

Viri Ecclesiae Newsletter

*A monthly newsletter for high school "Men of the Church"
Sponsored by the Vocations Department of the Diocese of Green Bay*

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Dear Brothers,

Discerning God's call can be incredibly difficult to say the least. On one day the thought of priesthood might seem like a sure choice, while on another day, it may bring us great confusion and a whole stir of emotions in which we convince ourselves it is surely not how we are called to serve God.

In the beginning of our journey, we each reach a point in which we encounter Christ. This is the point of falling in love where we begin to desire his will over our own because we see Father's great love for us, and in this we know He would not ask us to serve Him in a way that would leave us unhappy. He wants what is best for us and will only call us to something in which we will find great joy. He loves us.

When discerning our vocation, it is important to be able to distinguish between Christ, and the spirit against Christ. Christ's presence is enjoyable; it gives us peace, stillness, clarity, and gratitude. The spirit against Christ reveals himself through fear, pressure, or confusion. He uses these tactics to try to draw us away from following Christ. It is important to recognize that these feelings do not come from God. We must believe what God has revealed to us in times of peace, especially at the times when we are experiencing thoughts, feelings, and desires which are contrary to what God has revealed. If we don't make this choice, then our spiritual life will continue to be the experience of a ping pong ball bouncing back and forth. We will continue to be confused and will not progress in our lives of faith and our participation in the Divine's plan for the building of His Heavenly Kingdom.

Ultimately, discernment God's call comes down to trust. Trust that He loves you and wants what's best for you. If you do this and maintain a consistent relationship with Him through prayer, He will reveal His will to you. You will know this by the joy, peace, stillness, clarity, and gratitude it brings.

May God Bless You,

Ryan Starks
Seminarist

What's Ahead?

Vianney Visit November 20-22

This is for guys in high school. Come visit Saint John Vianney College Seminary located on the University of St. Thomas Campus in St. Paul, MN. These days will be spent with 150 seminarians and 100 other young men from around the Midwest. You will spend time praying for your vocation, getting a taste of college seminary life, and hear talks by priests and seminarians. You'll also have a tour of campus and some time with the Green Bay seminarians. No expenses, call Fr. Tom Long for more information at (920) 450-8259.

Lives of the Saints

St. Charles Borromeo
Memorial: 4 November
Patron Saint of Seminarists

St. Charles Borromeo was born in 1538, and raised in his family's castle in Arona, Italy. His family was noble and wealthy, and had hopes of him carrying on the family name. Charles however, felt a strong calling from God, and was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 25. Soon after this, he was consecrated as Bishop of Milan by his uncle, Pope Pius IV.

He worked at the Council of Trent, and helped the Church overcome many of the problems posed by the arrival of the Protestant Reformation. Back in his Diocese of Milan as Bishop, he developed an articulate Catechism for his people and brought many fallen away Catholics back to the faith. He established several seminaries for the formation of clergy, and set up many programs for the poor. He himself set a good example by living a very simple life. He gave most of his income to charity and refused all luxuries. He ate one meal a day consisting of bread, water, and a few dried figs, and normally slept only four hours a day.

During the plague and famine of 1576, he fed as many as 70,000 people daily, by borrowing large sums of money that took years to repay. He also spent much of his time ministering to the sick and the dying before he himself became ill. Charles Borromeo died early on the morning of November 4, at the age of 46.



St. Charles Borromeo, *Pray for us!*