

# VOCARE

A Vocations Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Detroit

Winter 2009

## *Newly Appointed Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron Meets and Encourages Seminarians*

As the first “native son” appointed to lead the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit, the newly installed **Archbishop, Allen H. Vigneron**, has a unique perspective; especially as it relates to the men in formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary who are studying to become ordained priests.

The day after the public announcement naming him the fifth Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit, **Archbishop Vigneron** met with all of the seminarians and then with just the Detroit seminarians. He shared with the men

that for over forty-seven years, from the time he first entered the seminary as a high school freshmen in 1962; to eventually serving as a professor of philosophy and being appointed and serving as the President/Rector for nine years and now to his current position as Archbishop, Sacred Heart Major Seminary has held a special place in his heart.

He challenged the seminarians to consider modeling their priesthood as a man with the “Eucharistic Heart of Jesus”, a “man of service”; and one who consecrates everything he has “to the mission of the Church.” He referred to the seminarians as “the future for the life of the Church.”

Recommending “service” as a key component to the life of a priest, he reminded the seminarians that priests have a duty to be ready to serve the Church generously: “When the Church needs something to be done, you have to do it.”

Acknowledging that limited resources that are impacting the region, economically and spiritually, the Archbishop emphasized that the work to increase vocations to the priesthood will remain an important priority for the Archdiocese of Detroit.



LARRY PEPLIN/MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron addresses seminarians and Cardinal Maida at Sacred Heart Major Seminary

**INSIDE NEWS: 2 DISCERNMENT WEEKENDS FOR MEN; FISHERMEN’S FUND UPDATE; 3 VOCATIONS HOLY CARD CONTEST WINNERS; 4-5 EVENING PRAYER AND DINNER WITH CARDINAL MAIDA; 6 VOCATIONS OUTREACH AT CYO RAINBOW; 7 WHAT’S NEWS IN CONSECRATED LIFE?; 8 VOCATION EVENTS CALENDAR**

## Men's Discernment Weekends

An excellent opportunity to take an honest look at the possibilities seminary life may hold **for men 17 years of age and older** who are considering the priesthood. The weekend provides an opportunity to worship with the seminary community; meet students and faculty; sit-in on classes; meet other men who may be considering the priesthood; and to spend time in prayer. There are no fees or obligations to come to a Discernment Weekend.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: March 26-29, 2009**

(Begins at 6:00 pm Thursday and ends after Mass and brunch on Sunday)

OR FOR THE

## Men's Overnight Retreat

**May 8-9, 2009 (one night retreat only)**

**For men 16-18 years of age**

(Begins at 6:00 pm Friday and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday)

**At Sacred Heart Major Seminary**

**2701 Chicago Blvd.**

**Detroit, MI 48206**

Pre-registration is required with the signature of your pastor;  
If you are from another diocese, the signature of your Vocation Director is required.

**Contact the Vocation Office:**

**313-237-5875**

or visit the website at:

**[www.vocationsdetroit.org](http://www.vocationsdetroit.org)**

## Fishermen's Fund Update

*Looking for disciples in a parish near you*

### FUND REACHES FIRST MILLION DOLLARS OF DONATIONS!

Since 2005, when the Fishermen's Fund began, thirty-three seminarians and thirty-four lay students have received financial assistance so that they may continue to respond to God's call to serve the Church. The Fund is not an endowment, and every year, volunteers work tirelessly to assure that money is raised so that "no vocation to the Roman Catholic priesthood, diaconate or lay ministry is hindered due to financial need" (from the Fishermen's Fund Mission Statement). Over \$1 million dollars in pledges and cash have been raised to date. Under established guidelines, each year a percentage of the funds available are distributed to students who request assistance after exhausting other traditional requests for Financial Aid. Without the Fishermen's Fund many who are seeking to serve the Church would not be able to continue their studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.



Casting a net for Sacred Heart

The Fishermen's Fund committee still needs volunteer "disciples" to help spread word of the Fund to parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. 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](http://www.fishermensfund.org).

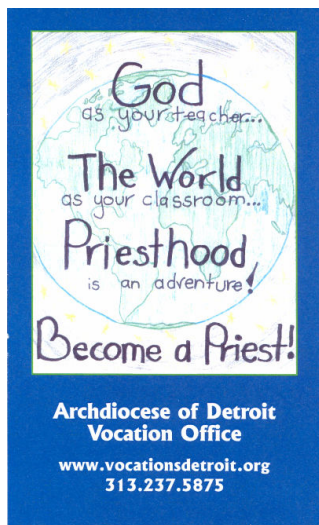
## *Vocation Holy Card Contest Winners announced During National Vocation Awareness Week*

Nineteen schools and religious education programs participated in the Archdiocese of Detroit Vocation Holy Card Contest for students in Grades 5-8. “It was very difficult to choose from so many wonderful drawings. In that sense, all of the drawings were winners,” said **Sr. Ellen Licavoli, IHM**, Associate Director of Vocations.

