaking with 7th grade Religious Education students.

The Vocations P. I. L. L.

Pray for vocations. All of us are able to ask the ‘Master of the Harvest’, to send more workers for the vineyard. Do not underestimate the power of your collective prayers for more Priests and Consecrated Religious to serve our local Church. No matter your age or position, prayers will always find their way to the Lord, the one true vocations director.

Invite young men and women to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Consecrated Religious Life. Young people respond well to invitations. To invite someone to consider this vocation is just that, a consideration. If we don’t invite, many will never realize the opportunity and privilege to serve as a Priest or Consecrated Sister or Brother.

Love your Priests and Religious. There is no greater recruitment model, than a Priest or Religious, who is loved, supported and affirmed by the people they are trying to serve. No Priest, Religious Sister or Brother is perfect, but despite their many foibles, they have committed themselves to serve the people of God. If our young people hear positive things about Priests and Religious, why wouldn’t they aspire to live this way of life? It was Christ who said, ‘love one another, as I have loved you.’ Your love will be returned to you many times over. If we want more Priests or Consecrated Religious, we must first love the ones we already have.

Live your faith. What a powerful example you become for our young people, when they see you living your faith. Whether you are a parent, sibling, grandparent, cousin, godparent, family friend, fellow parishioner, aunt or uncle, you have the opportunity to inspire a young person by the way you live your faith. Follow the words of Christ made famous by the late Pope John Paul II, “Be not afraid!”

**This prescription was written for
you to encourage and promote
more vocations to the Priesthood
and Consecrated Religious Life**

“My message to young people is, above all, an invitation and an exhortation. My desire is for the young people of the entire world to come closer to Mary...Look to Mary to see how to respond to Jesus’ call... ‘Do whatever He tells you’...means: listen to Jesus, my Son, act on His word and put your trust in Him. Learn to say yes to the Lord in every situation of your life.” Pope John Paul II

***Schedule of Events for Blessed Monstrance
May 17-26, 2008***

Date/Time/Event	Sponsor	Location
Saturday, May 17 3:00 p.m. Holy Hour	Felician Sisters	Presentation Chapel Felician Sisters Motherhouse 36800 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150
Sunday, May 18 1:30 p.m. Holy Hour Light Reception to follow	Fishermen's Fund Sacred Heart Major Seminary Bishop Quinn presiding	Sacred Heart Major Seminary 2701 Chicago Blvd. Detroit, MI 48206
Sunday, May 18 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour with Eucharistic Procession; Followed by a Vocations Fair; All night Exposition and Adoration	St. Lawrence Parish Bishop Flores presiding	St. Lawrence Parish 44633 Utica Road Utica, MI 48317-5470
Monday, May 19 8:00 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition and Adoration 2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Procession Followed by Benediction	St. Lawrence/Parish/School	St. Lawrence Parish 44633 Utica Road Utica, MI 48317-5470
Tuesday, May 20 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Exposition and Adoration	Dominican Nuns of Mt. Thabor	Mt. Thabor Monastery 1295 Bald Eagle Lake Road Ortonville, MI 48462
Wednesday, May 21 9:30 a.m. Mass followed by Eucharistic Procession 11:00 a.m. Holy Hour	SS Peter and Paul Parish	SS Peter and Paul Parish 6645 Washington North Branch, MI 48461-0208
Wednesday, May 21 1:00 p.m. Holy Hour	St. Patrick Chapel	St. Patrick Mission 9951 Main Street Clifford, MI 48727
Wednesday, May 21 3:00 p.m. Holy Hour	St. Mary Burnside	St. Mary Burnside Parish 5622 Summers Road North Branch, MI 48461
Wednesday, May 21 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour	St. Cornelius Parish	St. Cornelius Parish 3834 N. Mill St. Dryden, MI 48428-0208
Thursday, May 22 8:45 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition and Adoration until 3:00 p.m. Holy Hour	Immaculate Conception Parish	Immaculate Conception 814 W. Neppessing Lapeer, MI 48446-1860
Thursday, May 22 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour	Sacred Heart Parish	Sacred Heart 700 Maple Vista Imlay City, MI 48444-1428
Friday, May 23 8:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Exposition and Adoration	Cloistered Dominican Nuns	Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament 29575 Middlebelt Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334

