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Yoopers for Seminarians

YOOPERS FOR SEMINARIANS

PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

SPRING 2021

Greetings FROM HOUGHTON

I am full of gratitude for the tremendous outpouring of support for YFS during 2020! We significantly surpassed our 2020 fundraising goal, and earned the \$25,000 match from Fr. Joe Gouin! Over 500 families have supported YFS since we started in 2019!

Fr. Joe has been a mentor to me since high school, and his witness of priestly ministry continues to impact my own priesthood. I am so grateful for his continued generosity in support of priestly vocations. He has renewed the challenge for YFS 2021; please help us reach the \$100,000 goal this year!

In this issue, we hope to give you a glimpse into the many activities that make up the daily lives of our seminarians. Each of them gives a snippet of his own experience of learning and growth. These nine areas are important, but we could add several more!

Please pray fervently for men who are discerning priesthood! We also ask God to bless our three seminarians who are preparing for ordination in May and June!

Ask God to give you the courage and opportunity to ask a young man the big question, "Have you considered the priesthood?" So often God works through that invitation!

Fr. Joe blesses newly-ordained Fr. Ben's chalice in 2009.



YFS Surpasses 2020 Goal!



Thank you to everyone who helped to support the Yoopers for Seminarians 2020 fundraising goal of \$100,000! We surpassed that goal with gifts from 444 donors who donated a total of \$106,598.

By reaching this goal, a \$25,000 matching donation was also earned that has gone directly into the Seminarian Endowment.

"It is amazing to me that we've had such a strong response to this initiative given how difficult 2020 has been," said Fr. Ben Hasse, Director of Vocations. "It's been really encouraging to see the outpouring of support from people all over the diocese, as well as those who don't live in the UP, but have ties here."

The matching donation was made possible by Fr. Joseph Gouin, Pastor of American Martyrs and long-time supporter of priestly vocations in the diocese. Fr. Joe often shares a meal with prospective men from his parish, to plant the seed and begin the conversation of a priestly vocation.

"They'll ask me questions about the priesthood, to get to know about it more. Overall, I think the important thing is they see me happy and dedicated as a priest. I also ask lay people that if they see a young man that they think would make a good priest, tell them so. You can even ask them, 'Have you thought about being a priest?' Let them know that, that's how the Holy Spirit works."

Your generosity helps us to pay for vocations promotion and seminarian education right now and also build up the Seminarian Endowment to provide sustainable funding into the future.

Fr. Joe has renewed his challenge! He will make another \$25,000 match if we raise \$100,000 by the end of 2021. Help us continue to build a culture of vocations as well as to educate our seminarians now and in the future.

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOOPERS FOR SEMINARIANS 2021. LEARN MORE.
YOOPERSFORSEMINARIANS.ORG

Have you considered making a planned gift to the Seminarian Endowment?
Find out more at dioceseofmarquette.planmygift.org

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A *Seminarian*

The day of the seminarian includes many important opportunities for growth, prayer, fellowship, academic formation, and growing in priestly ministry. Our nine seminarians share about the classes they are taking and what they experience during their weeks at seminary.



Ethan Wilcox

College II: Philosophy Class

“My philosophy courses are a lot of fun! One of my favorite aspects about philosophy is how much it makes you think. When trying to come to a conclusion, you have to analyze your premises very carefully to make sure that your argument will hold. This is a very important skill to learn in formation to the priesthood because a priest will need to be able to explain the truths of the faith in a clear and logically sound way.”



Mark Kowalewski

Pre-Theology I: Holy Hour

“Visiting Christ in the Blessed Sacrament each day for Holy Hour has become essential for me. Adoring Christ in the silence brings a great sense of peace and aids in approaching a busy day with trust, surrender, and calm. The following advice was very helpful to me: ‘Don’t worry about filling up the hour with continuous mental prayer. Take the stress out regarding “What should I do?” and just sit quiet in our Lord’s presence. Just as you can’t be exposed to the sun without receiving its rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of his grace, his love, his peace.’”