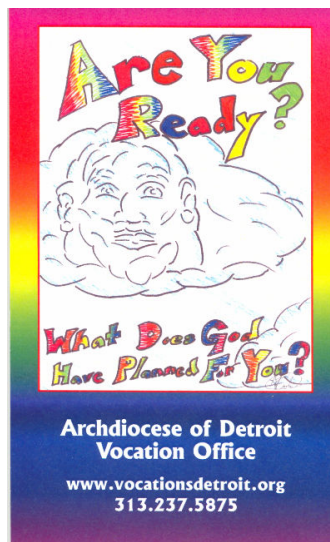
In September of 2008 Vocation Lesson Plan with instructions on how to participate in the Holy Card Contest was sent to every parish and school in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Vocation Lesson Plan stressed five major vocation concepts: Vocation as rooted in Christian discipleship; Vocation as a call from God; Vocation as unique call to each person, recognizing God’s call; and lastly, information about the four vocation states of life: single, marriage, priesthood and religious life. The difference between a vocation and a career was also noted. “A vocation is a call from God to a specific way of life: either to be single, to be married, to be a religious sister or brother, or to be a priest. Therefore, it can be said with certainty that God has called every person,” says Sr. Ellen. “This is different from a career such as a doctor, teacher, lawyer, writer, etc. A person’s career is a part of their lives within the framework of their vocation. For example: a woman might be both a religious sister and a teacher; or she might be both a married woman and a teacher; but she cannot be both a married woman and a religious sister.”

The three winners of the holy card contest are **Mitchell Cunha**, an seventh grade student at St. Isaac Jogues Grade School in St. Clair Shores; **Emmalee Courturier**, an eighth grade student at St. Charles Grade School in Newport; and **Alyssa Wysocki**, an eighth grade student at St. Joseph Grade School in Lake Orion. Each student reflected on the five concepts and placed the drawing squarely in today’s culture and language: Emmalee’s ‘can you hear Jesus now?’ is reminiscent of the popular television ad; Alyssa’s holy card draws upon the theme of priesthood as an adventure to be experienced fully; and Mitchell asks the deeper questions that each person also considers: am I ready to hear God’s plan for my life? Additionally, the actual drawings of the three students were top-notch.

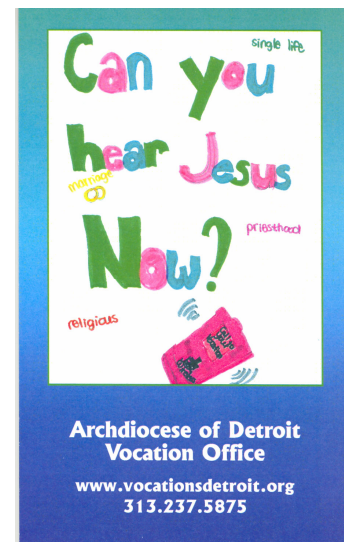
The holy cards have been distributed to students from participating schools. Any school or parish religious education program that would like to receive one or all three cards may call the Vocation Office at 313.237.5875.



Art by Alyssa Wysocki, Grade 8  
St. Joseph School, Lake Orion



Art by Mitchell Cunha, Grade 7  
St. Isaac Jogues School, St. Clair Shores



Art by Emmalee Courturier, Grade 8  
St. Charles School, Newport

## ***Be My Guest Dinner with Cardinal Maida***

### ***Personal reflections on the priesthood encourage attendees***

For the past three years, bringing a prospective candidate for the priesthood to *Evening Prayer and Dinner with the Cardinal* has proven to be a special evening for members of the presbyterate for the Archdiocese of Detroit and their guests. Little did they know that the event held on Wednesday, December 2, 2008 would be the last one with their host, **Adam Cardinal Maida**, whose retirement was announced in January, 2009.

The evening began at 6:00 p.m. when all gathered in the Main Chapel at Sacred Heart Major Seminary for *Evening Prayer*. Afterwards, **Fr. Tim Birney**, Director of Vocations, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening program.

