



# COME, FOLLOW ME

IMAGINE BEING A PRIEST

FALL 2010

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## Ordinations & New Seminarians

*A Message from our Vicar of Vocations*

**G**ood news! This summer we saw three men ordained to the priesthood and three ordained as transitional deacons. We also had five new men enter formation for the priesthood, which brings us to 13 seminarians for our diocese. Thanks be to God!

Since getting back from Rome, I've been able to meet with many young men who are considering and discerning the

priesthood. I was also able to visit the High School Christian Leadership Institute at Camp Kinard, Batesburg-Leesville, SC, and the National Scout Jamboree, Ft. A.P. Hill, Virginia, and highlight the priesthood and encourage its consideration among young people.

I am inspired by the openness of today's young people towards the Faith and

*Continued on back*

## Scouting Promotes Vocations

**B**ishop Guglielmone is an avid promoter of Scouting, and has served as chaplain and head of Catholic Scouting organizations on national and international levels.

Scouting, as a form of youth ministry, can be an effective way to promote vocations by helping young men to live their faith more fully.

At left, the bishop distributes Holy Communion to Boy Scouts at the Provincial Catholic Scout Jamboree in March.



# God Answers Our Prayers!

Five new seminarians begin studies this fall

This fall, the Diocese of Charleston welcomes five new men as they begin their journey toward priesthood. Already, they've been through long talks with the vocation director, completed an extensive application, and have been thoroughly evaluated by a board of clergy and lay people. It takes a lot of work just to become a seminarian! Now begins the multi-year process (described at left) of study and formation, culminating in ordination. Please pray for these men and all who are called to serve as priests, deacons, or religious brothers and sisters in our diocese.

## Rich Wilson ~ First Pre-Theology ~ Hometown: Anderson, SC

**Home parish:** St. Joseph Church, Anderson, SC

**A scripture you find inspiring:** "And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

**Favorite saint:** St. Francis de Sales

**Hobbies / interests:** Kayaking, working out at the YMCA, travelling

**What led you to consider the priesthood?:** My journey to the priesthood is the result of the Holy Spirit tugging at my sleeve for quite some time. Twelve years ago, God led me into full communion with the Catholic Church. As my faith grew, the Holy Spirit continued to speak to me and pull me in the direction of the priesthood. The examples of godly priests like Fathers Timlin, Dubrouillet, Kennedy, Vaverek and Mugabi inspired me. Also, along the way, several good friends asked me: "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?"

**Thoughts on becoming a seminarian:** I'm excited about the opportunity to learn more about Christ and His Church! I'm looking forward to the blessing of being able to attend daily Mass and to fellowship with the other seminarians. Also, I've already met several of the priests who will instruct and direct me in my priestly formation and I'm thrilled that I will be learning from some of the very best diocesan priests.



## Andrew Hawkins ~ First Pre-Theology ~ Hometown: Mount Pleasant, SC

**Home parish:** Stella Maris, Sullivan's Island, SC

**A scripture you find inspiring:** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." John 1:14

**Favorite saint:** I have many favorites but I have a particular devotion to St. Edmund Campion.

**Hobbies / interests:** Reading, listening to music, playing the piano (not so well, unfortunately), spending time with friends and family, traveling

**What led you to consider the priesthood?** I became a Catholic during my senior year at Bishop England High School but I had no serious thoughts of becoming a priest. However, during my time in college, I slowly began to discern that serving the people of God as a priest was my vocation. I attribute my recognition of this call to a deepening appreciation of the sacraments, particularly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Also, the fact that I am pursuing this call has a lot to do with the many wonderful priests of this diocese, two of the greatest influences being Msgr. Lawrence McInerney and Fr. Gregory Wilson.

**Thoughts on becoming a seminarian:** I am very excited but a bit nervous. Please pray for me.



# Seminary 101

## What is seminary like these days?

Many people, even many Catholics, have a vision of seminary as a very strict monastery. They imagine men walking around in black robes, chanting in Latin, observing strict silence, and never smiling or laughing. But that is not even true of a monastery, much less a seminary. The truth is that modern seminaries are much like universities, albeit with a very strong spiritual emphasis. Today's seminaries are filled with joyful men who pray together, recreate together, and take classes to prepare them for priestly life and ministry. It is a very vibrant setting; some have called it the best education the Church has to offer.

What is daily life like for a typical seminarian? In a word: *busy*. Because the demands of priesthood are so great, formation of future priests is extremely rigorous. In addition to master's-level academics, seminarians pray together at least twice a day, go to daily Mass, meet with their spiritual directors, and go to pastoral assignments at local parishes. Plus there are special meetings and workshops. This leaves enough time for meals and homework—but just barely! From a lay perspective, you could compare seminary to having a full-time job and getting a master's degree at the same time.

## Four Pillars of Priestly Formation

Being a priest is not a job: it is the taking on of a new identity; it is becoming *alter Christus*, another Christ. To this end, the Church requires rigorous formation in four key areas:

**Human formation:** learning how to form the future priests' personality to be a bridge to Christ; how to be an effective witness for the Church.

