



FALL '10

# VOCARE

THE VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

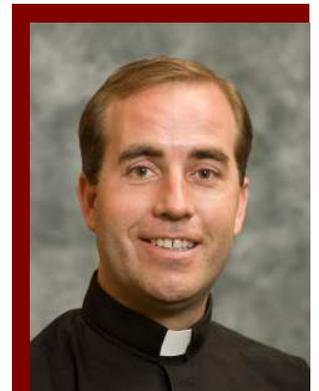
## *The 2010 Detroit Seminarians*



After several formal 'takes' the seminarians decided it was time to have some fun. Who says being in the seminary is all work and no play?

On behalf of the Office for Priestly Vocations, I am very excited to share with you our first edition of the Vocare for the 2010-11 academic year. This newsletter is our main vehicle to communicate with our many supporters: priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Vocation Committee members, Religious, lay ministers, and the over fifty men who are presently discerning a priestly calling. I am equally excited to introduce our 13 new seminarians, who will be joining the 32 returning men as seminarians for the Archdiocese of Detroit. They range in age from 18 -55 and attend three different seminaries (2- Blessed John XXIII, Boston; 2- Pontifical North American College, Rome; 41- Sacred Heart, Detroit), but all of them share one thing in common...their desire to follow the Lord's call in their life. Please pray for these men and many more to join them!

**Fr. Tim Birney**  
**Director of Priestly Vocations**



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## Meet Our Newly Accepted Detroit Seminarians



**Name:** Dominic Macioce  
**Birth Date:** 9/25/85  
**Home Parish:** St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Sterling Heights  
**Family:** Ronald (Father), Dina (Mother), and Nick (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Soccer, Reading, Video Games, Sports, and Cards  
**Prior Occupation:** Manager

**When did you first consider the call to the priesthood?:** In high school, around the ninth or tenth grade, I started to question whether or not I should consider it. It wasn't until after college that I worked up enough courage to come to a Discernment Weekend.

**What were the major factors in your decision to answer God's call to the priesthood?:** My mother and other members of my family. My pastor, Fr. Jerry Slowinski. Coming to a discernment weekend.



**Name:** Craig Marion  
**Birth Date:** 4/14/78  
**Home Parish:** St. Vincent Ferrer, Madison Heights  
**Family:** Paul (Father), Pamela (Mother), and Casey (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Water Activities (Boating), Playing Euchre, Bowling, and Spending Time with Family  
**Prior Occupation:** Finance and Accounting



**Q1:** I began to consider the priesthood very seriously over the last two years. I began with my discernment privately and tried to attend Masses during the week when possible. After a time, I consulted my pastor, Fr. John Esper who led me to see Fr. Tim Birney. I also began spending time with the Most Blessed Sacrament which offered me an inner guidance that is more valuable than what I can put into words.

**Q2:** There were three major factors that supported my decision to enter the Seminary. First, the support of my pastor, Fr. John Esper, was extremely helpful. He took time to see me privately and offer me some very valuable guidance. I also must mention, several years ago, I spent time as a parishioner under Fr. Terry Kerner. In many ways, through his pastoral leadership, he gave me some of the initial paths into my discernment that I didn't really recognize until years later. I will always be extremely grateful to both Father John and Father Terry.

Second, Fr. Birney was very helpful after contacting him, in ensuring that I attended a Vocation Discernment Weekend and then explaining how to apply to enter the Seminary and the application completion process. I would suggest to anyone that feels strongly they may have a "call" to come on a discernment weekend. Also, the Archbishop offers an opportunity for men considering the call to spend a day with him at the seminary in the early part of the year. This was also very helpful and again provided me the support to "answer the call."

Lastly, the most important factor for me was the Seminary community. When entering the seminary, you are blessed to be with fellow men who are also working through the process of discernment. These men share the same concerns that I have and together you can find both friendship and great advice. Also, within the community we are very fortunate to have extremely knowledgeable and helpful faculty that want to ensure you are on the right path.



**Name:** John Cristiano  
**Birth Date:** 8/9/89  
**Home Parish:** Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth  
**Family:** James (Father), and Laura (Mother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, Playing Guitar, and College Football  
**Prior Occupation:** Student

**Q1:** I first felt the call in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. After pondering the call in the back of my mind throughout high school, it returned to the forefront after my first year of college.

**Q2:** I spent about half a year praying fervently about my vocation and talking with my parents and spiritual director. In the end, I decided that I felt ready to answer and I applied. My family was a great source of support, which eased my mind.