Drew Langton

Pre-Theology I: Daily Mass

“Daily Mass along with a daily Holy Hour serves as the spiritual foundation for my relationship with God, and the source of the strength and love for my relationship with others. It is an amazing opportunity to receive the graces God wants me to receive and to grow closer in my relationship with Christ.”



Mark Beukema

Pre-Theology I: Praying the Breviary

“Learning to pray the Breviary can be tricky. There’s a lot back and forth with page turning. It takes repetition to master it. It took me a long time to manage this, and I used to approach the Breviary with intimidation because I couldn’t understand it unless I was with someone who was a seasoned pro. However, now I have mastered it, and I can’t imagine my life without the prayers of the Church.”



Zachary Mazurek

Pre-Theology II: Apostolate (Pastoral Outreach)

“Our apostolic work at the seminary is a critical part of our pastoral formation. From hospital visits to leading Bible studies, we are able to imitate Christ as the Good Shepherd. Last year, I had the honor of bringing Jesus in the Eucharist to an elderly woman and her daughter, who takes care of her. It was incredible to return each week to pray together and share the love of Christ with those whom the world would easily dismiss. Jesus came to serve, not to be served, and this is precisely what our apostolate is aimed toward.”



Matthew Chartier

Theology II: Scripture Class

“My class on the prophets in the Old Testament this semester has been a great blessing. God wants to bless us, His people, and this is clear when we read the prophets and hear the love and emotion of God calling out to us. This class has helped me enter deeper into the love God has for me even when His message is challenging. This class is important for our formation not only to know how God has revealed His love for us, but also how He is still speaking to us through these prophets. A priest must know how God has spoken to His people, because the priest is called to proclaim and preach to God’s children.”



Brandon Yanni

Theology III: Theology Class

“Christology is a fascinating topic and was the primary subject of my first year of studies in theology. The Church has been considering questions of Christology, or who Jesus Christ is as the Second Person of the Trinity, since her earliest centuries. Studying Christology is a unique blend of history and theology, as one can’t really understand the theological definitions without first understanding their historical development. Christology is also important, as who Jesus Christ is or isn’t has enormous consequences on what we believe. All courses in true theology benefit a person spiritually as well as intellectually, and this is certainly true of Christology.”



Christian Flagstadt

Theology III: Spiritual Direction

“Spiritual direction has played such an important role on my journey to the priesthood. I meet with a priest every two weeks to share the fruits of my prayers, and to seek advice and direction in my spiritual life. Having a good spiritual director has been helpful to me when, on my own, I don’t always see clearly how the Lord is working in my life. My favorite memories of spiritual direction are ‘breakthrough’ moments I’ve experienced; where my director was able to help me see a truth about God or about myself that I would have never gotten without his help. My experience of spiritual direction often refuels my spiritual life.”



Dcn. Ben Rivard

Theology IV: Training for Sacramental Ministry

“As I’ve moved closer to ordination a lot of my classes have become more practical including preaching and how to say Mass. I also have practiced hearing mock confessions from my classmates! These classes are essential for every seminarian. Priests need to be trained in the practical parts of ministry. Not only have these classes given me the skills I need to minister, but they have made me more excited to be a priest. Ordination is right around the corner and I have deepened my love for priestly ministry.”



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ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW OPEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

Contact Fr. Ben Hasse, benhasse@yahoo.com or (906) 290-2434 to talk or to learn more about upcoming events.



Bishop John Doerfler announces the following ordinations:

- Christian Flagstadt and Brandon Yanni to the Order of Deacon at 3 pm EDT Friday, May 14
- Dcn. Ben Rivard to the Order of Priest at 3 pm EDT Friday, June 4

Location: St. Peter's Cathedral, Marquette

Please pray for these men as they prepare for ordination. Due to ongoing seating restrictions, **attendance at these ordinations will be invitation-only.**

Ordination Masses will be live streamed:
dioceseofmarquette.org/response

A unique shot of the beginning of the ordination Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, Marquette, June 2020.