**Spiritual formation:** developing a deep and mature relationship with Christ through prayer and virtuous living.

**Intellectual formation:** understanding the truths of the Faith and cultivating the skills to teach the Faith to others.

**Pastoral formation:** learning how to be a "shepherd of souls," helping parishioners through the joys and trials of life.



*During their years of formation, seminarians learn to put Christ first in all things.*

## Three Levels of Seminary

**College Seminary:** Men who obtain a normal college degree, while at the same time undergoing the formation required to enter major seminary.

**Pre-Theology:** Men who already have a college degree, but who need to satisfy the requirements of two years of formation and study of philosophy before entering major seminary.

**Major Seminary (Theology):** Men who have attended either college seminary or pre-theology, who now begin the final four years of priestly formation.

## Installation of Ministries

Seminarians progress through several formal steps on their way to priesthood, typically in the time frame presented below (with some variations, depending on the seminary and diocese). Note that the first ministries are also held by lay people throughout the Church.

**Ministry of Lector (First Theology):** Proclaim the word of God in a liturgical assembly.

**Ministry of Acolyte (Second Theology):** Assist the deacon and priest during Mass.

**Admission to Candidacy (Third Theology):** The bishop formally calls a man to be ordained.

**Ordination to Diaconate (Summer after Third Theology):** A man takes solemn promises of obedience and celibacy.

**Ordination to Priesthood (Summer after Fourth Theology):** A man is ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

# The Best Gift I Can Offer

Father Bryan Babick's vocation story

“When I was about ten years old, I remember a couple of my friends and I used to ‘play’ Mass in the basement. We’d say Mass for each other, or for my family. One time, I baptized our dog. He didn’t appreciate the shower; I woke him up from a nap under the ‘altar!’” said Father Bryan Babick, Parochial Vicar at Christ our King parish in Mount Pleasant. “In spite of that, I tried to push the priesthood out of my mind. When you’re ten, you have a lot of ideas about what you want to do with your life, and you question them.”

Father Babick’s route to the priesthood had a few twists and turns. “After I was on the priesthood kick, I thought I wanted to be a sports broadcaster,” he said. As a way to break into broadcasting, he went into radio – as a DJ. After spinning records for a few years, he moved into the business end of radio. “I decided I ultimately wanted to be a CPA,” he said. During school, though, the priesthood started creeping back into his mind as he went to Mass with a Catholic friend.

“I got a job at a CPA firm, and knew right away that it wasn’t for me,” said Father Babick. “And I went to seminary thinking that I’d have the same reaction, that it wouldn’t be for me, and that I’d be able to get the idea out of my head and move on with my life.” It turned out to have the opposite effect. With plenty of time for prayer and study, he realized he was exactly where he was supposed to be.

Father Babick has been at Christ our King for just over two years. “I love to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments,” he says. “I feel like it’s the

best and most rich gift I can offer to the people. It’s the best thing I can do to bring the people closer to Christ.”

A challenge he’s faced as a priest is relating his own life experience to that of his parishioners.

“In these difficult economic times, people are struggling with issues like unemployment. I’ve never really been unemployed or dealt with the same issues,” he said. “I have to go on my own experience of how something might rock your faith but not cause you to lose it completely, so my challenge as a priest—and not a licensed counselor or psychologist—is to give people spiritual guidance and perspective.”

Fortunately, Fr. Babick has been pleasantly surprised by his ability to help. “Sometimes you say things you wouldn’t have thought were inside of you, and I think that is a sign that the Holy Spirit is with you. Many times when you seek

to walk with God, He puts things right on your tongue at the time that you need them to benefit His people. You can get yourself all psyched out about how you’re going to handle this or that, but once you get into the moment, God helps you.”

His one word of advice for those discerning the priesthood: “Pray!” he says, “and I don’t mean to just sit down and rattle off prayers like the ‘Hail Mary.’ Use those types of prayers to deepen your meditative capacity and reflect upon the mystery. I have always found it helpful to just sit quietly in front of the crucifix, maybe read a psalm and just gaze up at it. Always pray. If you are not praying, then you are setting yourself up for trouble.”



*“When you seek to walk with God, He puts things right on your tongue at the time that you need them to benefit His people.”*

### Andrew Fryml ~ Third College ~ Hometown: Spartanburg, SC

**Home parish:** Jesus Our Risen Saviour, Spartanburg, SC

**A scripture you find inspiring:** “Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

**Favorite saint:** Saint Therese of Lisieux and St. Augustine of Hippo

**Hobbies / interests:** Playing soccer, golf, ultimate frisbee, bowling, and wake-boarding. I love to read and pray in the quiet downtime. I love the Divine Mercy Chaplet!

