



Seminarians from Denver gather for a time of fellowship and fraternity.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



ENCOUNTERING JESUS

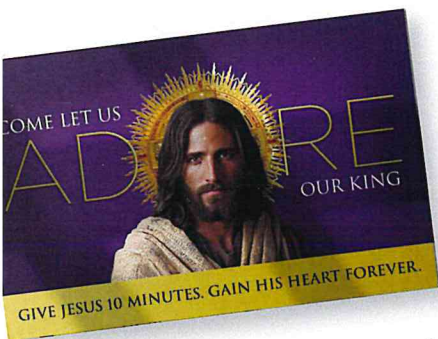
SERRA CLUBS LAUNCH 'ADORE' TO LINK ADORATION & VOCATIONS

“We hear a lot about holy hours, but many people feel they don’t have an hour, or even a half-hour,” said Margo Geddie, the president-elect of Serra International, the Church’s official apostolate to promote vocations. “We feel it’s important to encourage people to spend any amount of time—even just ten minutes—visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I know for me, it’s been life-changing.”

Why did Serra undertake this project? “It’s really pretty simple,” said Margo, “For years we’ve seen the link between vocations and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Go to any youth conference, and you can see the enthusiasm, the incredible graces being poured out during Adoration. And these are the same students who are answering the call, entering seminaries and convents.

So we thought if we can promote Adoration on the local level, we’re also promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.”

Of course, “making a visit” has long been a traditional devotion for Catholics, young and old alike. “We also want to encourage older people to say a quick prayer for vocations whenever they’re in the chapel,” said Margo. “Jesus told us we should beg for what we need—and every Catholic knows we need more sisters and priests.”



ADVICE TO SEMINARIANS

“Do not think of yourselves as alone, nor by yourselves,” said Pope Leo to seminarians in Rome this summer. He quoted a Church document on priestly formation, saying, “Each one of you is the protagonist of his own formation... but protagonist does not mean *soloist*! Therefore, I invite you always to cultivate communion, first of all with your seminary companions... Finally, the most important thing: keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, cultivating the relationship of friendship with Him.”





DISCERNMENT MEN DISCERN ON 'THE WAY'

If you've seen Martin Sheen's movie "The Way," you know that many pilgrims who walk Spain's famous Camino begin with a certain goal in mind, but end up receiving far more than they ever imagined.

That was the idea behind the "Discernment Camino" led by Fr. George Sears, the Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of New York. He and a brother priest led four seminarians and nine young men on a 14-day trek across the Spanish countryside, ending at Santiago de Compostela.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," said Fr. Sears. "Every one of the men built camaraderie and grew closer to the Lord. And at least two of them are excited about applying to seminary next year."

The archdiocese recently made headlines with their "Called by Name" campaign, which identified more than 800 faithful young men. While Fr. Sears can't accompany all of them on the Camino, his Vocation Team has a solid plan to help them begin their own journey to discern God's call.

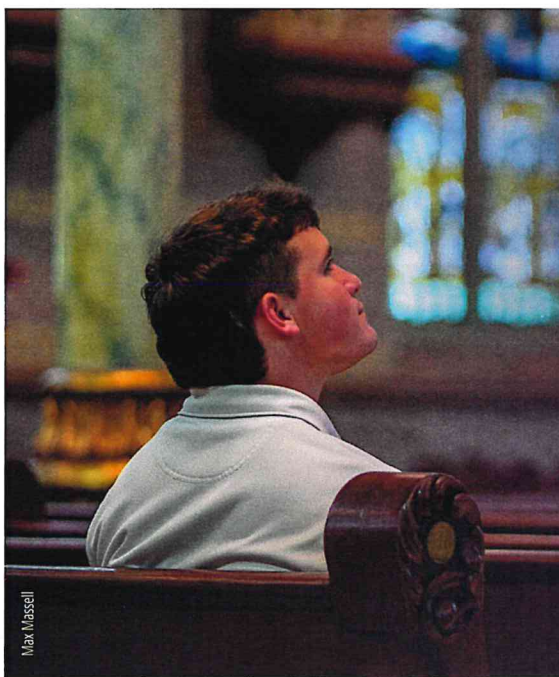


A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

For centuries, amidst the dark tragedy of war, Catholic priests have brought the consoling light of Christ to both soldiers and civilians. The Army's new *Sacred Call* digital comic celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Chaplain Corp, featuring the stories of brave priests such as Fr. Charles Watters, Fr. Francis Duffy, and Fr. Emil Kapaun, now a Servant of God on the way to sainthood.



Free digital download at army.mil



MESSAGE TO YOUTH JESUS CALLS YOU TO GREATNESS

"It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness; he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society."

~Pope Saint John Paul II, World Youth Day, 2000

