

September 18, 2015

My dear Brother Knights:

It is my hope and prayer that this summer has been a blessed and joyful one for you and your loved ones. As we journey *On Mission for the Church Alive!* we are reminded every day the ways in which we are already fulfilling the mission of Christ and His Church. One of those reminders is in the great work of priestly vocations. This year we saw seven men advance to Theology studies in anticipation of ordination to the priesthood in 2020. We also welcomed four new seminarians into the formation program at Saint Paul Seminary where they will begin their studies for the priesthood. What a great source of joy these men are for the Church.

Some of the great joys for me so far in my time as Chief Shepherd of the Church of Pittsburgh have been the opportunities to lead pilgrims from our diocese to encounters like no other with our Holy Father at World Youth Days in 2008 in Sydney, Australia and 2011 in Madrid, Spain. To see the vibrancy of the faith of the young people—who had come from literally every country in the world—was an experience I will never forget. It is my firm belief that there was not a young person who went who did not have their faith strengthened and enlivened through the experience. Besides strengthening the faith of all who attend, World Youth Day has also proven to be an incredible stimulus for young people to consider and answer a call to the priesthood or religious life. A recent survey conducted of the men to be ordained to the priesthood this year found that one out of five of them had attended a World Youth Day prior to entering the seminary.

With all of that in mind, I am writing once again to ask for your help. As the one most responsible for the formation of our seminarians into holy, healthy, on-fire priests, I do not want to pass up the opportunity to take our seminarians to World Youth Day this July in Krakow, Poland. The impact that it made on them the last time, the opportunity they had to connect personally with our Holy Father, the way it strengthened each of their vocations, and the opportunity it gave them to promote vocations makes it a “must do.” I am so grateful to you, my brother Knights, for helping to make the last World Youth Day experience possible for our seminarians, and I am hoping and praying that you can help once again. The cost for the trip is \$3,995 per person. Would you as a council please prayerfully consider a full, half, quarter or partial sponsorship of one of our seminarians? This opportunity can only be realized through your generosity. All the information you need to make your contribution can be found on the enclosed sheet.

Know that your generous donation is far more than a monetary contribution. You are investing in the future of the *Church Alive!* in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Zubik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:nsv

Enclosure

cc: Reverend Brian J. Welding, JCD, STL  
Reverend Joseph M. Freedy



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