



PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

SUMMER 2019

Greetings

IT'S ALREADY OUR 2ND YOOPERS FOR SEMINARIANS NEWSLETTER! There has been a great response so far, and I'm really excited to share with you the news in this issue: we have **FOUR** new men entering formation this fall!

I'm so proud of **Br. Drew, Zack, Richard, and Ethan**. I spent a good chunk of the last year walking with them through the very thorough seminarian application process. They wrote essays, filled out long applications, went through a day-long psychological evaluation, submitted **MANY** records, and more. It all culminated on the day they had their final interview with Bishop John!

Please pray for all 13 of our seminarians! They are engaged in a real process of discernment and formation. It's a long journey, and a real journey. The whole process equips them first to ask very seriously the question, *Is God calling me to serve Him as a priest?* Only by beginning the process can they come to the point of being ready to say, *Yes!*

Even then, the seminarian's conviction has to be matched by the shared consensus of the seminary, the vocations director, and the bishop, it's not one-sided! In this sense, it's a lot like marriage—both people have to agree to commit themselves to each other for life. **The seminarian and the Church have to BOTH agree to commit themselves to each other for life!**

Fr. Ben Hasse
Vocations
Director



Supporting Seminarians

Four additional men will join the seminary this fall as seminarians for the Diocese of Marquette. With these men, the diocese now has 13 men in formation; the highest number since 2004 when there were 14 (the previous peak was 13 seminarians in 1992).

"It's not just about numbers, but nonetheless, it is a joy to see good men stepping up to the plate to answer God's call to discern seriously in seminary formation," says Fr. Ben Hasse, Vocations Director for Diocese of Marquette.

Hasse says having 13 men in seminary is amazing, but to meet the needs of the diocese an ideal number would be to have 16 to 24 seminarians every year. "I rejoice in the prospect of 13 good men in formation but we would need more, even 10 more, to really be supplying the needs of our diocese."

He encourages parishioners across the diocese to pray for the current seminarians and for more vocations to the priesthood. Since most of the cost of their seminarian education comes from Upper Peninsula Catholic Services Appeal (UPCSA), parishioners also can support the seminarians through UPCSAs.

This new initiative, Yoopers for Seminarians, helps contribute to building up an ever more vibrant culture of vocations in the diocese. One future goal is to grow the Seminarian Endowment Fund to support seminarian education and to be well equipped to support even more seminarians.

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOOPERS FOR SEMINARIANS 2019. LEARN MORE.
YOOPERSFORSEMINARIANS.ORG

STAGES OF *Formation*

DISCERNMENT

Family, Parish, Campus Ministry

SEMINARY APPLICATION PROCESS

COLLEGE SEMINARY

Enter with High School degree
2-4 years

PRE-THEOLOGY

Enter with College degree
2 years

THEOLOGY (4 YEARS)

HOLY ORDERS

FIRST PARISH ASSIGNMENT

*Seminarians may request or may be asked to take a pastoral year for growth and discernment anytime between entering the seminary and ordination.

WHERE THEY STUDY



SACRED HEART MAJOR SEMINARY, DETROIT

VISIT SHMS.EDU

In Spring 2019, Sacred Heart graduated its largest class since the seminary's 1988 re-founding. 2019 marks its 100th anniversary. It serves dioceses and religious orders in Michigan and throughout the US. SHMS provides College Seminary, Pre-Theology and Theology programs.

VISIT IHMSEMINARY.ORG

Founded in 1948. Located on the Saint Mary's University campus. Seminarians take classes with students enrolled at Saint Mary's and formation classes as seminarians. About 50 seminarians are enrolled each year. Seminarians earn a BA in philosophy.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY WINONA, MINNESOTA

MEET OUR NEW SEMINARIANS

ZACHARY MAZUREK

Bessemer, Michigan | St. Sebastian Parish

Family. Parents, Jerry and Angie Mazurek and three younger siblings, Rachel, TJ and Adam

Education. Bessemer High School (2015) and UW-Superior (2019) with a B.S. in mathematics and finance

Seminary Assignment. Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Pre-Theology

"While praying in Eucharistic adoration about my future, I changed my question from 'what do I desire in my life?' to 'Lord, what do YOU desire for my life?'

This change of perspective opened my heart to the Lord's call and led me to discerning seminary. **I feel called to the priesthood because most of the best moments of my life have come from the sacraments and being with my family in faith.** I believe God has equipped me with a unique skillset which I can use to serve the Church joyfully."



