



OUR SHEPHERDS OUR FUTURE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A LETTER FROM A SEMINARIAN

Bulletin Series: Issue 5

Good, holy, and compassionate priests are a gift to God's people and the parishes they serve. Our future as a Catholic community will be even more vibrant if we have a flourishing priesthood.

We are grateful that so many young men are now discerning a priestly vocation, 20 men are currently enrolled as seminarians for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. We look forward to their gifts and leadership as a large group of faithful and faith-filled diocesan priests enter their well-deserved retirement.

As a diocese, we are committed to ensuring these young men get the best possible formation and education so that they and we will benefit for decades to come from their priestly presence among us. It is in support of this commitment that the Diocese of Grand Rapids is undertaking the *Our Shepherds – Our Future* Capital Campaign, a \$33 million-dollar campaign to support seminarian education and priest retirement.

We are asking everyone in the diocese to participate. How deeply reassuring would it be if 100% of the families in our diocese stood in solidarity with these young men as they pursue their formation?

For us to successfully complete a campaign of this magnitude, we are inviting all parishioners to consider making a sacrificial gift payable over the next three years. Please know that a gift of any amount will be gratefully received and used in accordance with the initiatives of the campaign. Our young men are eager to serve, and our priests have devoted a lifetime to serving. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this campaign in support of them.

We know that you and others have questions. This is the final insert in a series of five that answered some of the most frequently asked questions regarding aspects of this campaign.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$33 MILLION

\$20 Million
SEMINARIAN
EDUCATION
(Endowment)

\$9 Million
SEMINARIAN
EDUCATION
(Restricted Fund)

\$2 Million
PRIEST RETIREMENT

\$2 Million
CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Each priest will serve 35 – 40 years in ministry. The combined total years of service given by our active diocesan priests currently exceeds **1,400 years.**





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Dear Parishioners of the Diocese of Grand Rapids,

As a seminarian preparing for the priesthood, it is common to be asked three questions: What is discernment? How does someone discern the priestly vocation freely? And how can parishioners offer support?

Discernment really comes down to three things; to be aware, to understand, and to respond accordingly. To be aware is to pay attention to the spiritual movements of the heart in our day-to-day lives. To understand means to take the time to reflect upon our spiritual experiences and to stay with them until we have a clear understanding of which spirit we are listening to or experiencing. To respond means to accept, to follow, whatever is coming from God, and to reject, to turn away from, whatever is coming from the enemy, or Satan.

In order for a seminarian to discern the priestly vocation freely, it is imperative that he is provided with adequate time and space to not only learn about Jesus, but to know Jesus. Life at the seminary should be centered around building up an authentic, intimate prayer life with Jesus. It is through prayer that one's vocation is realized. It is for this reason that a seminarian will leave a career, dating relationships, and other possible vocational distractions in order to be wholly and freely invested in this endeavor.

It is for this reason that we first and foremost ask for and continue to be grateful for the support from parishioners in our diocese in the form of prayer; your prayers have the power to cleanse and transform the Church. It is for this reason too that we are eminently grateful for your continued financial support which enables us to freely discern this vocation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Know of our prayers of thanksgiving and petition for all of you.

Thank you, and God Bless,

LOGAN WEBER,
3RD THEOLOGY,
MUNDELEIN SEMINARY,
ST. CHARLES PARISH,
GREENVILLE

ORDINATION EXPECTED:
2022



If you have a question that was not answered, please submit it to Annalise Laumeyer, diocesan director of communications: alaumeyer@grdiocese.org or your pastor.