



Be Healed

Foreword

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(Excerpt from Fr. Mark's foreword for Dr. Schuchts book "Be Healed")

Amidst all of the things that we have done together, I am most grateful for Dr. Bob's ministry to the seminarians and priests of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux La., as well as other dioceses across the U.S. and Canada. The Lord longs for the renewal of His Church and this renewal must begin with the renewal of the priesthood. With that goal in mind, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux under the leadership of Bishop Sam Jacobs, in 2005, introduced a special year of spiritual formation for all seminarians, following their completion of philosophy and preceding their study of theology. The design of the spiritual year is to strengthen the seminarian's capacity to "live in intimate and unceasing union with" the Trinityⁱ, and to form priests who are "mature, viral, and capable of cultivating an authentic spiritual paternity."ⁱⁱ

Pope Benedict XVI, said: "The faithful expect only one thing from priests: that they be specialists in promoting the encounter between man and God" ...For this to happen, "priests need to be honest with themselves, open with their spiritual director and trusting in divine mercy."ⁱⁱⁱ Dr. Bob has been essential in assisting our seminarians and priests as they grow in honesty with themselves and in learning to trust in divine mercy in the depths of their heart. In fact, as I reminisce with the seminarians and priests about their priestly formation, Dr. Bob is most often mentioned as one the most influential persons in their entire formation.

One by one, as these young men are ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ, they are more confident in their spiritual paternity and their ability to lead their parishioners into an encounter with Christ. They also understand in the depths of their hearts what Pope Benedict XVI meant when he said that "healing is an essential part ...of Christianity".^{iv} Healing, transformation, and a new life in Christ are indeed possible and necessary for the entire people of God.

ⁱ Pope John Paul II, *Opatatium Totius*, no. 8

ⁱⁱ Pope Benedict XVI, *May 2006 Address to the Clergy in Warsaw Poland*

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, 176