

May 22, 2012

**\*\*Media Alert\*\***

Most Reverend John Noonan to Ordain Three New Priests in the Diocese of Orlando

**WHO:** Bishop John Noonan, priests and Catholic faithful from around the Diocese of Orlando

**WHAT:** Ordination to Priesthood

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 26, at 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** St. James Cathedral in downtown Orlando  
215 North Orange Avenue

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

Mark Librizzi, Thomas Wanitsky and Bernard Ngila have been studying at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, and on May 26 they will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders and devote their lives in service to Jesus Christ and the people of God.

**Mark Librizzi**

Mark Librizzi grew up in Titusville, with his parents and siblings. His family was very active in his home parish of St. Teresa. Seminarian Mark Librizzi explained, "I would play priest as a kid, but when I went to college, I thought about it a little but I was in a fraternity and pushed it away." He attended Auburn University where he studied art. When he moved back to Central Florida, he worked as a graphic designer. "I was working for about a year, and I kept coming home with an empty feeling all the time. I began spending more and more time thinking and praying about it and the idea of becoming a priest kept coming back," he explained.

On a vocations discernment retreat, Deacon Librizzi said God whispered to him that this is the path his life should take. During his years of study and formation, he has always asked God for guidance and as the reality of becoming a priest approaches, he prays that God will continue to guide his ministry.

"God please let me do what you know is needed. Whatever it is that you know your people need let me do it as you see fit," said Mark Librizzi.

## **Bernard Ngila**

Born in Kenya, Africa, Bernard Ngila grew up in a devout home as the middle child among three brothers and three sisters. It was during high school that he started thinking about the priesthood. “I was active in Young Christian Society in Kenya, and began serving at Mass before classes,” said Bernard Ngila. “I found that I related very much with the priest and he invited me to work in his parish to learn more about the priesthood.”

From there, he spent four years of discernment with a Carmelite order in Kenya. Nearly six years ago, he came to the United States, arriving first at Holy Trinity Parish in Honolulu. In August 2007, he entered the seminary.

Bernard Ngila will have local friends participating in the celebration of his ordination Mass while his immediate family members will be praying for him halfway around the world.

“Every day they pray for me, they call me, they write me messages to tell me that they are praying for me, they are happy about it and they hope that I will visit them after ordination and celebrate Mass for them,” he said.

As he moves closer to his ordination day, Bernard Ngila reflected on what other priests have taught him, “I learned the way to interact with the parishioners, the way you should honor other people, the way you should dedicate your service to other people,” Bernard Ngila explained. “Christ did not come to be served, but to serve....It’s not my ministry, but the ministry of Christ.”

## **Tom Wanitsky**

Tom Wanitsky was born in Allentown, Pa., a first-generation American on his mother’s side. He grew up in what he describes as a very close family with his parents and younger brother.

He began to think about the priesthood when he was young. In seventh grade at his local public school, he did research on being a Catholic priest for career day, but said, “I chickened out at the last minute, changing the subject to something else and it’s telling that I cannot even remember what I changed it to.”

During college at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, he said he was still thinking about the priesthood, but not seriously. In 1991, he did an internship at Walt Disney World and moved to Orlando. Sadly, in 1992, Deacon Wanitsky’s mother died of a brain aneurism. When he went back to Pennsylvania for the funeral, he said, “Our pastor really put us at ease and that spark about the priesthood came back again.”

After a period of discernment and getting more involved in his parish, Holy Cross in Orlando, he entered the pre-theology program at St. John Vianney College Seminary in 2006, and then St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in 2007.

Tom Wanitsky said his prayer as he approaches his ordination date is, “That I will always be able to bring people closer to Christ, and that everything I do will be God's will, and not my own.”