

**Bowie** (continued from page 3)

supportive of his vocation. "They say vocations are everybody's business and they are," he said, "and Sacred Heart has always understood that."

Msgr. Robert Panke, Director of Priest Vocations and Formation, agrees. "The strong faith of the people there and priests that are committed to promoting vocations really makes a difference," he said.

Two Bowie brothers who were members of St. Pius X Parish growing up now are priests for the archdiocese and work at the archdiocese's central offices. Msgr. Barry Knestout is vicar for

administration and Fr. Mark Knestout is director of liturgy.

Msgr. Knestout traces the influence of the priests in his parish growing up; the example of his father who was a permanent deacon for the parish; and the Catholic education he received at St. Pius X School as helping him to discern his vocation.

"The priests there were good men who were always available," he said. "The formation in the parish was always very positive."

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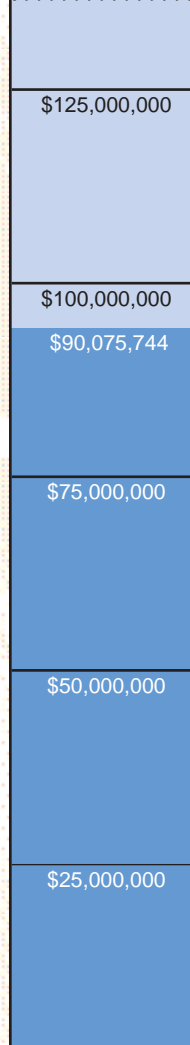


*Looking Forward*

## Towards the Goal!

\$90.1 million in pledges paid as of June 30, 2008

Goal: \$135,000,000



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## The Journey to Priesthood

The Archdiocese of Washington has more than 70 seminarians studying for the priesthood in six seminaries. Before entering the seminary, some were accountants, engineers, editors, architects, teachers, military personnel, and farmers.

While they come from more than 15 countries and diverse backgrounds, they all have something in common. "They have a prayerful, deep encounter and relationship with Christ," said

Msgr. Robert Panke, Director of Priest Vocations and Formation.

The number of seminarians in the traditional formation program for the archdiocese has nearly doubled in the last 10 years. This is partly due to

expanding the programs and vocations events that reach out to men considering the priesthood, such as the Eighth-Grade Vocation Mass, retreats, Project Andrew dinners, monthly discernment meetings and service projects. Parish priests are also

encouraged to nurture vocations within their parish and help men discerning a call to the priesthood.

Even though the number of seminarians has increased in recent years, "We are really serious about who we are accepting," Msgr. Panke said. "We look for men who are deeply committed to the church, the sacraments and are faithful to church teaching. They must have a deep love for the people of God and a pastoral sensitivity," he



Photos by Paul Feters

Newly ordained priests stand with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl following their June 14 ordination at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. From left are Vincent De Rosa, Mark Ivany, Juan Esposito, Marco Schad, Jose Raul DeLeon, Kevin Regan and Patrick Riffle.

said.

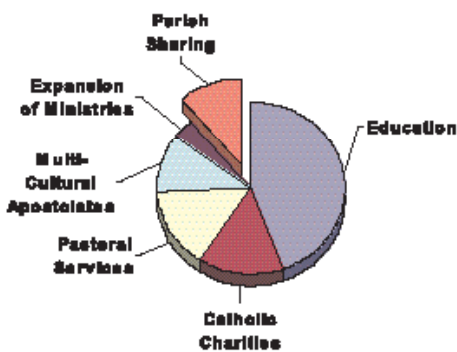
Many seminarians, such as Father Jose Raul DeLeon, were inspired to consider the priesthood by other priests. "There was a parochial vicar at my parish in Newark, New Jersey, that had a great love for the people,

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## Meeting Critical Needs in Our Community

A goal of \$135,000,000 was set for Forward in Faith to meet the critical needs of our community in six areas:

- 1. Education (Endowment) \$60,000,000**
  - Scholarships for Catholic Elementary Schools \$30,000,000
  - Scholarships for Catholic High Schools \$5,000,000
  - Revolving Parish and School Building Fund \$25,000,000
- 2. Catholic Charities \$20,000,000**
  - Catholic Charities Foundation (Endowment) \$10,000,000
  - Family Services \$5,000,000
  - Homeless Shelters and Rehabilitation Programs \$5,000,000
- 3. Pastoral Services \$20,000,000**
  - Needy Parish Fund (Endowment) \$5,000,000
  - Construction of the new Missionary Seminary \$5,000,000
  - Seminarian Education (Endowment) \$3,000,000
  - Archdiocesan Charitable Needs \$3,000,000
  - Pastoral Conference Center \$1,000,000
  - Howard University Catholic Campus Ministry Center \$1,000,000
  - Provide Housing for Communities of Women Religious \$1,000,000
  - Pro-Life Apostolate \$1,000,000
- 4. Multi-Cultural Apostolates \$15,000,000**
  - Endowment for immigrant and minority ministries \$10,000,000
  - Hispanic Pastoral Center \$3,000,000
  - Spanish Catholic Center in Langley Park \$1,000,000
  - Spanish Catholic Center in Montgomery County \$1,000,000
- 5. Ministry Enhancement Fund \$5,000,000**
- 6. Parish Sharing \$15,000,000**



This newsletter will keep donors informed of progress towards these goals.

## Profiles of the newly ordained

### Father Patrick Riffle: A gradual call



Photos by Paul Fetters

Father Patrick Riffle during his June 14 ordination.