**Name:** Mark Quaine  
**Birth Date:** 1/9/89  
**Home Parish:** Sacred Heart, Dearborn  
**Family:** Mark (Father), Cheryl (Mother), and Jennifer (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, Traveling, Music, and Cooking  
**Prior Occupation:** Student

**Q1:** From a young age, my call to the priesthood has been gradual and greatly influenced by priests that I am related to, as well as those who I have come to know well.

**Q2:** Having a loving, caring, and supportive family. A great love for the Church. A wish to follow and serve Christ.



**Name:** Romeo Cappella  
**Birth Date:** 8/11/92  
**Home Parish:** St. Stanislaus Kostka, Wyandotte  
**Family:** Romeo (Father), Heather (Mother), Natalia (Sister), and Giovanni (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, Playing Guitar, and Hanging Out  
**Prior Occupation:** Student



**Q1:** I first considered priesthood when I was sixteen. At first I did not want to apply, but later, through prayer, I changed. Through active discernment, I was sure God wanted me to apply. After two years of discerning, I made up my mind.

**Q2:** Youth Group and great people I met along the path of discernment contributed to my “yes” to God’s call. Through prayer and God’s providence, here I am.



**Name:** Timothy Horst  
**Birth Date:** 4/3/87  
**Home Parish:** St. Cyprian, Riverview  
**Family:** Douglas (Father), Marcia (Mother), Amelia (Sister), Justin (Brother), Aaron (Brother), Jeremy (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Playing Sports and Running  
**Prior Occupation:** Student



**Q1:** I first considered the call to the priesthood while visiting with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville when several sisters happened to ask me if I was discerning the priesthood. Of course, at that time, the answer was “no”. Two and a half years later, I am now a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Detroit!

**Q2:** Obviously, there are many factors that led me here. I absolutely love the Church and everything she is and stands for. I would love to help bring God’s children closer to Him. Coming to seminary is a commitment to discernment and preparation, not a commitment to the priesthood. It also helped to graduate with a degree before I began this new stage of discernment, studies, and formation.



**Name:** Paul Graney  
**Birth Date:** 11/3/84  
**Home Parish:** St. Joseph, Lake Orion  
**Family:** Paul (Father), Judy (Mother), and Katie (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Sports (especially Ice Hockey)  
**Prior Occupation:** Student

**Q1:** I first considered my call to the priesthood about a month after I returned to the Catholic Church. Before that, I considered myself an

Evangelical Christian from the age of 16 to 22 and had been exploring a call to ministry as an Evangelical for about 4 years. I returned to the Church in January 2008 and began to think about the priesthood sometime in February.

**Q2:** The fact that the goal of the priest is to be holy and bring Christ to the world, especially in the Blessed Sacrament. The priest's life is dedicated to helping people become holier and to guide them - these are things that make a priest's life extremely significant and it is what has drawn my consideration.



**Name:** David Tomaszycski  
**Birth Date:** 8/14/85  
**Home Parish:** Immaculate Conception, Anchorville  
**Family:** Arthur (Father), Joan (Mother), Mike (Brother), Fred (Brother), Tim (Brother), Scott (Brother), Danny (Brother), and Maria (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Sports, Hunting, Fishing, Music, and

Anything Spiritual

**Prior Occupation:** Plumber and Student

**Q1:** When I was 9. Through a series of events that call kind of faded away and then came back when I was about 20. At 21 is when I really seriously started to consider the priesthood.

**Q2:** Daily Mass, daily Rosary, daily Eucharistic Adoration, frequent Confession, good priests and teachers to help guide me toward God, good parents and a pilgrimage to Rome.



**Name:** John Kopson  
**Birth Date:** 2/13/82  
**Home Parish:** St. Mary Queen of Creation, New Baltimore  
**Family:** Fred (Father), Theresa (Mother), Megan (Sister), Dani (Sister), Eric (Brother), and Tim (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Weight



Lifting, Football, Basketball, and Movies

**Prior Occupation:** Nurse's Assistant

**Q1:** I first considered the call to the priesthood in early 2004. However, an associate pastor of mine, while I was in high school, once asked me if I'd ever consider the priesthood. At the time I wasn't willing to ponder it, but God is very patient and persistent. Here I am thirteen years later and very happy to be in the seminary!

**Q2:** Having a supportive family played a crucial role in my decision to answer God's call to the priesthood. I also started talking to priests about what the priesthood is like. This also helped me to answer this awesome call.



**Name:** Anthony Valenti  
**Birth Date:** 5/27/78  
**Home Parish:** St. Isidore, Macomb  
**Family:** Michael (Father), Karen (Mother), Joseph (Brother), Michael (Brother), and Frank (Brother)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Bible Studies, Prayer Groups,



Charismatic Meetings, Spiritual Reading, Hockey, Roller Hockey, Football, Softball, Soccer, Wallyball, Bowling, Carpentry, and Ping-Pong

**Prior Occupation:** Construction and Carpentry

**Q1:** The call was similar to an echo for me, bouncing around after each beat of my heart. When a man begins to understand himself as he truly is, he quickly looks for the Perfection that he is not. The echo was that Perfection sounding off, "I am the Bread of Life." After this, how long can one resist the satisfaction of Perfection, and what will he do to live from this Bread. The echo began long ago, and in 2008 it pounded my insides to the point of submission. I am open to the call of the priesthood because I am open to the call of the Bread. I am just following what is the natural call of life, to be with the Lord in an intimate and unique way. The future and the answers may be for tomorrow on some occasions, but today is a time to be open

**Q2:** A few major factors in my decision to answer the call are; continual prayer and openness to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Realizing the lack of the complete man, what I am and who I am and what I need to live is not possible without Our Lord. Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, certain religious communities, Father Don LaCuesta, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Saint Theresa of Avila, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Joseph, Saint Augustine of Hippo, Saint Veronica Giuliani, Saint John the Beloved and many other friends have really been a strength and comfort and have courageously sparked the desire to answer the call through their intercession.

The Perfection of the Church and a growing desire to be part of it, as well as, being of service to Jesus Christ and the people of the world should be on every heart; our vocation is how we live out what we know to be true in Jesus Christ. What is your call?



**Name:** Sean MacLennan  
**Birth Date:** 2/5/86  
**Home Parish:** St. Fabian, Farmington Hills  
**Family:** Roderick (Father), Carol (Mother), Ryan (Brother) and Molly (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Reading, Football, Baking, and Card or Board Games  
**Prior Occupation:** Catholic Missionary

**Q1:** I first considered the call in high school but pushed it out of my head. It wasn't until college where I really grew into my faith that I started seriously discerning.

**Q2:** One of the biggest factors in my decision was my relationship with Christ. This was formed first in college and then even more deeply during my time as a missionary working for N. E. T. (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries. Another factor was that I've been blessed to know many holy priests and their example inspires me to emulate them.



**Name:** Joe Tuskiewicz  
**Birth Date:** 3/30/55  
**Home Parish:** St. Josaphat, Detroit  
**Family:** Virginia (Mother), Nick (Brother) and Sue (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Faith and the Church, Northern Michigan Cabin, Running, Motorcycling,



Snowmobiling, Boating, and Reading

**Q1:** As a child in grade school.

**Q2:** Witnessing the selfless love and sacrifice of a close friend in living his married vocation and raising his children inspired me and caused me to reflect on my own vocation. Witness, inspiration and example of holy priests. Growth in prayer life. Increased involvement in the Church as a catechist, server and lector. Attending Sacred Heart Major Seminary as a commuter student.



**Name:** Gregory Piatt  
**Birth Date:** 2/16/59  
**Home Parish:** St. Sylvester, Warren  
**Family:** Gloria (Mother), and Claudia (Sister)  
**Hobbies/Interests:** Writing, Blogging, Photography, Reading, and Traveling  
**Prior Occupation:** Journalist and Public Relations Specialist

**Q1:** I first considered it in grade school, then in high school and thought about it all my life. I considered it when on battlefields when I worked as a war correspondent. I then considered it when working for the federal government as a public servant.

**Q2:** The Blessed Sacrament and Holy Adoration. Our Blessed Mother. St Faustina and visiting and praying at her grave in Krakow, Poland. John Paul II, especially his last years of his pontificate, when he suffered with Parkinson's Disease. The Hound of Heaven who pursued me!

## Archbishop Seminarian Seminar

An excerpt of a homily given by Pope Benedict XVI to Roman Seminarists:

“ ... During your seminary years, you live together; your formation for the priesthood also involves this community aspect which is of great importance. In following Jesus, the Apostles were formed together. Your communion is not limited to the present time but also concerns the future: the pastoral action that awaits you must see you joining forces, as though in one body, in one *ordo*, that of priests who, together with the Bishop, care for the Christian community. May you love this "family life" which is an anticipation for you of that "sacramental brotherhood" which must characterize every diocesan priest.

These words of the Holy Father were exemplified this past August at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills when, His Excellency Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, gathered the 45 Detroit seminarists for three days of prayer, seminars, fraternity and recreation.

The Archbishop spent three days with the seminarists and during that time he led a series of seminars on the necessity of philosophy, faith, and prayer in a university education. He also reflected on the life and teachings of the newly beatified Blessed John Henry Newman.

