



### 2024 Ordination Mass

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Dear Newman Friends,

June is the month of priestly anniversaries and priestly fraternity.

On June 1st, Archbishop Thomas Zinkula ordained Fr. Dane Dickinson and Fr. Mike Snyder to the priesthood for the Diocese of Davenport. It was a wonderful celebration for the whole diocese.

Approximately fifty priests from both the Diocese of Davenport and the two seminaries that the men attended came together with family and friends to celebrate God's love for His Church. Then the two newly ordained went to their home parishes for their masses of Thanksgiving on Sunday as priests and Catholics throughout the world celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. (Corpus Christi)

It is so beautiful that these newly ordained men celebrated their first masses on a solemnity, whose sole purpose is to honor the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. These men, along with the rest of us who have been ordained many years have the blessing of bringing Christ to his disciples in this most intimate way.

When Sunday Masses were over, all the priests of the diocese made their way down to Moravia, Iowa to Honey Creek Resort, which is located on Honey Creek State Park. Each June we gather to foster fraternity amongst the presbyterate, listen to a speaker that has been brought in for formation and inspiration, and we celebrate the jubilarians; those priests who are celebrating a milestone anniversary: 25, 40, 50 or 60 years.

It is both refreshing and exhausting to spend this quality time with my brother priests. We are an eclectic group indeed, coming from diverse backgrounds. But what we have in common is infinitely more beautiful. **We have been called by Christ**, so that He can fulfill His promise to be with us always, until the end of the age. Please pray for the newly ordained, and those who will be celebrating their anniversaries throughout the month of June and beyond.

As I write this e-mail, I am realizing that it is June 6th, which is the 80th anniversary of D-Day. In commemoration of this anniversary, I will link a news article about 3 Catholic priest chaplains who were there on that terrible yet important day.

Link to article: [Remembering 3 heroic chaplains on the 80th anniversary of D-Day](#)

And I leave you with this quote from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. He wrote these words to men entrusted with the instruments of war, weapons of destruction. I extend these words to the newly ordained and those who have been ordained for many years. Our victory has already been won by Christ. But ours is no less noble of an undertaking.

*"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.*

*Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.*

*But this is the year 1944! The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory! I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!*

*Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."*

- Gen. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#), Supreme Allied Commander, 6 June 1944.

Whether they heard these words, I do not know. But my Great Uncle, Sgt. James Belger participated in D-Day. And my Great Uncle Capt. John Belger was sent to Normandy, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1944. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Jeff". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Fr. Jeff Belger  
Priest Director

P.S. **Be a part of making Jesus known to students at The University of Iowa.** We are ending our fiscal year and are looking for some additional support for our Annual Fund. We budget each year in May for the following fiscal year. This budget sets the basis for expenses as well. Our goal to reach by June 30, 2024 is \$254,000. As of today, we need about \$20,000 to reach our goal. Please consider giving a special gift to our Annual Fund. This can be done easily online, or send a check to 104 E. Jefferson Street, Iowa City, IA 52245. Become a part of the financial partner team today! [Link to online giving.](#)

**Don't forget to RSVP! It isn't required, but it would be greatly appreciated so that we can plan the refreshments!**



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### Prayer for Our Priests

Gracious and loving God,  
we thank you for the gift of our priests.  
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.  
Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.  
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.  
Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength  
they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.  
Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.  
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.  
Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.  
Amen.