

PRAYER WARRIORS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS

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Seminarian Profile: Deacon Shawn Landenwitch



DEACON
SHAWN
LANDENWITCH

Born on Cincinnati's west side, Deacon Shawn Landenwitch did not take the normal path to the seminary. He was raised primarily in Columbus, Ohio, before moving to northern Virginia for his high school career. After graduation, he enrolled at the University of Virginia's College of Business, where he was on the intercollegiate cycling team among other activities.

Upon completion of his college studies, and the contemplation of the next step in his

life, things started to get interesting. While he had a place reserved at Notre Dame Law School, something was telling him that this was not the place he was supposed to go. After much prayer and discernment he finally approached his parents and said: "I'm not going to Law School. In fact, I'm thinking of entering the seminary."

"Surprisingly, my parents were supportive and after a bit of time, encouraged me in this effort," Shawn states.

After completion of the Pre-Theologate program at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Shawn enrolled at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in pursuit of the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, with an expected ordination date of May 2009.

As a future priest, he desires to be an example of Christ, living and present in the world, challenging others to be a disciple of Christ, as he himself strives to be a disciple. "It is with great humility that the priest stands *in persona Christi*, and he invites the faithful into a deeper relationship with God. I really wish to be a bridge between God and His people, that they may know the great love that He has for them. It is this love that has drawn me into the seminary and which I wish to show to the people whom I will serve in the future."

Shawn asks that people pray for their perseverance that the seminarians deepen their relationship with Christ so that others may come to that same relationship.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Discernment Retreat with Women Religious, June 6-8, OLHSC
- ◆ Mass for Renewal of the Priesthood and an Increase of Vocations, June 27, OLHSC
- ◆ Frohlich Farm High School Event, September 2008
- ◆ Prayer Warriors Kick-off Event, September 2008
- ◆ For details, see the 'Upcoming Events' page at cincinnati vocations.org



The Holy Father Speaks

Responding to a question on vocations during a meeting with the US bishops, Pope Benedict XVI responded:

The ability to cultivate vocations to the priesthood and the religious life is a sure sign of the health of a local Church. There is no room for complacency in this regard. God continues to call young people; it is up to all of us to encourage a generous and free response to that call. On the other hand, none of us can take this grace for granted.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers. Only the Lord can give the workers, and we always have to pray that He gives us the workers. He even admits that the work-

ers are few in comparison with the abundance of the harvest (cf. Mt 9:37-38). Strange to say, I often think that prayer - the *unum necessarium* - is the one aspect of vocations work which we tend to forget sometimes or to undervalue!

Nor am I speaking only of prayer for vocations. Prayer itself, born in Catholic families, nurtured by programs of Christian formation, strengthened by the grace of the sacraments -- prayer is the first means by which we come to know the Lord's will for our lives. To the extent that we teach young people to pray, and to pray well, we will be cooperating with God's call. So I think learning prayer, being prayerful people, is an essential point for the living

church. Programs, plans, projects are necessary and have their place; but the discernment of a vocation is above all the fruit of an intimate dialogue between the Lord and his disciples. Young people, if they know how to pray, can be trusted to know what to do with God's call.

I think there is a growing thirst for holiness in many young people, and that those who come forward show great idealism and much promise. It is important to listen to them, to understand their experiences, and to encourage them to help their peers to see the need for committed priests and religious, as well as the beauty of a life of sacrificial service to the Lord and his Church -- this is beautiful, to have a sacrificial service for the Lord and the Church.

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- DEACON SHAWN
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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 JUNE PRAYER INTENTIONS:

THAT CHRISTIANS MAY
CULTIVATE A DEEP AND
PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP
WITH CHRIST SO THEY
ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE
THE STRENGTH OF HIS
LOVE TO THOSE THEY
ENCOUNTER.

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.

June Prayer Intentions



**ST. PETER AND PAUL
JUNE 29**

**PILLARS OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Prayer intentions for June:

- Archbishop Pilarczyk
- Pastor of your parish
- New Seminarians who will be enrolling in the seminary this coming August.
- Young Ladies attending the Discernment Retreat June 6-8.

Outline of prayer for this month:

- Rosary, meditation on the Mysteries of Light
- Scripture Reading from the Conversion of St. Paul, Acts 9:1-19
- June 29 is the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, spend some time in prayer asking for their wisdom and guidance to be visited upon our Archbishop and upon your pastor.

- Pray this litany of vocations, inserting patrons for each family member: http://cincinnati.vocations.org/vocation_prayers.shtml#litany

A project for children: have them look up and tell you about Sts. Peter and Paul during dinner, also explaining why *palliums* are bestowed upon new Archbishops on this day each year.

During short trips over these Summer months, drive without air conditioning for a penance and offering for the holiness of your parish priest and an increase of vocations.

As a further note, many priests celebrate the anniversary of their ordination during May or June. Present a special gift to your pastor on his anniversary of ordination as a sign of your gratefulness for his ministry among you.

