



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

January 11, 2010

Bishop Samuel J. Aquila
Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishops Blvd., Suite A
Fargo, ND 58104-7605

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Dear +Sam,

I pray that this New Year will be grace-filled for you and for all those to whom you minister. We are now a little more than halfway through this special *Year for Priests*. In his June 16, 2009 Letter, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that this year is "meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world." This *Year for Priests* gives all priests an opportunity to recommit themselves to their vocation.

Pilgrimages have always held a privileged place in the history of the Catholic Church. Traveling to Jerusalem, Rome and to other holy shrines of our Catholic faith has been a source of grace and renewal in the life of Christians for centuries. This more noble kind of travel has provided a way for Christians to connect with the historical landmarks of the faith.

With this in mind, the Archdiocese of Denver has organized a special opportunity for priests to come together in prayer and fraternity to embark on a pilgrimage to Ars, France, to the parish and burial place of Saint John Vianney, from May 31 to June 7, 2010. In addition, there will be an optional extension to Rome from June 7 to 12, 2010, for the closing Symposium and Papal Mass in honor of the *Year for Priests*. I would be grateful if you would extend this invitation to the priests in your diocese. Enclosed are brochures with additional information or you can visit the *Year for Priests* link on our website at www.archden.org. }

Fr. Frederick Miller, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland will accompany us as our Spiritual Director. Fr. Miller is a noted theologian, author and retreat master. His most recent book is entitled "The Grace of Ars" and was just published at the beginning of the month by Ignatius Press. Fr. Miller has led many pilgrimages to Ars and I think you will enjoy his knowledge and insights into the life of the Curé of Ars.

This year will mark my own 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood and I can't think of better way to celebrate my Silver Jubilee than to go on a pilgrimage to Ars with my brother bishops and priests.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James D. Conley, S.T.L.
Auxiliary Bishop of Denver

Enclosures (brochures)