

CHRISTMAS 2009
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archdiocese of melbourne **VOCATIONS**news



**ORDINATION TO
THE DIACONATE**
10TH OCTOBER 2009

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

On the 10th of October this year, Richard Rosse and I were ordained to the Diaconate, an important step in our lives, in the life of the Church, and in our Journey to the priesthood.



In his homily, the Archbishop said:

"A deacon makes a self-gift and as he stands at the altar and raises the chalice at the doxology he offers himself to the Father, but carries with him the suffering and needs of all those with whom he comes into contact. He knows the injustice, he hears the challenges, he makes the sacrifice of his life for the sake of all."

Deacons assist at the Mass, through proclaiming the Gospel and preaching and assisting the priest at the Altar, they also preside over the public liturgy of the Church (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals), and assist the Bishop and his priests with the mission of the Church.

Our Ordination day was a grace filled time for both of us, our families and the seminary community. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Archbishop, Priests of the Archdiocese, and all those who continually pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Please continue to pray for us, and for all who are preparing to dedicate their lives to Christ and the Church through the Priesthood.

Deacon Nicholas Pearce

FAREWELL FR DENTON

Fr Denton was ordained priest on 29th June 2002 and appointed Director of Vocations in January 2005. At that time he was also Chaplain to Catholic Youth Ministry.

In his time at the helm of Catholic Vocations, Fr Denton has assisted 35 men to make application to Corpus Christi College, the Regional Seminary, to study for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He has accompanied many others on their journey of discernment, some of whom can be expected to apply for entry to the seminary in future years.

Fr Denton has conducted many vocations retreats in that time, attended by a total of 80 men. He has made upwards of 50 visits to schools and talked



to in excess of two thousand primary school students and more than three thousand secondary school students. He has attended Six30 Youth Holy Hour at the Cathedral nearly every Thursday evening since he was appointed Chaplain to the then CYM in 2004.

Statistics alone do not tell the story of Fr Denton's time as Director of Vocations.

Following are the comments of some of the people whose lives he has touched in the past five years:

"Father offered a friendly, dynamic and encouraging presence to those considering their vocation."

"A priest with great love and zeal for the Church, dedicated to vocations and seminarians."

"An everyday bloke...an extraordinary priest"

The staff of the Vocations Office have enjoyed working with Fr Denton – his drive and enthusiasm have been infectious and his passion for the priesthood and love of the Church inspiring. We will miss him and we wish him well for his studies in Rome.

He goes with our grateful thanks for our time together and our prayers for wherever God leads him in the future.

Catholic Vocations

FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe that it has been over five years since I received the call from Archbishop Hart to ask me if I would accept the position of Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

My first year (2005) required a very steep learning curve in which I had to also assist Fr Paul Stuart in coordinating the chaplains for World Youth Day in Cologne. That pilgrimage to Germany along with my involvement with World Youth Days in Rome in 2000 and Toronto in 2002 also prepared me in some way for that wonderful week in Sydney in 2008. The Vocations Expo at Darling Harbour was probably the highlight of my time as Director of Vocations.

Many people ask me how the vocations situation is going in Australia. I see great potential for both the work of vocations promotion and for assisting young men to respond generously to the call. I am impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of many laypeople who are committed to promoting vocations and building up the culture of vocations. The work of Serra International is particularly worthy of note in this field.

This newsletter began four years ago as a vehicle for communicating with you. What gives me the greatest hope, though, is the calibre of the men and women, mostly young, whom I have come to know as Vocations Director. There is a sincerity, generosity and degree of faith and trust that is very humbling. This is borne out in the quality of seminarians whom I have found to be prayerful and modest while at the same time engaging and personable.

Young people will only be able to discern a religious or diocesan vocation if they know and love the object of their faith - Jesus Christ.

It has been an enormous privilege to head up the Vocations Office for these past five years. I would like to thank the staff of the vocations office with whom I have worked: Jo Grainger, Luke Kalesaran, John Smyth and Shannon Donohoo who have since gone on to other work; and the current staff, Joan Clements, Jeremy Yuen and Mark O'Shea. Your assistance has been invaluable and I know it will continue under the new Director, Fr Binh Le, whom I wish every blessing and success.

Fr Anthony Denton PP
Director of Vocations
Archdiocese of Melbourne

THE FIRST YEAR

I have been at Corpus Christi College for more than nine months now. As a 'First Year' seminarian, each week brings with it something new.

I very much love being a seminarian, sharing the many 'ups' and every now and then, the 'downs' with my new "brothers."

The seminary truly is a brotherhood, united by our focus on the Lord in faith and in prayer. Every day, we learn to see more clearly the path along which the Lord is leading each of us.

There is an incredible fraternity that develops within the community. This was most evident at this year's inter-Seminary Soccer Tournament in Sydney, where although we were exhausted having just 'won' the Wooden Spoon, we still came together, sang our team song, and walked off the field as one.



Seminary life is busy and varied. The decision to enter was terrifying, if I only knew then what I know now, it would have been far easier. And while I have been busier this year than any other, I have found my (short) time in the seminary to be the most rewarding experience in my life so far.

Please pray for me and all of my brother seminarians.

Daryl

First Year Seminarian

PILGRIMAGE OF THE MONSTRANCE

St Gabriel's in Reservoir had the Vocations Monstrance from 15th to 17th September. The plan was to organize 40 hours of Adoration, but as there were not quite enough takers to go all through the night, there was instead continuous Adoration through two days, and a third day was only curtailed by a funeral in the church. We trust our priests feel the benefit of all those wonderful prayers and we thank the people of Reservoir for their devotion.

At St Dominic's in East Camberwell five separate hours of Eucharistic Adoration

and prayers for vocations were held over the time they had the Monstrance.



We would love to hear other stories from parishes who have had the Monstrance during this current pilgrimage, which has so far visited 34 parishes.

Catholic Vocations

FOLLOW THE PILGRIMAGE

DECEMBER	PARISH
1 – 3	Our Lady Help of Christians • East Brunswick
4 – 6	St Fidelis • Moreland
7 – 10	St Christopher's • Airport West
11 – 13	St Dominic's • Broadmeadows
17	6:30 Holy Hour • St. Patrick's Cathedral
18	Immaculate Heart of Mary • Hampton East

*Dates still available in January. Contact us to make a booking.

RESOURCES FEEDBACK

The Vocations Office has been kept busy over the 5 months since the beginning of the Year for Priests sending out hundreds of bundles of resources to parishes and other groups who have requested the materials as a focus for their plans for the year.

Several parishes have distributed the St John Vianney prayercard and/or brochure to every family attending Masses and all children in the parish school. Some schools have requested copies of the Year for Priests poster to put in every classroom.

Many prayer groups have ordered copies of *Adoration, Reparation and Spiritual Motherhood for Priests*. One Aged Care Facility ordered copies of the St John Vianney prayercard and brochure for all residents and put on a special afternoon tea to thank their local parish priest who visits regularly and brings Communion to the residents.

A seminary from another diocese ordered copies of the resources for all their seminarians and a letter from the Rector noted, "The seminarians and staff here will certainly draw inspiration and profit from them."

Following are some other comments from individuals who wrote to thank us for the materials:

"What a great surprise to receive Adoration, Reparation, Spiritual Motherhood for Priests. I immediately thought: "This is my vocation now – I must pray more for priests."

"I received with much delight and many "thankyous" the booklet...it is greatly inspiring, encouraging and a reminder how much our dear priests need our prayers."

"Thank you very much for the booklet, which I found very interesting and helpful. It was great to read about these wonderful people and saints."

We still have copies of all the resources available from the Vocations Office – give us a call to order your supplies.

Catholic Vocations

THE BEAUTIFUL HANDS OF A PRIEST

We need them in life's early morning, we need them again at its close;

We feel their warm clasp of friendship, we seek them when tasting life's woes.

At the altar each day we behold them, and the hands of a king on his throne

are not equal to them in their greatness, their dignity stands all alone.

And when we are tempted and wander to pathways of shame and sin

It's the hand of a priest that will absolve us – not once, but again and again.

And when we are taking life's partner, other hands may prepare us a feast,

but the hand that will bless and unite us in the beautiful hand of a priest.



God bless them and keep them all holy for the Host which their fingers caress.

When can a poor sinner do better than to ask Him to guide thee and bless?

When the hour of death comes upon us, may our courage and strength be increased

by seeing raised over us in anointing the beautiful hands of a priest.

Author Unknown
(vocations.com)

VOCATIONS OFFICE PLANS FOR 2010

As you would have seen in our last edition of *Vocations News*, Rev Fr Binh Le takes over as Director of Vocations from the beginning of next year. By the time you are reading this Fr Binh will have moved into the Cathedral presbytery, where he will be living and working as an assistant priest at St Patrick's Cathedral, in addition to his duties as Director of Vocations.

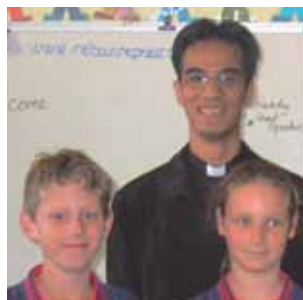
Fr Binh expects things to continue as they have been at least while he settles in. *Vocations News* will be published quarterly, the pilgrimage of the Vocations Monstrance will continue throughout the Year for Priests. There will be two Vocations retreats in 2010 at Pallotti College – the first will be the last weekend in May, the second will be the last weekend of Term 3. Quo Vadis will continue to be held monthly from February to November – dates and venue to be advised.

Good Shepherd Sunday – World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be celebrated on Sunday 25th April. A resources pack will be sent to all parishes in the weeks before and seminarians will

be available to speak at Masses on that day.

National Vocations Awareness Week will take place 1st- 8th August 2010, and once again parishes and schools will receive resources packs.

A particular focus of the work of the Vocations Office in 2010 will be in the schools of the Archdiocese. Fr Binh has already written to all school principals inviting them to contact the office to book a date for him to visit the school and speak with the students.



At the time of writing, almost every week in Term one has been booked as well as selected dates later in the year.

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VALE PETER LARKINS

Peter Larkins of the Serra Club of Melbourne died on 27th September, just one day after his 70th birthday, following a battle with cancer. He was a member of Serra for 16 years serving at various times as President of his local club, District Governor and Vice-President of SCANZSPAC (the Serra Council of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific). He was President-Elect of SCANZSPAC when he had to retire due to ill health.

Peter was married to Marie for 48 years and they have six children. He was educated at St Joseph's PS Chelsea and at De La Salle College Malvern. He undertook a Diploma in Chemistry at RMIT – studying at night-school whilst working full-time so as not to be a burden

to his parents – and graduated with the 'Uni Lever Prize' for the 'Highest performance by a student in the final year of the Diploma'. He later gained a Master of Applied Science and worked for 34 years with the CSIRO as a research scientist.

Peter was a devout Catholic, passionate about Vocations. He was a devoted and loving family man, and a keen gardener.

"He was always ready to support others in whatever way he could. He had a definite set of unwavering principles and beliefs that he never compromised, but he always listened and tried to understand a different point of view." We thank God for the life and example of Peter Lionel Larkins.

May he rest in peace.

CALENDER

December	18	Vocations Office <i>closes</i> for 2009
January	4	Vocations Office <i>opens</i> for 2010
February	14	First Year Seminarians commence
	TBA	Quo Vadis resumes
May	28-30	Vocations Retreat
April	25	Good Shepherd Sunday
August	1-8	NVAW
September	17-19	Vocations Retreat

ONLINE RESOURCES

The Catholic Vocations Office is dedicated to increasing awareness of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Our website is home to a wide selection of information and resources designed to promote and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. If you have not visited the site in a while, it is definitely worth a look!

The site contains a number of news articles, useful information on discernment and answers to frequently asked questions. In addition, you can find the weekly Vocation Views reflections, information on upcoming events such as retreats, as well as online versions of our popular brochure series.

These brochures are also available to download along with a number of other past and present resources such as posters and copies of *Vocations News*.



Our website also includes a number of online videos on priesthood and religious life, including *Called from the Crowd*, a short film on vocations commissioned by the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne as well as the American *Fishers of Men*. Both videos detail the life and work of the

priest in the modern world and challenge young men to consider whether they are being called to the priesthood.

Our newest addition to the site is a special section for the Year for Priests, which contains Papal addresses, useful links to other sites, multimedia and resources created by the Vocations Office for this important year.

You can now follow us on Twitter for quick information on news related to Vocations in Melbourne, as well as new promotional material.

www.twitter.com/melbournepriest

Mark O'Shea

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