



EXPLORING PRIESTHOOD WEEKEND (EPW) January 15-17, 2010



Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

EPW is an opportunity to learn more about diocesan priesthood. The retreat is held on the campus of Mundelein Seminary. The weekend includes Adoration Prayer, Mass, conversation with seminarians and faculty, and quiet time for reflection –all while enjoying the beautiful 1,000 acres of the Seminary grounds! The retreat begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening and ends Sunday after lunch.



Grounds at Mundelein Seminary

To register call Fr. Joe Noonan at 312-534-8298 or email jnoonan@archchicago.org

INSEARCH

INSEARCH, a discernment program that brings together post college age men for prayer, conversation, and a priest speaker series, will begin again, after our Christmas break, on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. **INSEARCH** meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral. For more info, contact Fr. Dick Mueller at 847-272-7090 or Fr. Joe Noonan at 312-534-8298 or jnoonan@archchicago.org

DAY OF SERVICE—SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010

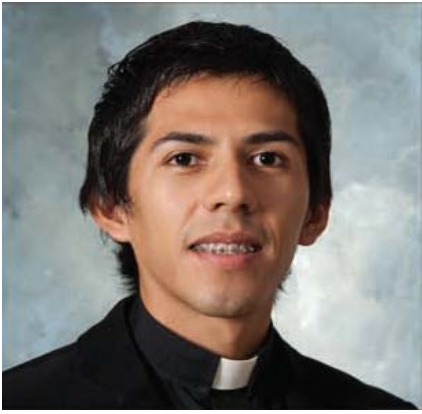
A Day of Service will start at 7:00 AM with Mass at the Rectory of the Missionaries of Charity. We will make and distribute sandwiches and if time allows do a small project for the Sisters. Please call the Vocation Office at 312-534-1037 for information and directions or contact Fr. Noonan to sign up at jnoonan@archchicago.org.

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Introducing Our Seminararians

Rodrigo Paredes is a Seminararian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago —Class of 2012

My name is Rodrigo Paredes and I am 23 years old. I started my priestly formation at the age of fourteen in the local high-school seminary of the Archdiocese of Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, where I finished three years of Humanities (2000-03), one year of intensive prayer and vocational discernment (2003-04) and three years of philosophical studies (2004-07). I have one older brother and one younger sister.

In August 2007, I had the privilege to join the Casa Jesus Discernment Program for **young Hispanic men**, who feel the call to serve God's people in this local Church of Chicago. After a year of cultural immersion and an **intensive English learning program** I entered **the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary** and **since then** I have been having the great opportunity to be part of St. Raymond de Penafort Catholic Church in Mt. Prospect. Currently, I am studying in my second year of Theology and I still have another two years of theological studies.

I firmly believe that God makes the call, the Church sends the one who is called, and then, the Seminary prepares him. Answering God's call is a process that comes with countless blessings. Furthermore, I am totally sure that as we continue responding positively to the Lord, we come to understand that He equips us with His divine graces in order to remain faithful to our call. We are not alone. As a matter of fact, Jesus himself tells us that He is with us always, to the close of the age (Mt 28:20).

Finally, I would like to recall those peculiar words of our beloved John Paul II: "*Non abbiate paura!*" (Do not be afraid!) because they have accompanied me throughout my formation up until this time. This phrase reminds me of the attitude that I am to face life and, ultimately, my vocation!

ARCHDIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010, 5:30 P.M. AT ST. EUGENE

Join Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., as we pray for the end of abortion and conversion for all those who participate in it. St. Eugene Parish is located at 7958 W. Foster Ave. in Chicago. A reception will follow. For more info go to www.archchicago.org

TRUST IN THE LORD

*L*ift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

*May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.*

*The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.*

*The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and forever.*

Psalm 121