The **Very Rev. Msgr. Jeffrey Monforton**, Rector/President of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, provided a warm welcome on behalf of the seminary community. Afterwards, **Auxiliary Bishop John M. Quinn** gave a few words of encouragement and offered a prayer before the meal. **Auxiliary Bishop Francis R. Reiss** was also in attendance, as was **Rev. Ted Maida**, the Cardinal's brother, who was visiting from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Following the meal, **Fr. Birney** showed the DVD *Fishers of Men*. **Paul Snyder**, a First Year Theology student in formation for the Archdiocese of Detroit, shared with the guests the events in his life that finally led him to hear and answer God's call to the priesthood. In his witness he stated that having spent several post graduate years working in the business world, he was able to enjoy various creature comforts; however, despite all of that, he felt something was missing in his life. It wasn't until he heard and responded to a calling deeper in his

heart - the call to be a priest, that he felt a sense of peace. In responding to the call he believes he has chosen the better path for himself in following God's will.

**Cardinal Maida** closed the evening with a heart-felt address to the guests. He set aside a prepared text and recalled many fond memories of growing up in Pennsylvania in the small town of East Vandergrift where he and his family lived in a rural community outside of Pittsburgh. There were not enough priests for their parish to have full time pastor. The Archdiocese of Detroit had so many priests in the '30's that several priests were given permission to leave the region to pastor in other dioceses. One such man came to the parish where the Maida family worshipped.

Two of the three Maida brothers were influenced by this priest from Detroit and eventually answered God's call to become ordained priests. **Fr. Ted Maida** celebrated 50 years of ordination in December of '08 and **Cardinal Maida** celebrated 52 years in January '09. The Cardinal marveled at how things came full circle in 1990 he was asked by Pope John Paul II to come to Detroit to serve as the Archbishop. The Cardinal expressed great joy in living out his vocation to the priesthood and encouraged those present to consider if God may be calling them to serve the Church as priests.

Before the evening came to a close every guest was given a packet of information about the priesthood. In the words of the late Pope John Paul II, Fr. Birney encouraged the men to "be not afraid" to take the next step and contact him at the Vocation Office if they felt called by God to the sacramental priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit.



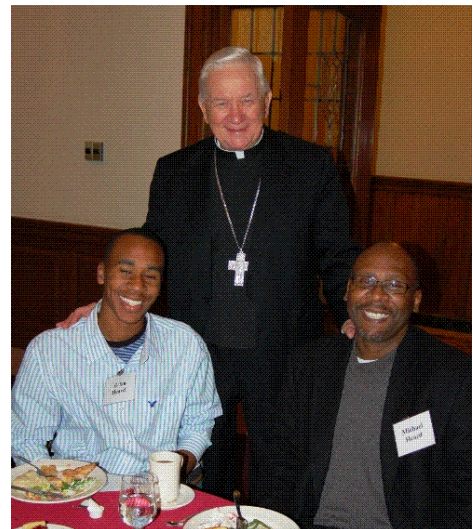
Retired priest, Fr. John Blaska (left) takes time to speak with Cardinal Maida and the Cardinal's brother, Fr. Ted Maida



Fr. Rich Trembl (center) and guests from St. Mary Burnside Parish pose with Bishop Francis Reiss (left) and Bishop John Quinn (right).



Fr. Gerry LeBoeuf (back row, 3rd from right) and Fr. Hoang Lam (back row right) from Guardian Angels Parish and guests are joined by seminarians, Joe



Cardinal Maida welcomes Michael Heard and his son Brian to the dinner.



Fr. Jeff Day (seated center) and guests from St. Sebastian Parish are joined by Msgr. John Kasza (standing right) and seminarians Steve Mateja (second



Fr. Tim Birney greets Fr. Jim Bilot and his guest from Divine Child Parish.

## Vocations Outreach to Youth Continues At CYO Rainbow XXVII Conference



Fr. Tim Birney, Director of Vocations, addresses the Rainbow XVII attendees during a General Session

Rainbow is an annual conference for high school students in the Archdiocese of Detroit sponsored by the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). Attendance has averaged over 1800 participants annually. The Vocation Office has been present at the conference for many years with a table of information; the Vocations Director, seminarians and staff have been available to answer any questions the youth may have about vocations to the priesthood or consecrated life. The Vocation Office has also provided pens, prayer cards and other small gifts to the attendees such as posters, rosaries and special bookmarks to encourage them to pray for vocations and to consider God's call in their lives. Members of the Vocation Office staff have also given workshops to smaller groups on various topics during the conference.

In 2006, during a specially designated *Year of Vocations* in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Vocation Office requested time to address the entire conference about vocations. The Youth Council eagerly accepted and since that time has invited the Vocation Office to continue doing a ten minute presentation as part of one of the General Sessions of the Rainbow Conference. The presentations have used Power Point, DVD's and enthusiastic talks by the director to increase vocations awareness with the youth.



Sisters of Mercy of the Americas were present at Rainbow

Religious Orders in the Archdiocese of Detroit are also becoming a more visible presence at



Members of the Little Sisters of the Poor are ready to answer questions.

