Answering The Call

The Diocese of Marquette has eight men in priestly formation who will be returning or entering seminary in the fall. To help send these young men and more to seminary as well as create future funds for seminarians, Fr. Joseph Gouin, Pastor of American Martyrs and long-time supporter of priestly vocations in the diocese, has renewed his challenge for Yoopers for Seminarians! He will make another $25,000 match if we raise $100,000 by the end of 2021.

“Trusting God, we hope the number of men in formation will increase in the future,” said Fr. Ben Hasse, Diocesan Director of Vocations. “We do not expect seminarian education costs to decrease. We need to continue to increase the resources available to sustain priestly ministry in our diocese. Bishop John has called us to pursue Eucharistic Revival in our parishes and our homes and one component of that is the building up of priestly vocations.”

St. Ignace residents Dcn. Tom McClellan and his wife, Mary Anne, support YFS through prayer and financial gifts. “The Church, the Body of Christ, would die without priests,” he says. “Support seminarians and priests every way you can. Smile at them, feed them, sing with them, invite them to your home. By supporting YFS, it is one way we give back to God for all the grace He has poured on us.”

To continue to assist in educating men in formation for the priesthood to serve the Diocese of Marquette, the Seminarian Endowment Fund provides for that need now and in the future.

The average annual cost to educate a seminarian for our diocese is about $40,000. The college-level men in formation are responsible for about half of the cost of their education. For pre-theology and theology level seminarians, the diocese covers 100 percent of their educational expenses.

In 2015, the endowment was at about $500,000 and generating $20,000 annually toward seminarian education. Since then, the endowment has grown rapidly and now totals more than $2.7 million. This year it will generate about $65,000 and much more in the years to come.

“The growth of the Seminarian Endowment Fund is a source of great encouragement to me as the Vocations Director. I am particularly excited about the number of people across the diocese donating to Yoopers for Seminarians. We still have a long way to go to be in a financially sustainable place to educate seminarians for the long term.”

To donate to the Seminarian Endowment Fund, visit yoopersforseminarians.org and click the “Give to the Seminarian Endowment” button.

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
If you picture a man in formation for the priesthood what do you imagine? You may well see a man kneeling in prayer or walking the hallowed halls of a historic seminary building. However, every year our men spend at least three months in formation outside of seminary itself. These summer programs contribute vitally to their preparation to be Yooper priests in our diocese. This map will give you a glimpse of what our seminarians are up to this summer across our diocese. This variety of experiences prepares them concretely for the real life of priesthood.

Here’s where our seminarians are serving this summer!

Dcn. Christian Flagstadt
Our Lady of Peace
Ironwood
with Fr. Binu Joseph

Dcn. Brandon Yanni
Baraga County Catholic Community
with Fr. Corey Litzner

Mark Beukema
Keweenaw Catholic Community
Calumet
with Fr. Gracious Pulimoottil

Zachary Mazurek
Institute for Priestly Formation
Omaha, Nebraska
Fr. Brian Welter, IPF Executive Director

Matthew Chartier
St. John and St. Joseph Parishes, Ishpeming
The UP Catholic Bible School
with Fr. Ryan Ford

Drew Langton
Totus Tuus Intern
Serving the eight Totus Tuus missionaries
Charlie Tackman
Totus Tuus Team Member
Team Baraga, serving six sites around the diocese
Ethan Wilcox
Totus Tuus Team Leader
Team Marquette, serving six sites around the diocese

Please pray for each of our seminarians in their summer assignments. Hang this in your home or workplace and pray for these men.
ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW OPEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD?
Contact Fr. Ben Hasse, benjhasse@yahoo.com or (906) 290-2434 to talk or to learn more about upcoming discernment events.

During the Ordination Mass on May 14, Bishop John Doerfler and Dcn. Ben Rivard praying during the Litany of the Saints while Christian Flagstadt and Brandon Yanni are prostrate moments before their ordination as deacons. Dcn. Ben was ordained a priest on June 4 and is serving at St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette as Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor).