



## For Immediate Release

### Media Advisory

#### The First Seminary Chapel In the Country Built for Seminarians in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite in 40 Years

DENTON, Nebraska – January 22, 2010 – The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is pleased to announce the Pontifical Consecration of its newly built chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am (CST). Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz will celebrate the Pontifical Consecration and Mass according to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

The five hour ceremony will be held in the presence of a very special guest from the Vatican, William Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is delighted to have the presence of one of the highest ranking officials in the Catholic Church. Cardinal Levada's presence is connected with his position as President of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei* established by Pope John Paul II and recently expanded by Pope Benedict XVI to facilitate the full incorporation into the life of the Church of communities and individuals attached to the Extraordinary Form.

Thanks to Thomas Gordon Smith, its architect, the seminary chapel reflects a contemporary rebirth in the rich tradition of classical Catholic architecture. Upon entering through its mahogany doors, the visitor will be immersed in the chapel's beauty and grandeur which include an elevated main altar, emphasized by a 31-foot marble canopy or "baldachino", the chapel's seven side altars and liturgical choir stalls which seat 92 seminarians and priests. These are some of the integral qualities of this chapel which, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be full of the people for which it was made.

The Pontifical Consecration and Mass is open to all of the public. Any and all the faithful are cordially invited and are most welcome to attend this joyful event and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Due to the number of guests and limited space, rooms and television screens will be provided for those outside of the chapel who wish to participate.

The Pontifical Consecration and Mass will be televised live on the Eternal World Television Network (EWTN) at 11:00AM (EST). Watch the Pontifical Consecration and Mass Live Online!  
[www.ewtn.com/audiovideo](http://www.ewtn.com/audiovideo)

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### **About the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter**

Established in 1988 by Pope John Paul II, the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is a Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right. The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter strives to serve the Catholic Church by means of its own particular and specific role or objective, i.e. the sanctification of priests through the faithful celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Through the spiritual riches of the Church's ancient Roman liturgy, the priests of the Fraternity seek to sanctify those entrusted to their care. The Priestly Fraternity instructs and trains its priests to preserve, promote, and protect the Catholic Church's authentic liturgical and spiritual traditions in over 16 countries worldwide. The Fraternity has over 200 priests and 125 seminarians studying in its two international seminaries in Bavaria, Germany and Denton, Nebraska. For more information, please go to [www.fssp.org](http://www.fssp.org).

### **About Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary**

Located in rural Denton, Nebraska, is the English-speaking seminary for the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter. Men from all over the world, come to study for the priesthood in the seminary's seven year program. A few represented countries include Australia, the French West Indies, England, Scotland and Nigeria. For more information, please go to [www.fsspols.org](http://www.fsspols.org).

Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary is the center of the world's largest provider of training resources and materials for priests who wish to learn the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Since June of 2007, priests from over 70 dioceses in the United States have been personally trained. For more information, please go to [www.fssptraining.org](http://www.fssptraining.org).

The seminary building itself has a total of 100 seminary rooms and 13 priest suites. With construction on the seminary beginning in the fall of 1998, the Pontifical Consecration and Mass on March 3<sup>rd</sup> will crown the heart and jewel of the seminary, the chapel.

### **About the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)**

Established by Pope Paul III in 1542, this is the oldest of the nine Congregations in the Vatican. Its proper function "is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world; so it has competence in things that touch this matter in any way." Cardinal Levada, its Prefect, as the hierarchical superior of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, is also the President of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*. For more information, please go to [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).



CNS photo/Giancarlo Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo

### **About Thomas Gordon Smith Architects**

Thomas Gordon Smith is a leader in contemporary developments of classical architecture. His company, Thomas Gordon Smith Architects, believes that contemporary buildings should balance strength, function, and beauty. The first criterion involves structural and durability issues; the second requires the smooth, efficient, and accessible design of complex and varied uses. Achieving the criterion of beauty involves formal and abstract principles of design, and clear engagement with the elements of classical architecture. For more information, go to [www.thomasgordonsmitharchitects.com](http://www.thomasgordonsmitharchitects.com).