***Schedule of Events for Blessed Monstrance cont.
May 17-26, 2008***

Date/Time/Event	Sponsor	Locations
Saturday, May 24 4:30 Solemn Mass followed by Exposition and Adoration until 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish) 8:00 p.m. Holy Hour (Spanish) with youth and young adults	St. Michael Parish	St. Michael 120 Lewis Street Pontiac, MI 48342
Saturday, May 24 10:00 p.m. Holy Hour (English)	St. Joseph Shrine	St. Joseph 400 South Blvd., West Pontiac, MI 48341
Sunday, May 25 Exposition and Adoration from Midnight until 8:00 a.m. Mass (English) Followed by Exposition and Adoration until 5:00 p.m. Holy Hour (English) Exposition and Adoration until 7:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish) 8:00 p.m. Benediction	St. Vincent Parish	St. Vincent 46408 Woodward Ave. Pontiac, MI 48342-2240
Monday, May 26 9:00 a.m. Mass followed by Exposition and Adoration until 7:00 p.m. Benediction	Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish	Our Lady Star of the Sea 467 Fairford Rd. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

If you have any questions regarding the Blessed Monstrance for Vocations, please contact Jan DeFour, Vocations Coordinator, 313-237-5839, defour.jan@aod.org

Fishermen's Fund Update

Shrine Grade School Raises Money for Fishermen's Fund

From Sharon Dixon, Principal: "Recently our school children at Shrine Catholic Grade School in Royal Oak collected money from returned bottles and cans. Our fifth graders baked and sold hundreds of cupcakes over a two day period—with all monies raised to go to the Fishermen's Fund. A check, in the amount of \$703.59, will be ready shortly."



The Fishermen's Fund committee is seeking volunteer "disciples" to help spread word of the Fund to parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The primary responsibility of a "disciple" is to support vocations by spreading the word about the Fund at his or her own parish. Everything that a "disciple" needs to communicate information about the Fund has been organized in a "Tackle Box" that contains facts and figures, brochures, and sample scripts for various presentations, such as to a group or from the pulpit. If you would like to join the ranks of Fishermen's Fund supporters as a donor, volunteer, or "disciple" kindly contact the Fishermen's Fund office at 313-883-8779 or visit the website at www.fishermensfund.org.

Parish and Vicariate Initiatives

North Macomb Vicariate Vocations Mass at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

National Vocation Awareness Week had special significance this year for the faithful of the North Macomb Vicariate as they gathered for a Vicariate Vocations Mass with Bishop Earl Boyea on Thursday evening, January 17, 2008 at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Shelby Township.

Planning for this special evening took several months, with members from the various parishes in the vicariate coming together to share their time talent and treasure to oversee and assure a



Members of adult and youth choirs from the Vicariate sang at Mass

successful and significant evening.



The Kaspers came with their small daughter to pray for vocations

Prior to the Mass a Power Point presentation prepared especially for the evening was viewed, which included a video presentation from several priests sharing their vocation stories: Fr. Mike Hrydziuszko, St. Isidore, Fr. Drew Tomasko, St. Therese Lisieux and Fr. Jim Bilot, Divine Child; The presentation also included photos of seminarians and conse-



Bishop Boyea presides at Mass; Fr. Tim Birney and many priests from the vicariate concelebrated

crated religious sisters and brothers, and lay ministers from the vicariate.

Many families with young children were in attendance, as well as representatives from the vicariate parishes and the Knights of Columbus. Several Religious Orders were also present and attended a reception and Vocations Fair held in the parish hall after Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Boyea emphasized that we all have a vocation:

Let there be no mistake about it; we are being called. God's word has been sent forth to each of us and to all of us. He has called all of us to be holy, to become saints; he has called most of us to be married and live that marriage as a means of salvation; he is calling some of us to live the vowed life of Christly poverty, Christly celibacy, and Christly obedience; and he is calling some of us to be other Christs, sacramental Christs as ordained deacons or priests.

Offering two specific reasons for the vocations crisis currently facing the Church: 1) "Very few are listening to God;" and 2) "We have to be willing to live a life for others," he went on to state:

The very notion of the sacrifice of myself for the rest of my life probably is not something that people hear much about. Yet to approach marriage, to approach priesthood, to approach a vowed life

Continue to Promote Vocations

means we have to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for others. Married people are willing to lay down their lives for their spouse, give their all in acceptance of the children God gives them, for go their own pleasures in order to bring about the salvation of the other members of their family. And priests and religious are ready to pour themselves out in generous service for all others. Thus all of us Christians become imitators of Jesus, who gave himself for us.

The Bishop identified three challenges that face the current vocations crisis and offered some ways to resolve them: First - practice self-sacrifices and instill this in our children, especially the practices of fasting and to alms-giving; Second - we need to

pray, especially ask God for more saints, more witnessing couples, more clergy, and more religious; and Third - we need to train our children how to heed to voice of God like Samuel did in the Old Testament. In closing the Bishop reiterated the need to listen to God:

My brothers and sisters, we pray for vocations today because there is a crisis of vocation in our community—few are listening to the voice of God, few are willing to pour themselves out for other, few are willing to spend time with Jesus. Let us begin to overcome this by binding ourselves this day to listening as did Samuel.

