

WELCOME BACK!

Here we are back at school after a hopefully restful and I think, lengthy Winter break. I must admit, although I had an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Bahama's, I missed the students very much. I especially missed our worshipping together and I am glad to be back together again.

My first semester here at BU went by very fast and I am anticipating that this one will too. We hope that some activities this semester will be spiritually helpful and fruitful. To begin with, on the weekend of February 14-15, we will be blessed with the presence of Fr. Joseph O'Connor, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Syracuse and Sr. Nora Gatto, D.C., a Daughter of Charity from Albany, NY.. Joe and Nora will be speaking at our Masses and sharing time and experiences with our students; hopefully aiding them in their discernment of vocations in life and assisting them in continuing their faith walk. I am excited about Joe and Nora being with us, they are good friends of mine. But most of all I am excited about the fact that my spirit senses that some (many) of our students are being challenged internally by their loving God, to notice and address a religious vocation or a vocational call to priesthood.

The holiness of our students is very apparent to me and these are the people God chooses to continue His ministry in this world. The vocational crisis that the Church is experiencing at this time, is not because God has stopped calling people to religious life; it is because we are not responding with resounding affirmation! I truly believe that if we could convince our brothers and sisters being called, that the call was indeed, from God Himself and not some strange, supernatural phenomenon to be feared or avoided, then our young people would and will respond with a resounding YES! It is my constant prayer that the Holy Spirit will inspire our young people and keep them holy.

We will also enjoy Joe and Nora for food and refreshments after each Mass.

Soon we will be entering into the Holy Season of Lent and hope to be joining in prayer for more spiritual exercises during the season (i.e. Stations, Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, etc). May the Season of Lent be for all of us, a time of renewal and growth in the love of the Lord.

We will be celebrating the Eucharist and Confirmation of two of our community, closer to the Easter celebration. Because the students will be on Spring Break at Easter time, we will receive our RCIA candidates on the Sunday before Palm Sunday. This will be a great spiritual blessing for our faith community.

Hopefully, we will soon secure plans for an overnight retreat away from the campus, during this semester. Plans will be announced here soon.

And so, our life together, in faith and community moves forward. It is our prayer that all of us will continue to grow in our knowledge of God and His love for us.

As always, I remind you of our need for your continued support in prayer and if you can find a way, a contribution towards our ministry is always needed and appreciated. Know that all of you are remembered in my daily prayers and Masses.

May God Bless Us and May Mary Keep Us Always In His Love!

Fr. Corey