

PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW



Diocese of LA CROSSE
Office for Priestly Vocations

June 2016



SEMINARIES

You are encouraged to write to our seminarians as a way of showing your support and prayers throughout the school year at the following addresses:

Mundelein Seminary
1000 East Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Pontifical North American College
Via del Gianicolo, 14
Rome RM, Italy 00165

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary
750 Terrace Heights
Winona, MN 55987

St. John Vianney Seminary
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary
3257 S Lake Dr,
St Francis, WI 53235

What are you doing this summer?

“What are you doing for the summer?” is a question I am asked often these days as the seminary studies for the men come to an end and ordinations take place all across the country. Summertime in the Office for Vocations means lots of activity. While there is some downtime and vacation time, summer is also busy. Here are some of the events to be aware of:

June 16-18 Dare to Follow Retreat for 6-10th grade boys: we usually have around 30 young men praying, having fun, and listening to talks by the seminarians and newly ordained priests about the joy of priesthood.

June 25 Ordination to the priesthood for Deacon Daniel Sedlacek: 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse. Everyone is invited to attend and give praise to God for a new priest for our diocese.

July 15-17 Threshold Retreat for high school boys in grades 11-12, and college men: This retreat focuses on taking the next step in discernment and giving serious consideration to what the Lord may be calling a young man to do with his life. On average ½ of the young men attending Threshold Retreat apply for seminary.

July 31 Priests for Tomorrow Fundraiser: Our largest fundraiser, Priests for Tomorrow is an opportunity for people to meet nearly all of our seminarians, have a wonderful supper and enjoy an informative program about some aspect of priestly life and formation. This year Monsignor Thomas Melvin, Rector of the IHM Seminary in Winona, will discuss fishing for vocations.

August 1-6 The Seminarian Gathering: Bishop Callahan spends the days with our seminarians in discussion, prayer and fun as we get ready for the new year of formation and education to begin.

Some of our seminarians will be doing hospital ministry (CPE) in La Crosse and in Alaska! Other seminarians will be studying spirituality at the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha. One will be studying in a Spanish language immersion program in Texas. Others will be in parishes across the diocese, while the others work to earn money for their college studies. It will be a busy summer for our seminarians and for the Office for Vocations. In this issue of our Priests For Tomorrow Newsletter you will read about what your priests for tomorrow are doing for their summers. Please keep us all in your prayers and know that you are in ours as well.

— Rev. Alan Wierzba



What are you doing this

Michael Iwanski - I will be spending the summer doing yard work, and other various sorts of projects, for a company in my hometown for 4 days during the week. And then on the other day, I will be shadowing my pastor, Fr. Sam Martin.

Steven Weller - I will be doing Totus Tuus these next couple months throughout the Diocese of La Crosse. It is a program put on by young men and women to teach about the faith to kids and teens. Totus Tuus will be hard for me, but I really think the Lord wants me to grow this summer through that work

Eric Mashak - I get to do Totus Tuus in the Diocese of Superior.

Timothy Reither - This summer I will be doing Totus Tuus. I am looking forward to sharing our faith with others and getting to know many people from our great diocese

Christian Ruf - This summer I will be working on landscaping, and possibly construction as well as helping out on the family farm and at Castle Rock dairy. For fun I am planning on doing a canoe and camping trip. I will also be finishing up filming on The Ballad of the White Horse which is a movie I have had in production for some time now. I will also just take some time to spend with family

Jared Clements - I will be working at the Diocesan Center as a maintenance guy.

Philip Grygleski - This summer will be split into two parts: from June until mid-July, I will be performing in a musical called 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat' in a local theatre in Stevens Point. From late July through August, I will be doing maintenance work at the diocesan center in La Crosse

Zechariah Kitzhaber - This summer, I will be working at Crosswoods Adventure Camp in Drummond. It is a Christian summer camp that leads middle and high school students to encounter Christ through music, testimonials, and fun outdoor activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, and high ropes. I have been to this camp many times as a camper and also as a volunteer; it was there that I first began to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus. I am overjoyed to be able to go back as a staff and give back by helping others have a similar experience.

Austin Klemen - I will be working as a manager at Dunkin Donuts, taking a psychology course at UWSP for my degree, and going to Uganda for three weeks working on a mission trip.

Nicholas McNamara - For this summer, I will be working for St. Joseph's Parish out in Utah. I will be assisting the pastor during Mass, visiting the homebound, helping with administrative tasks, and taking care of my Grandmother who recently moved out there. It should be great as I will have the opportunity to see what the life of a parish priest is really like!

John Zweber - This summer I will be working at the diocesan center in La Crosse.

Daniel Buchal - I intend to spend this summer making hay and studying for CLEP (College Level Examination Program) tests.

David Dachel - This summer, I will be working at JCPenny. I have a wonderful boss, who is letting me have time off to go on vacation with my family in June, which will end with the Ordination! I also have a surgery that I have to work around in July, and then it is back to school.

John Duranso - There's going to be a big family reunion for me this summer, looking forward to seeing everyone again. I'll also be volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul Society.