**What lead you to consider the priesthood?** It was no particular event, but the Lord kept sending me “small signs.” I would hear things in homilies or readings that would catch my ear and make me think, “Is God really calling me?” It was over a span of four years that the Lord kept on pulling at my heart in so many so ways. The tug kept on becoming harder and harder, and then I finally said “YES!”

**Thoughts on becoming a seminarian:** Becoming a Seminarian for the Diocese of Charleston has been a great blessing and an honor. To represent my diocese while growing intellectually and spiritually is a tremendous opportunity.



### Filip Wodecki ~ Pastoral Year ~ Hometown: Zawiercie, Poland

**Home parish:** Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Charleston, SC

**A scripture you find inspiring:** “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.” John 15:15-16

**Favorite saint:** St. Christopher

**Hobbies / interests:** I love to travel, learning about new cultures

**What lead you to consider the priesthood?** I grew up in a very strong Catholic environment. I served as a lector and altar boy, and many of my friends were altar servers. The priests were great people and a great influence too. Back home we had a great youth program and hundreds of kids were involved in it. We enjoyed coming to the church and we would go on many pilgrimages together. After I got my diploma in business I decided to follow the call to become a priest.

**Thoughts on becoming a seminarian:** It is a long journey to the priesthood!



### Christopher Crabb ~ First Pre-Theology ~ Hometown: Myrtle Beach, SC

**Home parish:** St. Michael's, Garden City

**A scripture you find inspiring:** Jeremiah 18: The Potters Vessel

**Favorite saint:** St. John Bosco

**Hobbies / interests:** Computers, theatre, dance, reading - especially memoirs and historical fiction

**What lead you to consider the priesthood?** I have worked as an elementary school teacher for the past 9 years. It was during this time that God began to tug at my heart that I may be called to serve him in a different capacity. A newly ordained priest, Fr. Andrew Trapp, was assigned to the parish where I attended. For the first time, I related to a priest my age and began to see myself serving in this role. One day after Mass, he asked me, “Chris, have you ever thought about being a priest?” It was this invitation that began my journey to truly discern God's call for my life.

**Thoughts on becoming a seminarian:** I feel anxious about the unknown, excited about following God's will, and ready to connect my faith with an in-depth knowledge of the Church's history and teachings.



# Discernment Retreat

*A Dynamic Retreat for Men Discerning their Vocations*

**September 24-26**

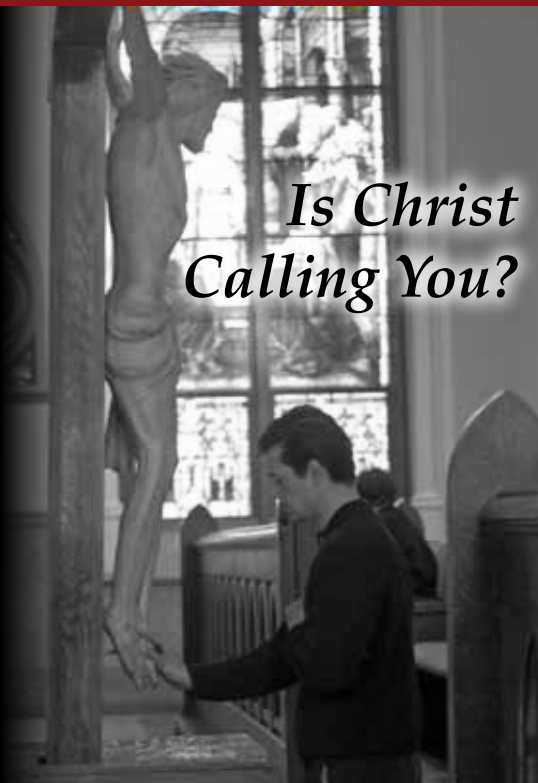
**White Oak Conference Center, Columbia**

*Is Christ  
Calling You?*

Our retreat leader will be Fr. Isaac Orozco, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, TX. After studying in Rome, he was ordained in 2007. Fr. Isaac is a lover of music and art, and well-known for his zeal for the Gospel. As a bilingual, Mexican-American priest, Fr. Isaac brings his rich cultural and pastoral experiences to his teaching, and can reveal the truths of the Gospel in powerful and inspiring ways.



**To register, please contact the Vocation Office**



## Note from Fr. Kirby *Continued from front*

the discernment of the priesthood. The Lord is doing a great work in the young people of our Church.

To all the young men who might be considering the call to priesthood, I'd like to encourage you to be in touch. Often it can be a great consolation to talk about the priesthood and explain to someone what's going on in your soul. Please give me a call or drop me an e-mail. I'd enjoy talking with you.



The Lord has blessed us with 13 men in formation this year. As a Church, we all need to keep praying for more priestly vocations. We need to offer support and foster a community of faith, generosity, and fortitude. In such an environment, the men who are called will find in us the inspiration to say "yes" and give everything to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, STL  
Vicar of Vocations



## DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON VOCATION OFFICE

If you feel called to the priesthood, contact the Vocation Office,  
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[www.charlestonvocations.com](http://www.charlestonvocations.com)