Father Patrick Riffle's journey to the priesthood began early in life, at age 11. As he worked on his family's tobacco farm in Southern Maryland, thoughts of becoming a priest often entered his mind, but it was a gradual call. "It's not like I woke up one day and said to myself, I am going to be a priest," he said.

His biggest confirmation came when he visited St. Pius X Seminary in Scranton, Pennsylvania. "It swayed a lot of the misconceptions I had about the seminary in general," he said, "but more importantly it was so great to see college age men who loved their faith and loved being in the seminary." Father Riffle attended college seminary at St. Pius X Seminary while attending the nearby University of Scranton.

His vocation also was inspired by his pastor, Msgr. Paul Gozaloff, of his home parish of Immaculate Conception in Mechanicsville, Maryland. "I saw how much he loved being a priest and it inspired me at a young age," he said.

Father Riffle, 26, was vested by Msgr. Gozaloff when he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington along with six other men on June 14, 2008.

The newly ordained priest, parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish in Ridge, MD for the summer, is excited to celebrate the sacraments with people.

"What a gift it is to be able to celebrate

the Mass and to be an instrument of God's mercy and love." Father Riffle is returning to Rome in the fall for further studies.

### Father Marco Schad: Heard the call in college



Father Marco Schad reads his Bible before the start of his June 14 ordination.

When Father Marco Schad moved from his native Dominican Republic to the United States at age 17 to attend college, he began to take his faith more seriously. In high school, he had stopped practicing his faith, but while studying international relations and computer science at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, he became involved in campus ministry. He was confirmed in his sophomore year and felt a "sense of homecoming," he said.

Growing up he intended to become a surgeon or an international civil servant and was a graduate student studying law and foreign service at Georgetown University when he joined a campus discernment group. He felt the call to the priesthood becoming stronger during his last year of law school and entered Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, New Jersey right after taking the bar exam.

Father Schad, 30, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 14, 2008. He is parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bethesda, Maryland, where he hopes "to be a holy priest and lead people to God," he said.

## Journey to priesthood (continued from page 1)

especially for the youth," said Father DeLeon, who studied at Redemptoris Mater Seminary and was ordained a priest for the archdiocese on June 14, 2008. "I saw that this priest not only enjoyed what he was doing, but was happy giving his life for others."

With a recommendation from Msgr. Panke, those men who wish to continue discernment and begin priestly formation submit an application. Those accepted will attend a seminary chosen by the Archbishop of Washington. Most college seminarians attend St. John Neumann Residence, located at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. College graduates in the 20's and 30's typically attend either Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland; Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC; or the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Older men may also attend Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA. The archbishop also assigns the seminarians to pastoral assignments for at least four summers.

Studying for the priesthood can take up to eight years for high school graduates, who must spend four years in a college seminary before entering the seminary for

another four years. College graduates can expect to spend six years in the seminary: two years studying philosophy and four years of graduate level theology. In addition, seminarians must participate in pastoral assignments, such as hospital ministry or catechesis, and summer assignments, such as studying Spanish in Mexico and working in parishes.

The annual cost of educating a seminarian is between \$30,000 and \$35,000, including tuition, room and board, books and health insurance. The Forward in Faith campaign has enabled the archdiocese to establish an endowment of \$3 million for seminary education.

In addition to the traditional seminary program, the archdiocese opened Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Hyattsville, Maryland in 2001. Forward in Faith funds helped restore the 1929 building, which was built for the Christian Brothers but fell into disuse after it was bought by the federal government. The seminary prepares men to be diocesan missionary priests. They come from around the world, speak multiple lan-



Msgr. Panke, right, blesses then-Deacon Father Vincent De Rosa along with six other men at their June 14 ordination to the priesthood.

guages and, once ordained, will serve in parishes in the archdiocese and may serve as missionaries throughout the world.

Seminarians don't have to be completely certain that the priesthood is right for them when they enter the seminary, Msgr. Panke said. Father Mark Ivany, who was ordained a priest for the archdiocese on June 14, 2008, agrees. "I thought you had to be 100 percent sure before entering seminary, but there is a point where you can't discern any more in your present station in life, and you have to go to the seminary where you hear the call more clearly."

## A community inspiring vocations Parishes in Bowie have drawn many to priestly life

Msgr. Bill Parent remembers Bowie as a great place to grow up where people cared about their families and their faith. "It doesn't surprise me that there have been so many vocations out of that community," he said.

At least 11 priests and seminarians have come from two Bowie Parishes, St. Pius X Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, in the last 20 years.

Msgr. Parent, now pastor of St. Peter Parish in Waldorf and a parishioner of Sacred Heart as a teenager, was ordained in 1991. He was inspired to become a

priest by Msgr. John Hogan, who was pastor of Sacred Heart for 30 years and the late Msgr. Tom Wells, once an associate pastor at the parish.

Msgr. Hogan would talk about the importance of vocations and took great pride in training the altar servers, Msgr. Parent said.

Msgr. Wells taught Msgr. Parent 8th grade religious education and was in charge of the parish youth group. "A lot of men trace their vocations to him and I include myself in that group," he said.

Fr. Kevin Regan, who was baptized in

the chapel at Sacred Heart where he celebrated his first Mass after he was ordained a priest for the archdiocese on June 14, 2008, grew up inspired by his pastors. "Their joyfulness and cheerfulness in the Holy Spirit drew many people to Christ - including myself," he said. "These men showed that they loved the Lord and the Eucharist, but it wasn't stuffy. It was a lot of fun."

Fr. Regan, who is spending the summer at St. Mary Parish in Landover Hills before heading back to Rome to complete his studies, said parishioners were always