RICHARD NALETTE

Newberry, Michigan | St. Gregory Parish

"Seminary discernment came through thought and prayer. When I offered myself to the Lord to serve Him and His people it suddenly grew in me to continue on this journey. The more I continue to experience Christ, the more I wanted to continue down this road with Him. This is why I feel called to the priesthood. Through prayer it's a direct communication with God. You can also see that life itself is one big prayer. Should you keep Christ close to your heart it is almost as if He speaks

to you in any shape or form through your experiences through life. You begin to see things as the Lord would see it. Having experienced that, this is where I have felt the strongest calling to the priesthood. I am more than willing to say yes and continue this journey with Him."

Family. Parents, Rich and Kirstin Nalette and two younger siblings, Megan and Liam

Education. Newberry High School (2019)

Seminary Assignment. Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, College I

ETHAN WILCOX

Quinnesec, Michigan | Immaculate Conception Parish, Iron Mountain

"I have always been attracted to the profound beauty of the priesthood. My heart was led to ask the question as to whether I was called to it or not. This was the beginning of my seminary discernment. When making my Youth Encounter, I asked God if He would tell me what He wanted me to do with my life. During adoration, I heard the Lord speak to me in a still small voice in my heart, and ask me to give my life to Him and serve Him in a life of service to others and of leadership. This I interpreted as becoming a priest."

Family. Parents, Christopher and Diane Wilcox and brother, Toby

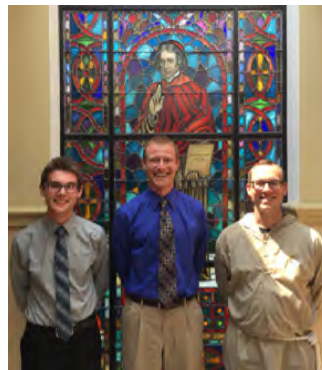
Education. Kingsford High School (2019)

Seminary Assignment. Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, College I

BR. DREW LANGTON

South Rockwood, Michigan | Seminarian, Companions of Christ the Lamb in Paradise

"From a young age I felt a strong calling to the priesthood, but convinced myself clerical life was more of a career option than a holy calling. My hardened heart followed the alluring promises and passion of the world instead of God's plan. I've been a carpenter, a horse handler and chimpanzee caretaker, a musician, a graphic designer and newspaper editor, a Buddhist, a yogi and an all-around confused young man. **Through all of this, God never stopped calling me.** After years of trying to ignore His voice and pursue my own desires, I realized nothing could ever fill the void within my heart — my soul's longing for God and His love. Through a journey of repentance, revelation, and divine providence I found myself at the doorstep of the priest who baptized me as a baby — Fr. Jack Fabian, the founder of CCL. What started as a discernment retreat, soon became something more; I quickly fit into the community, prayer life, and wilderness experience. Eucharistic adoration and silence have been an integral part of my formation. Now, I strive every day to follow God's will and become the man, the priest, and the saint He so desires."



Family. Parents, Jeffery and Donna, and he is number four of three brothers and two sisters

Education. St. Mary's Catholic Central High School (2006), Monroe, MI B.A., Xavier University (2010)

Seminary Assignment. Pastoral year, including service with CCL and a winter parish assignment.

◀ **Ethan, Zack, and Br. Drew were able to serve the ordination Mass in May. They are pictured here in the new Bishop Baraga Chapel at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette.**



Yoopers for Seminarians
Vocations Office, Diocese of Marquette
1004 Harbor Hills Drive, Marquette, MI 49855



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Please pray
FOR OUR NEWLY ORDAINED
PRIEST AND DEACONS

FR. MICHAEL KOWALEWSKI is the associate pastor of St. Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Kingsford, effective July 1.

DCN. ROMEO CAPPELLA, CCL will serve with the Companions of Christ the Lamb, Paradise, effective June 3. A parish assignment will be announced later this fall.

DCN. THOMAS MERKEL has been assigned to St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Ignace, Immaculate Conception, Moran, and St. Anne, Mackinac Island, effective June 3. His assignment is scheduled through August 2019. He will return to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit for Theology IV.

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW OPEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD?
Contact Fr. Ben Hasse via email at benjhase@yahoo.com or phone, (906) 290-2434, to talk or learn more about upcoming discernment events.