



**2017-18 SEMINARIANS  
PHOTO (L TO R)**

**FR. BEN HASSE, VOC DIR**

**MICHAEL KOWALEWSKI**

**TYLER RIVARD**

**JACK KINNUNEN**

**JOSHUA SAMPSON**

**THOMAS MERKEL**

**DCN. DUSTIN LARSON**

**BRANDON YANNI**

**MATTHEW CHARTIER**

**BEN RIVARD**

**CHRISTIAN FLAGSTADT**

**BR. ROMEO CAPELLA, CCL**

**BISHOP JOHN DOERFLER**

**DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE**

1004 Harbor Hills Drive

Marquette, MI 49855

ph: 906.227.9108



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# 2017 SEMINARIAN ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE

Help us keep the momentum going to grow this new permanent endowment to support seminarian education for the Diocese of Marquette!

For every qualifying \$1 raised toward this initiative, Catholic Extension and other individual partners will match \$1 up to \$50,000. Qualifying donations must be new or increased gifts of \$1,000 or more, or raised through special fund-raising events designated for the program. Gifts must be received before 12/31/2017.

# FAQ: SEMINARIAN VOCATIONS

**What is the protocol for accepting seminarians?** It is a lengthy, thorough process conducted by the vocations director in consultation with the bishop and Vicar General. It includes a psychological test, background check, medical evaluation, and multiple conversations to assist men discerning this vocation. Candidates must be practicing Catholics who have completed their sacraments and have a high school diploma.

**When do men apply for the priesthood?** The diocese seeks good, holy, qualified candidates at different stages in life. Some are later in life vocations who have worked in various professions and already have degrees while others receive their calling at a much earlier stage of life. Some men apply as early as their senior year of high school.

**How does the diocese train and form men for the priesthood?** Answering the call to priesthood requires training in philosophy and theology. The process of becoming a priest can take up to nine years depending on a seminarian's educational background. If a candidate does not already have an undergraduate degree, he earns a degree in philosophy as preparation for the final four years of theology. For a candidate with an undergraduate degree, a transitional program called pre-theology, usually lasting 2 years, prepares him for the final four years. This academic work happens in a seminary where there is also human formation, spiritual formation, and pastoral formation.

In their years of formation, seminarians learn sound Church doctrine, develop spiritually, and receive the practical training in their pastoral and apostolic work. Most seminarians for the Diocese of Marquette attend Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin or Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota. Formation includes summer parish assignments where they have an opportunity to experience rectory living and parish life and ministry. They are ordained to the diaconate about a year before graduation.

**What expenses are seminarians responsible for paying?** Though many seminarians' families can and do contribute very generously to their personal expenses, many come from families of modest incomes. The average annual cost of educating and forming a seminarian in our diocese is \$40,000. Their expenses include everything from tuition, room and board to books, stipends and health insurance.

College level men in formation are responsible for all their tuition, fees and health insurance. The diocese covers room and board and books. For pre-theology and theology level seminarians, the diocese covers 100% of their expenses, as well as health insurance.

No one is turned away due to inability to pay their own way to become a priest. If there is a financial need, the vocations director works with the individual to develop a financial plan in which he seeks student loans. All seminarians are encouraged to apply for scholarships and meet with financial aid counselors.

## **How do we promote new vocations?**

All the baptized are responsible to help support their brothers and sisters in Christ in hearing God's call, wherever it leads! This is true for parents, siblings, and friends, as well as for priests and religious. First and foremost, we help promote vocations by growing, and encouraging others to grow, in basic human and Christian virtues. A candidate must be first a good man, and then a good Christian, before he can become a good and holy priest. All the good work at the parish level of sacramental preparation, catechesis, youth groups, and adult education sets up the possibility of an individual Catholic hearing God's call into a religious vocation.

If we are to hear God's call, and help others do the same, we must be in a personal relationship with God, and attentive to His voice in prayer. We should each pray for an abundance of vocations, for God's help in hearing His call in our own lives, and then also pray for particular people we feel may be called. We should stay close to the Eucharist, to Confession, and in devotion to our Blessed Mother who said, "Be it done unto me according to thy Word!"

We strive to make personal contact multiple ways, including in person, phone, and email and through social media. Our bishop and vocations director visit schools, parishes and campus ministries to talk about vocations. Vocations are regularly promoted through articles in the diocesan newspaper and on our website. Many referrals also come from priests, deacons and seminarians. The best advocates for promoting vocations are parents.

## **For more information:**

Vocations, contact Rev. Benjamin Hasse  
Vocations Director, 906/290-2434  
[bhasse@dioceseofmarquette.org](mailto:bhasse@dioceseofmarquette.org)  
[www.dioceseofmarquette.org/vocations](http://www.dioceseofmarquette.org/vocations)

Seminarian Endowment, contact Terri Gadzinski  
Stewardship & Development Exec Dir, 906/227-9108  
[tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org](mailto:tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org)  
[www.dioceseofmarquette.org/giving](http://www.dioceseofmarquette.org/giving)