Throughout the summer the seminarists are very busy with summer obligations, including parish assignments across the Archdiocese, retreats, pilgrimages, camps, and jobs, so they rarely get to spend time with each other. The annual gathering provides a great opportunity for the seminarists to grow in fellowship and build a "sacramental brotherhood". The gathering also provides a



Seminarists taking a break after an intense game of soccer

great chance for the returning seminarists to meet their new diocesan brothers, which is especially important this year because four seminarists will be studying outside the diocese. Two seminarists will be at Blessed John XXIII Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts and two other seminarists will be studying in Rome at the Pontifical North American College.

The weekend also gave all the men a great opportunity for outdoor recreation, playing ultimate frisbee or soccer and indoor activities, playing board games, card games, and simply hanging out with each other. Most importantly, the seminarists also had opportunities for prayer with Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Holy Hour, and the Rosary. Overall, the three days were a success and the seminarists left with a stronger sense of community and brotherhood in Christ which is vital for their lives as future priests.



During the weekend, six seminarists were instituted as Candidates for the Priesthood by Archbishop Vigneron. Congratulations to (from left to right) John Kopson, Ryan Adams, Bryan Shackett, Eric Tarachowski, Sean Bonner, and Joseph Kirkconnell!

## Third Annual Vocations Convocation

*Catholics from across the Archdiocese came together in order to learn more about Vocations*

On September 18, 2010, over 100 people gathered at Sacred Heart Major Seminary for our third annual Archdiocesan Vocations Convocation. The day began with the celebration of Mass in the seminary chapel with Bishop Reiss as our presider. Bishop Reiss successfully battled a dead car battery and jet-lag (having just returned from a delayed flight the night before from an overseas visit to a Polish seminary) to lead us in an inspiring homily about his own vocation story and the role of ‘others’ in his discernment of God’s calling in his life. Msgr. C. Eugene Morris, priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO and newly appointed Director of Sacred



His Excellency, Bishop Francis Reiss, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit (Right), stands next to Monsignor Eugene Morris, the keynote speaker (Left), after Mass.



Liturgy/Assistant Professor at Josephinum Seminary, built for all in attendance a strong foundation with his spirited and informative keynote address

entitled: “Profiles of Discernment”. The rest of the day the participants chose between two different workshops: (a) Educators/Ministers led by Mr. John Lajiness, Regional Coordinator of Evangelization for the Archdiocese. Mr.

Lajiness fed our educators with a wealth of vocational information from his many roles over the years as a former seminarian, seminary staff/professor, DRE, husband and father; (b) Vocation Committees led by Fr. Tim Birney and Mrs. Jan DeFour in an effort to train our new committee members and network with our present committee members.



Workshop Presenter: Mr. John Lajiness

It is our hope that all in attendance left this day better educated, informed and enlivened to achieve the crucial role of being a ‘vocation director’ in their parish, school or home. Please continue to pray for the many efforts of countless men and women throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit who have dedicated their time, talent and

treasure to vocational awareness ministry. **Mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vocations Convocation – Sept.10, 2011!**



## *Detroit Sends Two Seminarians to Blessed John XXIII Seminary*



(From Left to Right) Seminarians Joe Tuskiewicz and Gregory Piatt stand next to Fr. Tim Birney

On a stormy autumn afternoon, Fr. Tim Birney made a three day visit to Blessed John XXIII Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. This seminary was founded in 1963 for the express purpose of forming the 'second career candidate' for the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Presently there are 64 men attending Blessed John XXIII from all over the country, and for the first time, two of them are from Detroit. Joe Tuskiewicz and Greg Piatt will spend the next four years at this seminary, and God-willing return to Detroit for their ordination in 2014. Presently they are working on their Boston accents!



The Chapel at Blessed John XXIII

## Consecrated Life News

### **Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist**

www.sistersofmary.org

"Holy Mass, Divine Office, Rosary, FUN with the Sisters, and All Night Eucharistic Adoration"

Contact:

sjab@sistersofmary.org

vocations@sistersofmary.org

734-994-7437

Vocation Retreats:

- November 13-14, 2010
- February 12-13, 2011
- May 21-22, 2011
- Register at [www.sistersofmary.org/event.php?id=212](http://www.sistersofmary.org/event.php?id=212)

### **Religious Sisters of Mercy**

www.rsmofalma.org

"Young women between the ages of 18 and 35 who are discerning a vocation to Religious Life are invited to join us for a vocation retreat at our Motherhouse in Alma, Michigan."

Contact:

Sr. Catherine Marie, RSM (*Associate Vocation Director*)

vocation@rsmofalma.org

989-714-8556

Vocation Retreats:

- November 12-14, 2010
- February 11-13, 2011
- March 18-20, 2011
- Register at [www.rsmofalma.org](http://www.rsmofalma.org)

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