



DIOCESE
— of —
GAYLORD

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In the month of August, as we remember St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, we are especially grateful for our clergy here in the Diocese of Gaylord. These men have chosen to walk alongside God's people in the everyday circumstances of life, in our best moments and deepest struggles.

Over the past number of years, there has been a shortage of priests in our diocese, a situation not uncommon in other dioceses as well. This often means that a priest will care for the spiritual and administrative needs of more than one parish, sometimes as many as four, and oftentimes a Catholic school. We are extraordinarily grateful for all of our priests, and for their committed service and many sacrifices.

As we continue to pray for an increase in vocations, we are blessed that the Diocese of Gaylord has three seminarians preparing for the priesthood this fall. Our seminarians currently study at the Pontifical College Josephinum and the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary.

As these young men continue their formation, we recognize that **they cannot do this alone**. A seminarian's journey is long and very demanding. Preparation typically requires at least eight years of education beyond high school, including a college degree followed by four or more years of theological study at a seminary.

In addition to the academic and spiritual demands, a seminarian has significant financial considerations. The average annual cost for tuition, books, room and board and health insurance per seminarian is approximately \$40,000 per year. Without the financial and prayerful support of parishioners, many seminarians would find it impossible to pursue their vocation.

The diocesan Catholic Services Appeal, along with grants, scholarships, and an endowment with Northern Michigan Catholic Foundation, provides funding for the education of our seminarians.

Donate online at www.dioceseofgaylord.org/make-a-gift

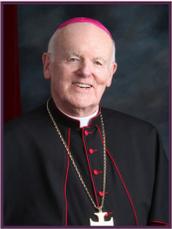
Yet, even with these efforts, a funding gap often remains. To help bridge this gap, parishes throughout the Diocese of Gaylord take up a special collection each August in support of seminarian education expenses for the upcoming academic year and beyond.

To support the formation of our diocese's seminarians, I ask you to consider making a contribution to this year's Seminarian Education Fund collection. Your prayers and financial support are critical as seminarians prepare for a life of service as a priest.

A gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$250 makes a significant difference today — and for the future of the Catholic Church here in the Diocese of Gaylord.

Thank you for supporting our young men through this collection and giving what you are able. Your generosity has a profound impact on those preparing for the priesthood in our diocese.

As St. John Vianney shared, *"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."* I ask you to continue praying for our future priests and for an increase in vocations.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Walter C. Hurley

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Apostolic Administrator

Right: Seminarian Andrew Feister serves as thurifer for Archbishop Allen Vigneron at the Diocese of Gaylord 50th Anniversary Mass.



Please pray for the Diocese of Gaylord's three seminarians preparing for the priesthood this fall.

Our seminarians currently study at the Pontifical College Josephinum and the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary.



Above: Seminarians Jake Belanger (middle) and Matthew Makarewicz (right) serve as acolytes at the Diocese of Gaylord 50th Anniversary Mass.

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