David Reither - This summer I will helping my Dad with his fencing company. Also, twelve members of my extended family and I will be going to Uganda, Africa in July to help build a school. My grandma who is 67 will also be joining us.

Deacon Juan Pedro Baltazar - I will be SS Peter and Paul Parish, Independence and Saint John Parish, in Whitehall. I will be baptizing three children this summer. Two in Spanish and one in English.

Matthew Canter - Working in the diocese at the Office for Marriage and Family Life

Aaron Becker - I will be at St. Agnes in Weston and St. Florian's in Hatley with Fr. Greg. Bohren. I am very excited and cannot wait to get started with whatever he has me doing.

Deacon Peter Kieffer - I will be participating in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse.

Kyle Laylan - I will be doing a hospital chaplaincy program at Gundersen Hospital in La Crosse

summer?

Barry Saylor - I started my summer on vacation in San Antonio and will follow with CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) in Anchorage Alaska for 3 months as a Chaplain intern at Providence Alaska Region Hospital. Very excited for this experience!

Brandon Guenther - This summer I am honored to be assigned to a parish, Mary Mother of the Church in La Crosse

Ethan Hokamp - I will have a parish assignment at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Marathon, Wisconsin.

Samuel McCarty - Studying Spanish in San Antonio, TX.

Levi Schmitt - I will be attending Creighton University for a summer long program focusing on the prayer and spirituality of the priesthood.

Arturo Viguera - This summer I will be doing the Summer parish internship at St Joseph's Parish in Menomonie. I am excited and looking forward to work with the people in the parish. It is my hope that my pastoral skills continue to grow and develop as I continue this journey towards the priesthood.

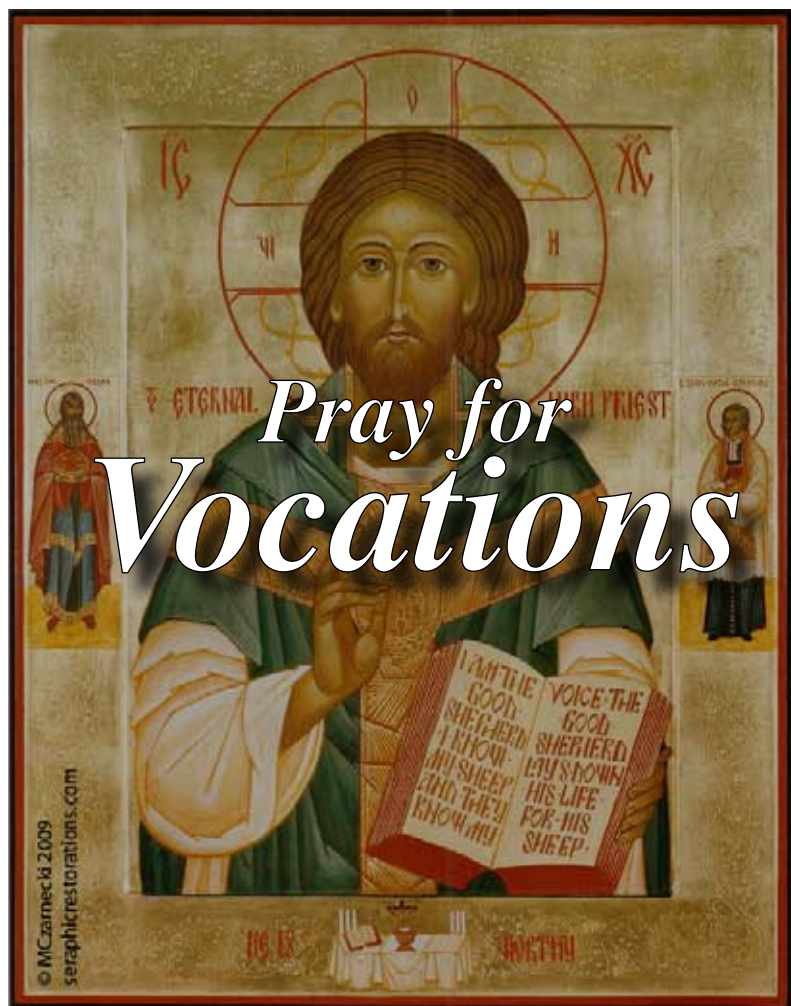
Joseph Richards - My summer's divided into two parts: Right now I am in Prairie du Chien for a parish assignment-mowing a lot of grass and joining in the parish's summer life. Second, in July I'll be directing a mission trip with FOCUS to Indonesia, bringing a group of college students across the world to encounter Christ in a new culture!

Daniel Williams - This summer I will be taking part in the Institute of Priestly Formation. The program is focused on priestly spirituality and takes place on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. We will begin the summer with an eight day silent retreat and will include a few classes and some apostolic outreach in the area.

Matthew Bowe - This summer I will be working at a part-time job. Currently, I am still searching. Otherwise, I will be enjoying the summer with activities such as fishing, golfing, campfires and s'mores, and spending time with family and friends.

Andrew Dushek - I'm going to be living at the diocesan center with John and Matthew, attending ordinations and the Serra club golf scramble in June and helping out with the two different vocations retreats for the diocese.

