

# PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

WINTER 2020

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of Your Son, so that in Him, with Him, and through Him, we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



3710 East Avenue South | La Crosse, WI 54602-4004  
Phone: 608-791-2667 | [diolc.org/vocations](http://diolc.org/vocations)



Diocese of LA CROSSE

## Rite of Candidacy



**Father Alan Wierzba**  
Director of the Office for Vocations

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 2, 2020**

Diaconate Ordination

**June 22, 2020**

2nd Annual Golf Outing

**June 27, 2020**

Priestly Ordination

**July 26, 2020**

Priests For Tomorrow

**May 1, 2021**

Diaconate Ordination

**June 26, 2021**

Priestly Ordination

December 29, 2019, during the Mass for the Seminarian's family Christmas Party at the Diocesan Center, two seminarians participated in the Rite of Admission to Candidacy in which they publically declared their intention to pursue ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of La Crosse: Joseph Culligan and David Nowicki. The Rite of Candidacy is one of the lesser known rites in the Church but is very important to the process of becoming a priest. Once a seminarian declares candidacy he is known as a candidate, and, locally, he is outwardly differentiated from his brother seminarians by the wearing of a clerical shirt and collar at diocesan events.

The Diocese of La Crosse seminarians generally celebrate the Rite of Admission to Candidacy either prior to or during their first year of study and formation in theology. By publically announcing their intention to study for priesthood, the seminarians are asking the Bishop and the Diocese to officially accept them as worthy priestly candidates. Bishop Callahan, of course, wants to make sure that the candidate has the necessary qualifications to be a priest and that he is mature enough to handle the rigorous studies for priesthood. Accepting a man formally through the Rite of Candidacy affirms that the seminarian is intent on studying for the priesthood and has grown in his discernment certainty in regards to his priestly calling. The Rite gives the Bishop an opportunity to officially and publically affirm the seminarian in his calling to further his priestly formation. While the reality is that Candidates are entering into a lifetime of formation as deacons and priests, they still have many more years of seminary education and formation.

Where does the Rite of Candidacy come from? The new ceremony of Admission of Candidacy began to be used on January 1, 1973. It was established by Pope Paul IV to replace the old rite of first tonsure, in which a man studying to be a priest had hair from the top of his head clipped as a physical sign that he was in the process of study to be a priest. Pope Paul IV wrote,

*"Since entrance into the clerical state is deferred until diaconate, there no longer exists the rite of first tonsure, by which a layman used to become a cleric. But a new rite is introduced, by which one who aspires to the diaconate or priesthood publicly manifests his will to offer himself to God and the Church, so that he may exercise a sacred order. The Church, accepting this offering, selects and calls him to prepare himself to receive a sacred order, and in this way he is properly numbered among candidates for the diaconate or priesthood." (Ad Pascendum 15 August, 1972)*

Pictured seminarians in attendance as Joseph Culligan and David Nowicki received the Rite of Candidacy on December 29, 2019.



We are grateful to God for giving us two new candidates. We are truly blessed to have so many fine men willing to say 'Yes' to following our Lord. Please continue to keep all our

seminarians, candidates, and deacons in your prayers as they continue the path to becoming priests for the Diocese of La Crosse.

## Admissions Board

After completing the Journey program, a man may apply to be a seminarian. His application is reviewed by the Admissions Board. The Board meets once a year, and is composed of eight individuals who are either priests, consecrated, or lay persons of the Diocese of La Crosse. They review applications and interview each prospective seminarian before he has a private interview with the bishop. The Admissions Board then meets with Bishop Callahan to discuss each applicant and give their consultation.

Samantha Parker is a laywoman who has served on the Admissions Board since 2013.

"Bishop Callahan is a prayerful, discerning man with a definite passion and heart for cultivating great priests for our Dioceses through great formation. I have no doubt that without the help of the Admissions Board, he would still discern the will of the Holy Spirit. But it is inspiring to see his wisdom and humility in accepting the council of a group of lay persons, Religious, and fellow brother priests.

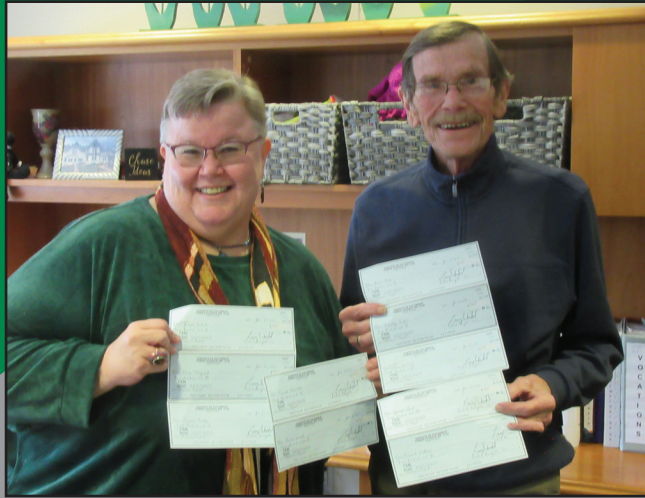
As a lay woman on the Board, I am able to offer my feminine genius gifts of intuition, a mother's heart, and a knowledge and understanding of homeschooling (a background that nearly a third

of our Seminarians hold.) Our Bishop turns to the Board to get our feel for the preparedness of each candidate's academics, spiritual life, and social skills. We ascertain our opinions through an open discussion with the candidate where we ask a number of questions based upon their application information and essays. For me specifically, I ask myself during each interview whether, as a woman, I feel comfortable around this man and would I be comfortable with having my children around him. It is no secret that our Catholic culture is not immune to the formative problems of the secular world such as divorce, abuse, and mental health concerns. And while healing and spiritual growth are an integral part of the Seminarian's formation, there are many different avenues to choose from to get the needed results. If approved of, The Admissions Board is able to assist the Bishop in deciding the placement of each candidate.

If a candidate has a calling to the priesthood, we on the Admissions Board are able to see some wonderful growth in character and spirituality during his formation years. I look forward to continuing to see these men become ordained priests, living out their vocation through the full life of the church. And I have full confidence that the priests we are ordaining in our Diocese are humble, holy men seeking to share the love of God the Father with His sheep."

— Sam Parker





Brother Phil Schreiner of Knights of Columbus Tomah Council 4125, presenting ten \$500 checks totaling \$5,000 for seminarian scholarships to Renee Orth the Office for Vocations Administrative Assistant

We encourage you to write to our seminarians as a way of showing your support and prayers throughout the school year using the addresses provided below.

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY**

3257 South Lake Drive | St. Francis, WI 53235

**PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE**

Via del Gianicolo, 14 | Rome, Italy 00165

**MUNDELEIN SEMINARY**

1000 East Maple Avenue | Mundelein, IL 60060

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY**

750 Terrace Heights | Winona, MN 55987

## Happy Birthday

**February 7**

Philip Grygleski

**February 17**

Joseph Glatczak

**February 22**

John Duranso

**March 13**

Eric Mashak

**April 8**

Alex Kren

**April 11**

Deacon Joseph Richards



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our website