### **About EWTN**

Founded by Mother Angelica, the EWTN Global Catholic Network, now in its 28th year, is available in more than 150 million television households in more than 140 countries and territories. EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world. For more information, go to [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).

### **A Biography for Father John Marcus Berg, FSSP**



Fr. John Marcus Berg was elected the third Superior General of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in July of 2006 succeeding Fr. Arnaud Devillers and Fr. Joseph Bisig.

Fr. Berg was born and raised in a Catholic family in Minnesota. He entered the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter immediately after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College, in Southern California. In 1993 he began with the first class of Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Scranton Pennsylvania. He was tonsured in Wigratzbad by Bishop Zieglebauer and did his theological studies at the Seminary of St. Peter.

Fr. Berg finished his studies at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome where he received a Licentiate Degree in Dogmatic Theology. He was ordained a priest by Bishop James C. Timlin of Scranton, Pennsylvania on September 6 1997. He then returned to Rome where he worked at the FSSP chapel there, San Gregorio dei Muratori. He taught Dogmatic Theology on the seminary staff at Our Lady of Guadalupe. He served as Pastor of St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish in Sacramento, California.

During the General Chapter in the summer of 2006, Fr. Berg was elected as the Superior General of the entire Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter. He currently lives at the Priestly Fraternity's General House in Fribourg, Switzerland. Placed in charge of the Catholic Church's largest religious community attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, Fr. Berg oversees and coordinates the Priestly Fraternity's apostolates worldwide. In light of this, Fr. Berg often meets with diocesan bishops throughout the world.

### **A Quick Glossary of Terms**

**The Mass** – With supernatural faith, Catholics believe that the Mass is the re-presentation, in an unbloody manner, of the sacrifice of Calvary in which Jesus offered his life to atone for the sins of all humanity. Christ's one-time death won from His Father an infinite amount of spiritual merit. At every Mass, that infinite spiritual merit is applied to humanity in space and time. At every Mass, the substance of bread and wine become the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. The separate Consecration of the bread into the body and the wine into the blood signifies the death of Christ.

At each and every Mass, Jesus Christ is the Priest and the Victim. Christ is the Priest because since He is "always living to make intercession for us", He offers to God the Father the Sacrifice of Calvary. The Victim is also Christ insofar as Christ is offering Himself in an unbloody manner to the Father as a propitiation for the sins of men.

Catholics believe that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the spiritual life. Christ is present in various ways in the Church but only in the Eucharist is He present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity under the appearances of bread and wine. Catholics' belief for this is largely based on Divine Revelation in, for example, the Gospel of John, chapter 6

**Merit**-Reward proper to a work accomplished.

**Sacrament**-An outward (visible) sign, instituted by Christ, to give Grace to men

**Grace**-a participation by the soul in the Divine, Trinitarian life.

**Motu Proprio** – A type of Papal document of legislative nature

**Supreme Pontiff** – The word Supreme Pontiff is taken from the Latin word “pontifex” which means bridge-builder. Catholics see that Supreme Pontiff or Pope as the Vicar of Christ on earth. The Supreme Pontiff or Pope enjoys full, supreme and universal power within the Church. The biblical basis for the Papacy is found, for example, in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 16.

**Cardinal**- The English word cardinal is derived from the Latin word “cardo” which means hinge. In the Catholic Church, cardinals serve as close assistants to the Pope. In the past, they have been his envoys for particular missions. As signs of their office, cardinals wear red robes, a red biretta (box-like hat), and are given their own coat of arms. They are freely selected by the Pope. Should he die, the College of Cardinals convenes in Rome to elect a new Pope.

**Liturgy**-Public worship offered to God on behalf of the Church by one in Holy Orders who is deputed by Authority to do so.

**Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite** – Sometimes referred to as the “More Ancient Use,” the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite refers to the traditional Latin liturgy as codified by Pope Pius V in 1570 and, most recently, reaffirmed by Pope John XXIII in 1962. After Vatican II Council, which ended in 1965, different liturgical books were introduced and become normative, most often in vernacular languages. In the Papal document “*Summorum Pontificum*”, released last July, Pope Benedict XVI laid out a structured plan by which the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite is again to be used more widely in the Church.

**Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*** One of many dicasteries or departments in Rome that assist the Pope with the governance of the Catholic Church around the world. *Ecclesia Dei* is the competent authority for matters relating to the Extraordinary Form of the liturgy. It was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1988. William Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is also the President of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders** – Catholics believe that during the Last Supper, Jesus, after transforming bread and wine into his Body and Blood, gave his twelve apostles the power of Holy Orders with the words “Do this in memory of me.” Christ also gave His twelve apostles the power to ordain other priests. The four men who will be ordained priests on Friday, 30 May, will continue the ancient line of the Catholic priesthood that derives directly from those twelve apostles. Catholics believe that a man does not so much choose to become a priest as that Christ first chooses this vocation for him. This man, in freedom, can accept this calling or not. As Christ said “You have not chosen me. I have chosen you to go and bear fruit that will last.”

**Priest** – In every religion, a priest is one who offers sacrifice. The unique aspect of the Catholic priesthood is that he becomes an “Alter Christus” or another Christ. This is because the Catholic priest is called to be an instrument as he acts “In Persona Christi” or “in the Person of Christ.” The main duties of the Catholic priest are to offer up the Holy Mass and to absolve sins in the Sacrament of Penance, commonly known as Confession.

**Latin**-Official language of the Church. Latin, as a “dead” language is useful, since its meanings don’t change over time. Thus, Latin is excellent for theology and the transmission through succeeding ages of the unchanging (and unchangeable) doctrines in which the continuity of precise meanings is necessary among different cultures and times. Also, one finds the sound of Latin to be sublime and lofty, devoted as it is uniquely to worship of the God.

**Ad Orientem** – These two Latin words mean “to the east” or “towards the east”. East is the theological direction for the manifestation of God. According to the most ancient belief, Christ will come again from the East on the Last Day. In the Extraordinary Form, the priest, while speaking with God, often faces East. Just as a father faces forward when driving the family car, and a shepherd thus leads his flock, so also does the priest stand directing the faithful to God. This orientation has recently been re-emphasized by Pope Benedict XVI in his frequent exhortation that in the Liturgy, the whole community be “*Conversi ad Dominum*”, that is, “turned toward the Lord” in prayer. The priest offers up to God the prayers of his people which accompany the sacrifice at the altar and distributes to them, especially in Holy Communion, the graces that come to them from God.

**Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter**- Established in 1988 by Pope John Paul II, the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is an international society of Pontifical Right comprising about 200 priests and over 100 seminarians. To the community the Church has entrusted the work of preserving, propagating, and protecting the Catholic Church's ancient Latin liturgical traditions. The seminarians are preparing for the priesthood in the Fraternity's two seminaries in Bavaria, Germany and Denton, Nebraska.

**Diocese of Lincoln**-For the sake of organization, the universal Catholic around the world is split up into smaller portions. A diocese is a portion of this universal church bounded within a geographical territory established by the Holy See in Rome. Normally, a bishop is at the head of a diocese. Currently, His Excellency, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz is the diocesan bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska.

### **Helpful Information**

Welcome again! Thank you for your interest and participation in this special Catholic event in Nebraska!

In order to facilitate the flow of the Pontifical Consecration, Mass and the Press Conference, please note the following details.

The Eternal World Television Network (EWTN) can provide a feed to any television stations that would like footage of the Pontifical Consecration and the Mass.

During the Pontifical Consecration and Mass, the use of cameras is allowed only in the back of the chapel, and the outside of the chapel. No flashes are allowed.

Time and Location of the Pontifical Consecration and Mass with His Excellency, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz

10:00AM (CST)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary

7880 West Denton Road

Denton, Nebraska 68339

The proper way to address the Cardinal is “Your Eminence.”

The proper way to address Father John Berg, FSSP is “Father”.

Appropriate dress for the Pontifical Consecration and Mass is semi-formal. Shoulders and knees should be covered. Please, no jeans!

Thank you for your cooperation during this solemn occasion!

If you have any questions, please contact

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