Rainbow. Many of the youth who attend have never had the opportunity talk to a religious sister or brother; the communities that send representatives and information provide a wonderful witness to the vocation of the Consecrated Life. This year had the most communities present: **Adrian Dominican Sisters; Congregation of St. Joseph; Little Sisters of the Poor; Marianhill Missionaries; Maryknoll Fathers; Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third of St. Francis; and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.**

The Vocation Office is grateful to CYO for their continued support and excellent collaboration over the years.

# What's News in Consecrated Life?



## "COME AWAY DAY"

*For young women ages 18-35*

*Is God calling you to religious life?*

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

9:00 am-4:00 pm followed by liturgy. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit Vocation Office. Contact the Vocation Office at 313.237.4672 for further information on how to register.

*Well I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you a future full of hope! Jeremiah 29:11*

## Lenten Reflection

### Prayers, Fasting, Almsgiving

By Sr. Barbara Krakora, SSJ-TOSF

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; It's what makes Lent such a powerful and spiritual experience, especially when all three are done together. I'd like to suggest a Lenten practice for you to follow that incorporates these three ancient practices of our Catholic faith.

This Lenten practice is divided into three, two-week segments. During the first two weeks of Lent, let your prayer be that of praise. Every day wake up with a prayer of praise in recognition of a newly created day by the Divine Creator. Then begin a fast from all negative thoughts and words that only bring others and yourself down. Replace that negativity with an almsgiving of positive thoughts and words for others and for yourself. During the third and fourth weeks of Lent let your prayer be one of petition. Begin each day by handing over your concerns to the Lord. Then go through your day fasting from unnecessary anxiety and worry because you have already made your needs known to God. By not being preoccupied with your own needs you will be able to give alms to others. Find out what needs others have and do what you can for them. Finally, for the last two weeks of Lent start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving. Be grateful to God for your life and the opportunity to live another day. Fast from grudges, self pity, and bitterness. Let them go! Be an almsgiver of gratitude to others. Say, thank you and let others know you appreciate them.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; Do them this Lent, and God will do marvelous things through you.

(Sr. Barbara is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis,  
and is the Director of Vocations for the SSJ-TOSF in Ohio;  
she is also a member of DAVA (Detroit Archdiocese Vocation Association))

*It is always Christ who sends. But whom does he send? You young people, are the ones he looks upon with love. Christ, who says, "Follow me," wants you to live your lives with a sense of vocation. The search and discovery of God's will for you is a deep and fascinating endeavor. Every vocation, every path to which Christ calls us, ultimately leads to fulfillment and happiness, because it leads to God, to sharing God's own life.*

Pope John Paul II  
Manila, 1996

**The Vocation Office  
Sacred Heart Major Seminary  
Contact Information:**

**Father Tim Birney**

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[www.vocationsdetroit.org](http://www.vocationsdetroit.org)  
E-mail:  
[birney.tim@aod.org](mailto:birney.tim@aod.org)

**March - June 2009  
Vocation Events Calendar**

**March 21, 2009**

**Come Away Day of Discernment:**

Topic: *Transformed by Love: Conversion*

Sponsored by the **Archdiocese of Detroit**

**Vocation Office and Detroit Archdiocese**

**Vocation Association.** For women ages 18-35;

At *The Bernardine Retreat House*, Farmington

Hills; 9:00 am-4:00 pm, followed by liturgy.

Contact: Sr. Ellen Licavoli 313.237.4672

for further information on how to register.

- **Contact: Sr. Ellen: 313-237-4672**
- **Pre-registration required**
- **Cost \$10.00 (lunch included)**

**March 26-29**

**Men's Discernment Weekend;**

Sponsored by the **Vocation Office** for the **Arch-**

**diocese of Detroit** at Sacred Heart Major Semi-

nary; for men 18 years of age and older who are

considering the priesthood. Begins 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, ends around noon on Sunday.

- **Pre-registration required**
- **Contact Vocation Office: 313-237-5875,**  
[www.vocationsdetroit.org](http://www.vocationsdetroit.org)

**April - June Vocation Retreats**

***Do Not Be Afraid - Come and See***

Sponsored by the **Religious Sisters of Mercy of**

**Alma**

April 3-5; May 22-24, June 19-21

- **Contact: Sr. Gilmery, R.S.M.,**  
1965 Michigan Ave., Alma, MI 48801  
989-463-6035, ext. 202  
[stjosephs@chartermi.net](mailto:stjosephs@chartermi.net)
- [www.rsmofalma.org](http://www.rsmofalma.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

***Saturday, September 19, 2009:***

**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 Spring edition of *VOCARE***