

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER WARRIORS

DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PRIESTS

JULY 2008

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Seminarian Profile: Brian Phelps



BRIAN PHELPS
PRE-THEOLOGY II

Seminarian Brian Phelps is not the sole member of his family with a heart to serve the Church: one brother works as a music director in a parish here in Cincinnati, while his other brother is involved with his

parish Church in Tennessee. "My family was always active in the parish, from playing sports, to serving at Mass, to the choir; it was just a part of the fabric of our lives," Brian responded when asked about the wide range of involvement of his family with the Church. This involvement with the Church helps him feel supported in his call to the priesthood, too.

"There are some days when it is hard to see if God is calling you to be a priest," he admitted, "and having the prayerful support of friends and family really helps with the journey. I couldn't do this on my own."

Besides the expectations for Mass, prayer, and class, the biggest surprise for Brian, as he completed his first year of formation, was the brotherhood that formed among his brother seminarians. "It was very early on that I realized this was not just another school, these men became my brothers and I value the friendship that has fostered so far this year," he reflected.

As a parting point of wisdom, Brian urged young people just to be open to what God wants you to do, and you will be happy.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Mass for the Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, July 25, OLHSC
- ◆ Frohlich Farm High School Event, September 2008
- ◆ Prayer Warriors Kick Off Event, September 21, OLHSC
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events' page at cincinnati.vocations.org



The Holy Father Speaks

In [Eucharistic Adoration], and not just in words, the assembly of Bishops wanted to point out the intrinsic relationship between Eucharistic celebration and Eucharistic adoration... As Saint Augustine put it: "No one eats that flesh without first adoring it; we should sin were we not to adore it." In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic adoration is sim-

ply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic celebration, which is itself the Church's supreme act of adoration. Receiving the Eucharist means adoring him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself. Indeed,

"only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another." - Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*



**ST. MICHAEL
PRAYER WARRIORS**

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ENCOURAGING THE
YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI TO LIVE
THEIR FAITH RADICALLY
AS PRIESTS AND
RELIGIOUS OF JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE
SALVATION OF SOULS!

HOLY FATHER'S JULY PRAYER INTENTION:

THAT WORLD YOUTH
DAY IN SYDNEY, AUS-
TRALIA, MAY KINDLE
THE FIRE OF DIVINE
LOVE IN NUMEROUS
YOUNG PEOPLE AND
RENDER THEM SOWERS
OF HOPE FOR A NEW
HUMANITY.

St. Michael Prayer Warriors is an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Vocation Office whose members agree to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life for at least one hour per month. Voluntary sacrifice is also encouraged as an offering of self for the gift of vocations. The 'Prayer Warriors' newsletter is published ten times per year, and is distributed electronically to parishes, seminarians, members, and potential candidates for the seminary.

Members also agree to encourage their pastor in his own ongoing conversion, for priests remain the best recruiter of priests. For this, members will pray for their bishops and priests during their hour of adoration.

As the Master instructs us to pray for more laborers for His fields, we willingly agree to this undertaking.

To enroll for the monthly newsletter, send an email to vocations@catholiccincinnati.org or call the Vocation Office at 513-421-3131.

Prayer Intentions, July



**STS. ANNE AND JOACHIM
PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY—JULY 26**

This month features the memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, who formed

their daughter to be able to say 'Yes' to the Father's gracious invitation to be the Mother of His Son. Let us pray for the guidance in forming our children to be open to God's invitation as well.

Prayer Intentions:

- Archbishop Pilarczyk
- Pastor of your Parish
- Newly ordained priests who begin their first assignments on July 1

Outline of Prayer for July

- Rosary, meditation on the Joyful Mysteries
- Scripture Reading: The Annunciation; Luke 1:26-56
- July 26 is the Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, in your private meditations, prayer for each of your children (or grandchildren),

specifically asking God to help you see each child's unique talent or gift, and how God is asking you to help nourish and enrich that talent or gift.

A project for Children: For Our Lady of Mount Carmel, have them look up the various titles for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and why they might like one particular title more than another.

Sacrifice: While the requirement for abstinence from meat on Fridays was abrogated, the Church still encourages penitential practices as a remembrance that Jesus died for our sins. Consider giving up meat on Friday as a way to remember the sacrifice of Our Lord.

Charity: Priests put many miles on their car driving for hospital visits and Communion calls. As gas prices have risen, consider giving your pastor a gas card for his trips to visit his parishioners in need.

