

QUO VADIS DAYS

May 15, 2005
Solemnity of Pentecost

Dear Friend in Christ and Fellow Worker in His Vineyard,

Grace and peace to you on this Pentecost day! I am writing at this time to draw your attention to our Sixth Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation camp taking place this **August 5-8**.

***Quo Vadis Days* is a camp experience sponsored by the Archdiocese of Portland Vocations Office to provide a time of fun, prayer, and talks to help young men explore the Lord's call in their lives.**

Quo Vadis Days is a three day camp for young men (ages 13-21) focused on the vocation to the priesthood. Last year we had over 50 participants; this year, with your help we are hoping to increase that number. Having the form of both a camp and retreat, *QVD* is a balance of prayer, talks, and discussion, and fun. We celebrate Mass and part of the Liturgy of the Hours. There are sports and games along with talks from priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese about their personal vocation stories, the basic tools of discernment and the life of prayer. Many of you are already familiar with this camp, and have encouraged the young Catholic men you think might have a priestly vocation to attend. The young men who come are really some of the finest of the Church in Oregon.

This year I am pleased to announce that we now have a website: www.qvdays.org. This site contains all the necessary information about the camp and how to register. It also serves as a resource in helping young men discern their vocation, and to remain in contact with them during the year. I would certainly appreciate the help in getting the word out in our parishes and schools.

I am also pleased to announce that our model of *Quo Vadis Days* is growing. The Archdiocese of Seattle will be hosting their 3rd annual camp under the direction of Fr. Derek Lappe. He is expecting upwards of 100 young men this year. The Diocese of Harrisburg, PA will be starting their first *Quo Vadis Days* this summer. I have also been contacted by the Dioceses of Baton Rouge, LA, and Covington, KY to help them begin a *QVD* camp. By an abundance of grace, this little idea, with prayer and some effort, is growing. Praised be Jesus Christ!

I would certainly welcome more young men to the camp this year, and with your interest and help we can keep growing. The first thing that I would ask is to **pray for the fruitfulness** of the camp. Second, please **personally invite at least one young man from your parish**. Many of our Catholic young men, even in high school, take their spiritual lives seriously, have a desire to serve the Lord, and are indeed thinking about their vocation. Finally I would invite you to check out our website to see for yourself what *QVD* is all about.

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The brochures can be downloaded from the website and copied. I would encourage you to read it over and personally invite those young men in your parish whom you think may have a priestly vocation and give them a brochure. Enclosed with this letter are sample Bulletin and Pulpit announcements.

Thank you for your time and consideration and willingness to promote and encourage the great gift of Christ's priesthood. *Veni Sancte Spiritus!*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father John Cihak

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From the brochure:

Quo Vadis?-- Where are you going? ”

Legend tells us that St. Peter asked Jesus this question on the outskirts of Rome. Jesus went to Calvary in response to his Father's will and for love of us. Each day of our lives our Lord repeats this question: **Where are you going with your life?**

The Lord in His love has a great and wonderful plan for all of us. Jesus' plan for many men is to be one of His priests. The priesthood is an important, awesome and beautiful mission. Many of the Church's greatest saints have been priests. Even though Jesus continues to call young men to this life, sometimes the world we live in makes it difficult to hear His call.

There will be priests, seminarians, and other young men like yourself gathered together for these days. Our activities will include prayer, hiking, sports, talks and discussions.

We hope that you will consider taking time to discern the Lord's will in your life with us at *QVD*. It is a great opportunity to let the Lord speak to you and to spend time listening to Him.

When: The camp will open with lunch at noon on Friday, August 5 and concludes with lunch at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, August 8.

Cost: \$50.00 registration fee for first family member, \$30.00 for second family member (other family members are free.) Scholarships are available. The Knights of Columbus, the Serra Club of Oregon and other generous donors provide additional financial assistance.

Where: *Little River Christian Camp* is situated outside Glide, Oregon in the magnificent Umpqua Forest. Numerous lakes, falls, hiking trails are found nearby.

To find out more, or to register online go to www.qvdays.org