

JUNE 2023



IDAHO VOCATIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



DIOCESE OF BOISE ORDINATIONS

Vocation Director's Corner

It's with great pleasure that this month's edition of the Vocations Newsletter is dedicated to Deacon's Tim Segert and Nelson Cintra who will be ordained to the Priesthood on Thursday, June 8th of this month at the Cathedral in Boise. I've known both men since I myself was in seminary as far back as 2015 and it has been a long journey for them to arrive to this day.

Deacon Tim has a deep love for God, especially expressed in his devotion to the Holy Spirit and his openness to God's will in his life. His constant refrain since I've known him has been a simple, "Whatever God wants!" His first assignment will be here in Boise at the Cathedral and I know he's going to give the parishioners a lot to think about with his compelling and intellectually stimulating homilies.



Deacon Nelson has the same passion for God, especially expressed in his apostolic fervor. Before he's even begun his public ministry, he's already known to many parishioners around the diocese due to his constant traveling from one parish to another to aid priests by ministering to youth and adults alike. He has a deep love for St Ignatius of Loyola and if you're having any questions regarding discernment of spirits, he'll be the priest to go to. Here are a few inspiring quotes from some of our great saints regarding the gift and dignity of the Holy Priesthood.





Please offer these special prayers for Deacon's Tim and Nelson as they prepare to receive Holy Orders!

1. *"The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honor of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls."* — **St. Alphonsus Liguori**
2. *"He made them, the vicars of his love."* — **St. Ambrose**
3. *"What tongue, human or angelic, may ever describe a power so immeasurable as that exercised by the simplest priest in Mass? Who could ever have imagined that the voice of man, which by nature has not the power even to raise a straw from the ground, should obtain through grace a power so stupendous as to bring from Heaven to earth the Son of God?"*
— **St. Leonard of Port Maurice**
4. *"O my child, bethink you that just as the bee, having gathered heaven's dew and earth's sweetest juices from amid the flowers, carries it to her hive; so the Priest, having taken the Savior, God's Own Son, Who came down from Heaven, the Son of Mary, Who sprang up as earth's choicest flower, from the Altar, feeds you with that Bread of Sweetness and of all delight."*
— **St. Francis de Sales**
5. *"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."* — **St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests**
6. *"For when you see the Lord sacrificed, and laid upon the altar, and the priest standing and praying over the victim, and all the worshippers empurpled with that precious blood, can you then think that you are still among men, and standing upon the earth? Are you not, on the contrary, straightway translated to Heaven, and casting out every carnal thought from the soul, do you not with disembodied spirit and pure reason contemplate the things which are in Heaven?"* — **St. John Chrysostom**
7. *"People who say that we priests are lonely are either lying or have got it all wrong. We are far less lonely than anyone else, for we can count on the constant company of the Lord, with whom we should be conversing without interruption. We are in love with Love, with the Author of Love!"* — **St. Josemaria Escriva**

Dcn. Nelson Cintra

I am with you

The day before my diaconate ordination last year Bishop Peter asked me what I was looking forward to the most in being ordained. Immediately I responded: "To be done discerning."

That ordination brought to an end a long, winding, joyful, painful and blessed pilgrimage of asking the Lord what it was that he wanted me to do with my life and trying to "discern" His answer. In adolescence and young adulthood the options of consideration were about marriage and career. In my mid-twenties they shifted to whether or not to become a priest - and if so, where. I was ordained a transitional deacon at 36, so that was basically a twenty-year-long journey!

Why did it take me so long? Why did I repeatedly come close to saying "yes" to someone and some path only to subsequently turn away -- or, I might say, run away?

I don't know the entire answer, but an event on a retreat last year at the John Paul II Healing Center in Florida gave me a glimpse. I had been experiencing a lot of sadness, anxiety, and distance from the Lord. I was telling my spiritual director about it and he was listening attentively. At one point I closed my eyes in angst. He said firmly and compassionately, "Nelson, stay here with me. Open your eyes. I am with you."

At that moment many of those previous major decision points flashed before my eyes. Upon further reflection it became clear that one major reason as to why I had been previously unable to make a decision was because I had believed the Enemy's fundamental lie that I was alone in life: completely alienated from others and from God. Instead of receiving love from God and from others as a free and unmerited gift, I had precisely the opposite orientation: I had to earn the love of God and of others in order to no longer be alone. One major way by which I was supposed to earn this love was by making the "right" decision about a state of life. Should I make an error in my vocational discernment God would be disappointed in me, I wouldn't fulfill his plan for my life, and I would forever perjure in my loneliness and alienation -- or so I mistakenly believed.

It turns out that I'm not the only one that has suffered from this type of paralysis. In her article *Why Aren't Young Catholics Marrying* in *The Catholic World Report*, Rachel Hoover identified "Dysfunctional Discernment" as one of the main causes: "[D]evout young adults—even not-so-young adults, in their late twenties and thirties—often get stuck in discernment, unable to commit either to marriage, priesthood, or religious life for fear they might actually be called to a different vocation." With this perspective the discernor embarks on a journey to discover God's predetermined vocation for him or her by seeking clues in internal and external signs. One day he or she finds a clue to go down one path, but what if they've misinterpreted it or what if the next clue is right around the corner -- and that will be the one that actually reveals God's will?

Thankfully, the Lord has been gradually and consistently melting away these sources of fear and insecurity within me by revealing himself to be a Father who is ever present and ever dispensing upon me his infinite and unmerited love and mercy. Some days I hear it, feel it, and act according to it; some days I don't. But every passing moment his message to me is the same: "You are my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased" (cf. Mark 1:11). I don't need to make the right decisions in order to be loved and not be alone; I'm already loved, accompanied, and sustained in and through all of the decisions I'm invited to make.

Undoubtedly I often make the wrong decisions even after doing the proper diligence and consultation ahead of time. When I do, I repent and lean more deeply and confidently in God's mercy, trusting that his ultimate will for me - my sanctification (cf. 1 Thess 4:3) - is being brought about not merely in spite of my weaknesses, but precisely in and through them (cf. 2 Cor 12:9). O Happy Fault!

As I prepare for priestly ministry, I am edified that my first assignment will be at St. John Paul II parish in Idaho Falls. Not only is Idaho Falls and so many of its parishioners dear to my heart as I lived in the area for nearly four years before entering seminary, but St. John Paul II himself has had a major role in my life and formation. I attended Mass "with" him in Rio de Janeiro in 1997 (he was a white speck on the opposite side of a large stadium) and have been nourished by many of his books, encyclicals and addresses over the years. His famous words at the closing Mass of World Youth Day in Toronto sum up the message he has communicated to me: "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."

My own prayer (and that which I humbly request of you for me) is that, through all of the upcoming joys, trials, laughter, tears, celebrations, and moments of intense pain and sorrow, I will, by His grace, remain grounded in the Father's words: "Nelson, stay here with me. Open your eyes. I am with you."

Where are they now?

-SUMMER EDITION-

- Monico: St. George's, Post Falls
- Zack: Holy Spirit, Pocatello
- Ian: St. Paul's, Nampa
- Nathan: St. Nicholas, Rupert
- Nicholas: No Summer assignment
- Connor: St. Mary's, Cottonwood
- Ryan: St. John's Cathedral, Boise
- Ronald: St. Rita's, Kellogg
- Memo Jr.: Pope St. JPII, Idaho Falls
continuing his pastoral year location
- Cameron: St. Paul's BSU & Frassati House





Dcn. Tim Segert

Sentiments before Presbyteral Ordination

One of the hallmarks of the Catholic faith is the idea of “already/not yet.” We see it everywhere if we look closely. Jesus Christ has already risen from the dead, definitively defeating Satan and evil in the process. But the effect of this victory has not yet taken place across the entire cosmos. We are already justified in Christ at the moment of our baptism, but we also spend the rest of our lives living into that same baptism and thus are not yet perfect. Each offering of the Eucharist has enough power in it to save the whole world, and yet we have not yet exhausted the mysteries contained in that Sacrament.

I think that this concept helps me to answer one of the most common questions I have been hearing as I approach my presbyteral ordination - “Do you feel ready to be a priest?” It’s a completely understandable question - people want to know if I’m human or not. But it’s very hard to answer. Perhaps a bit of the already/not yet mystery can shed some light on that.

Already. It’s amazing how much effort other people have given so that I could be formed as a future priest over the last few years. I have spent seven years as a full time student studying at a Benedictine monastery. That includes two years of philosophy, four of theology, and one year of pastoral experience. I’ve spent time at a school, a hospital, a soup kitchen, a nursing home, and numerous parishes. I’ve received countless hours in spiritual direction, counseling, and personal formation. It’s hard to imagine a more blessed, constructive situation for personal growth, both naturally and supernaturally. As you might guess, spending seven years also makes one become antsy too - I want to get going! So you could certainly say that, on some level, I want to be there already. Can you imagine having a seven year engagement for your wedding?

Not yet. And yet, at the same time, there is no way that a man can prepare to be a priest. How do you prepare to forgive someone else’s sins? No class can adequately prepare you, no matter how well done it is. What amount of prayer is enough to have one’s soul be conformed to Christ’s? You could literally pray for the rest of your life and never reach that point. Most importantly: how do you prepare to turn bread and wine into the real, true, and substantial Body and Blood Christ? That involves practice of the liturgy, to be sure, but no one would say that that is enough. The adventure of the priesthood is way, way beyond the normal capabilities of man. In that sense, I will never be ready.

These are a few of the thoughts going through my head as I approach June 8th (the date of my ordination) and June 9th (the date of my first thanksgiving Mass). I am so thankful for everyone who has brought me to this point (and there are too many to count) and humbly ask for your prayers at this critical juncture. My well-founded hope is that living the vocation that God the Father has set out for me as a priest will set me on a path towards eternal life with him, if only I am faithful. “One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord’s house all the days of my life, to gaze on the Lord’s beauty, to visit his temple” (Ps 27:4).



July Events:

- July 7: Eucharistic Procession, Cataldo Mission
- July 9-14: North ID Youth Camp (NICYC), Dworshak State Park
- July 13-16: Family Camp, St. John Paul II Camp, Cascade

Prayer for Seminarians

*Oh God, hear our prayer for the men you have chosen to follow in your Son's footsteps.
Teach them humility and fidelity to unselfishly help others.
May their devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations increase,
enabling them to do your will.
Strengthen their prayer life that they may grow spiritually
without worldly distractions.
Give them courage and perseverance in their studies.
May the Holy Spirit lighten their struggles with their vocations,
until they know the joy of being a priest.
We ask this through Christ your Son.
Amen.*