Brad Haas - This summer I will be a Totus Tuus teacher for the Diocese of Sioux City IA.



**O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest,
I pray that You call many worthy souls
to Your holy priesthood.**

**Enlighten the Bishop in the choice of candidates,
the Spiritual Director in molding them,
and the professors in instructing them.**

**Lead the seminarians daily in Your
unerring footsteps;**

**so that they may become priests
who are models of purity,
possessors of wisdom,
and heroes of sacrifice;**

**steeped in humility and aflame with
love for God and man;
apostles of Your glory
and sanctifiers of souls.**

Amen.

Mary Queen of Clergy, pray for us!



June

5 - Levi Schmitt
12 - Blair Raschke
28 - Juan Pedro Baltazar

July

10 - Michael Iwanski
11 - Ethan Hokamp
26 - Daniel Williams

August

10 - Austin Kleman
16 - David Dachel
23 - Jared Clements
26 - Matthew Bowe
26 - Daniel Buchal

What is your favorite summer treat?

Michael Iwanski - My favorite summertime treat has to be ice cream (specifically chocolate!). Or basically anything with chocolate in it is a good treat during any season of the year.

Eric Mashak - Smoked Trout

Timothy Reither - My favorite summertime treat is fresh apples from our orchard.

Steven Weller - The s'more is my favorite treat in the summer. First of all you get to build and maybe play with fire, and secondly you get chocolate. Both aspects make it the perfect treat.

Christian Ruf - My favorite summer treat... that is hard there are so many I'll just say a few. 1) Food from the garden (vegetables are so much better when they are home grown!) 2) Culver's lemon ice with blueberries or blackberries 3) Home-cooked food (it is so much better than cafeteria food).

Jared Clements - Brownie Ice cream Sunday

Philip Grygleski - One of my favorite summer treats is ice cream. There's a place called Belts in my hometown, Stevens Point, that serves great soft serve.

Zechariah Kitzhaber - My favorite summertime treat is Chocolate Oreo Volcano frozen custard from Culver's!

Austin Kleman - My favorite summer treat is ice cream mixed with M&Ms.

Nicholas McNamara - My favorite treat during the summer would be going to Belt's in Stevens Point and ordering a GIANT Zebra Lava cone with hot fudge in the middle then going to see the fireworks on the Wisconsin river.

John Zweber - My favorite summer treat is ice cream.

Daniel Buchal - An ice cold Sprecher root beer is my favorite summer treat

David Dachel - My favorite summertime treat is definitely ice-cream sandwiches. They are easy to hold and easy to eat, without a big mess!

John Duranso - My favorite summertime treat would have to be watermelon, that's the time when they're at their best.

David Reither - My favorite summertime treat is iced tea and grilled steaks.

Deacon Juan Pedro Baltazar - I remember my favorite summertime. 20 years ago my parents, three sisters and my two brothers and me went to Chapala Lake for one week. The hotel had very nice rooms and a big swimming pool. We enjoyed the swimming pool every day, but each morning all of us walked on the lakeside for 2 or 3 hours. The best time was coming back to the hotel for breakfast. The food was so good and the ice cream was the best. My favorite is vanilla.

Matthew Canter - Vanilla Ice cream cone on a hot day

Aaron Becker - Spotted Cow

Deacon Peter Kieffer - Chocolate-covered ice cream bars

Kyle Laylan - My favorite summertime treat is Culver's custard!

Barry Saylor - My favorite treat for the summer is our family reunion and the family recipes that come with it! Although I'll miss it this year, I look forward to the many more that will come.

Brandon Guenther - My favorite summer...fall, winter, and spring treat is a concrete mixer from Culver's!

Ethan Hokamp - I really enjoy Culver's

custard, especially any flavor or topping with peanut butter in it.

Samuel McCarty - Ice cream from Briq's.

Levi Schmitt - An Arnold Palmer

Arturo Viguera - My favorite summer treat is eating watermelon on a hot summer day. Doing this reminds me of the time when I was little and I used to spend most of my summer's day with my Grandfather; planting, taking care of, and later on harvesting watermelons. It was always rewarding to see grandpa cut the first watermelon of the season, mostly because I remember always nagging grandpa when the watermelons were going to be ready. Tasting the first slice of ruby red watermelon with a sugar like texture was something that I always looked forward to in the summer when I was a child.

Joseph Richards - Prairie du Chien has a local burger stand—Pete's Hamburgers—that opens up only during the warmer months of the year. It has exactly what you'd expect... greasy burgers covered in greasy grilled onions with greasy grease fries on the side. It's the most worthwhile heartburn you'll ever have.

Daniel Williams - My favorite summer treat is anything with raspberries. My grandma in Wisconsin has a large raspberry patch that she and my grandpa have maintained for years. Around the time of my birthday (July 26) there are three solid weeks we have fresh raspberries. They are one of the highlights of summer.

Matthew Bowe - My favorite summertime treat is a s'more with peanut butter.

Andrew Dushek - Favorite summer time treat is mud tracks from The Pearl.

Brad Haas - Ice cream