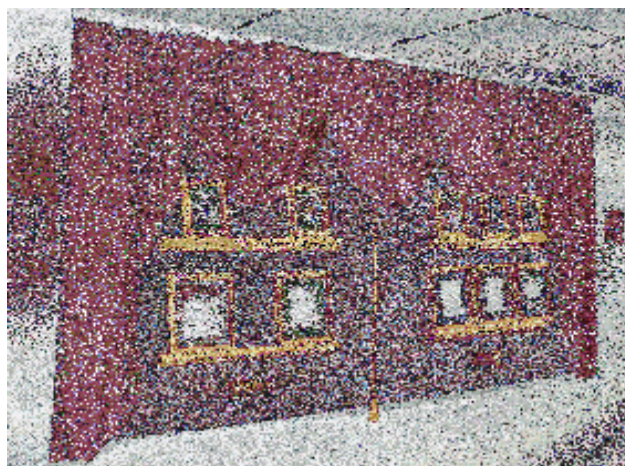
“WALL OF FAME” Graces the Hallway of St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish New Baltimore

A clever way to promote vocations is to "raise the curtain" and add a little Broadway pizzazz!

The brain child of the Vocations Awareness Committee of St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish in New Baltimore (on beautiful Anchor Bay in the Blue Water Vicariate), a "Wall of Fame" highlights two types of vocations in the parish: Discerning/Ordained and Lay Ministry.

In a hallway display decked with golden-trimmed picture frames and an elegant draped curtain, the Wall of Fame pays tribute to those in the local St. Mary community and in the larger diocesan, provincial and world-wide Church. The "Wall" is seen by passers-by at all parish hall functions and was made possible through the generous financial support of the Knights of Columbus – Anchor Bay Council 5981.

The "premiere" display included on the left side, St. Mary's own John Kopson -- a First-Year Philosophy student at Sacred Heart Major Seminary -- and three novices from the Adrian Dominican Sisters religious community. On the right side of the display were John and Carrie Sobetski who, among many other ministries, co-chaired



the three-year RENEW process. Also included in the lay ministry display was the coordinator of the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the parish food pantry, Mrs. Denise Parks.

The Vocations Awareness Committee plans to change the display "honorees" every three months. Most recently, the Wall of Fame honored the Sacred Heart seminarians from the Blue Water Vicariate and the pastor of St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish -- Fr. Nick Zukowski—as he celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. In the future, parish staff and other parishioners will be selected and honored on the "Wall of Fame." "Curtain UP!"

Dan Chisolm is a Vocation Committee Member from St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish

Publication Correction

In the **September 2007 Vocare** on p. 2 the following quotation was incorrectly attributed to **Patrick Gonyeau**; it was **Marko Djonovic** who shared the following quote when asked “who was the greatest influence in your decision to begin formation to the priesthood”: He wrote: “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.”

Prayer for Vocations

*Holy Spirit, eternal Spring of joy and peace,
it is You who open the heart and
the mind to the divine call;
it is You who make effective every impetus
towards good, towards truth, towards charity.
Your 'inexpressible groans' rise up to the Father from the
heart of the Church,
which suffers and struggles for the Gospel.
Open the hearts and minds
of young men and women,
so that a new flowering of holy vocations
may show forth the fidelity of your love,
and all may know Christ,
the true light of the world
to offer to every human being
the sure hope of eternal life. Amen.*

Pope John Paul II

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May/June 2008 Vocation Events

May 17-26

Blessed Monstrance for Vocations. Please see schedule on pp. 4-5 of this edition of **VOCARE**

May 19-22

Veni Si Amas Discernment Retreat sponsored by Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George for Catholic single women 17-30 years of age discerning a call to religious life. Arrive Monday, 6:30 pm Depart Thursday, 9:00 pm at St. Francis Convent, Alton, IL.

- Contact: Sr. M. Beatea: 618-463-2757
- Pre-registration by May 7; forms online at www.altonfranciscans.org (vocation page)
- Cost \$20.00

May 30-June 1

Come and See Weekend: Join the Adrian Dominicans; 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221

- Contact: Sr. Mary Soher, OP: 517-266-3529
- E-mail: MSoher@adriandominicans.org

June 15-July 1

Comboni Missionary “Taste of Mission Trip” to Ethiopia. Visit to the Church’s mission for young men 19-26 years old. Opportunity to discern a missionary vocation and better understand the situation and struggles faced by the Church of the poor in developing countries. Cost: \$1500 for plane ticket. Food lodging and transportation within country provided.

- Contact: Fr. David Bohnsack MCCJ at revdavemccj@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Saturday, September 13, 2008:

Vocation Convocation

at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

All day event with speakers and workshops to help promote vocations in the family, parish and vicariate. Watch for more information in the Summer edition of *VOCARE!*