



IN LOVING MEMORY

Pictured with Bernadette and Fr. Timothy Reither are Fr. Nate Kuhn and Fr. Kurt Apfelbeck. Just before Father Reither's ordination, he was presented a special chalice as a gift from Bernadette Bladl. Bernadette's husband, Paul, was a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus in Dallas, Texas, for 53 years (Grand Knight 4 times)! On his passing, she was presented with a chalice bearing his name, which was intended to be passed on to a seminarian. Each time this chalice is used, Sir Knight Paul and Bernadette will be prayed for. Thank you, Bernadette Bladl and all the Knights of Columbus for your continued support of vocations!



THE RITE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY WAS CELEBRATED FOR FOUR SEMINARIANS

Pictured from left to right, Matthew Szymanski, John Duranso, Joseph Glatczak and Brian Ward. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy was celebrated at Christ the King Chapel on August 4th. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is a formal declaration of study for the priesthood for the Diocese of La Crosse. The four seminarians have already started their theological formation and education this fall.

PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

NOVEMBER 2021

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

The month of November is a time set aside by the Church to commemorate all those who have gone before us in death in the hope of the Resurrection. Thus, at the beginning of the month, we celebrate All Saints Day followed by All Souls Day. Both of these feast days are invitations for us to recall that we were made for God and that, in death, we find not an end, but rather the beginning of eternal life. Therefore, we pray for all those who have died, asking God to receive them into their heavenly reward and to ask them to pray for us on our earthly pilgrimage.

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.



DIocese of LA CROSSE



Journey and Regency 2021-2022

As we reflect upon this, I am reminded of a quote by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who said, "The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness." Each and every one of us was created by God with a specific purpose, for a special task. We could say that this purpose and task is, generally speaking, to become holy and make the world a better place while seeking to go to heaven. Each one of us is called to holiness, no matter what our walk of life may be.

Perhaps the simplest way to live lives of greatness is to follow the path that God has in store for each of us. This is our vocation, the heavenly call that God places within our hearts. We are blessed to have thirteen men who have answered the initial call by entering into the seminary to continue to strive for greatness. Please pray for these men as they continue their studies. We also are pleased to have six men in our Journey program and one in Regency. These men, from both our diocese and four other dioceses, are spending this year growing in their relationship with God and striving for greatness.

This month, we have asked our seminarians to write about their favorite saint, as their heavenly role model. The saints are there

to help us during this earthly pilgrimage, to intercede for us by calling upon the Lord from their places among the heavenly hosts. These saintly examples can inspire us to do what they have done, to live lives of greatness.

Lastly, as we reflect on saintliness and vocations, the Church sets aside the week of Nov. 7 - 13th as National Vocations Awareness Week. It is a time to both pray for more vocations as well as to be strengthened in our own vocation. I encourage you during that week to say an extra prayer or two for those God is calling to serve in the Church. And if there is someone you know who you think would be a good priest, deacon, brother or sister, tell them and encourage them! Maybe that is all they need to begin their path to greatness!

St. John Vianney, patron of priests, pray for us! All holy men and women, Saints of God, pray for us!

Fr. Nate Kuhn



Rev. Nate Kuhn
Director of Vocations

SAVE THE DATE

May 7, 2022
Diaconate Ordination
June 13, 2022
Golf Outing - Fox Hollow
June 25, 2022
Priestly Ordination
July 29, 2022
Priests For Tomorrow

BIRTHDAYS

02/17	Joseph Glatczak	08/16	Isaac Pecha
02/22	John Duranso	08/23	Jared Clements
03/20	Kyle Lang	08/26	Matthew Bowe
04/06	Alex Radtke	09/30	John Zweber
04/08	Alex Kren	10/08	Matthew Szymanski
05/03	Steven Weller		
05/15	Brian Ward	12/3	David Nowicki

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SAINT?

DEACON MATTHEW BOWE

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



My favorite saint is St. Francis de Sales. He is known as the “gentlemanly” saint and is a Doctor of the Church. I am

drawn to his simple way of living. He advocates for peace, gentleness and kindness when dealing with oneself and with others. I can often remain calm and collected exteriorly while being frantic interiorly. I call upon St. Francis’ intercession regularly to teach me peace, gentleness and kindness, especially when I become upset or angry with another person. This gentleman knew how to correct people in a kind and gentle manner and I pray that I may do the same.

JARED CLEMENTS

PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE



Saint Anthony of Padua

He is my confirmation saint and was a famous preacher.

He once was preaching to a group of people who did not have much interest. So he turned to the nearby river and began to preach to the fish. The fish popped their heads out of the water and listened to the Word of God. When the people saw this, they were amazed and saw that if the fish were listening, so should they. This is one of my favorite miracle stories by a saint.

JOSEPH GLATCZAK

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



I would say that my favorite saint is St. Joseph. The reason being that he is both my namesake and, over the years, I have had an increasing devotion to him.

ALEX KREN

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



My favorite saint is St. Augustine. I like him because I can relate with his story in many ways. I turn to St. Augustine for

guidance and prayers to help me in my earthly pilgrimage. It has been a tremendous gift to have St. Augustine in my corner.

DAVID NOWICKI

PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE



My favorite saint is St. Gregory the Great, my confirmation saint. He was pope in the sixth century and was well known

for his pastoral care of the Church. He even wrote a Book of Pastoral Rule, which provides wise counsel to pastors of their own flocks.

ALEX RADTKE

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY



My favorite saint is St. Andrew because he is the patron St. of fishing and I enjoy going out and having a safe fishing trip.

KYLE LANG

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



Over the past few years, I have grown in devotion to Blessed Imelda Lambertini, the patroness of First Communicants.

Imelda lived in Italy in the 1300s. From her youth, she had a great desire to receive Communion, but because she was too young, she was not allowed. One day, when she was eleven years old, Imelda was praying after Mass and a priest walked into the chapel. He saw a consecrated host hovering above her head. Recognizing that Jesus desired her to receive Him in the Eucharist, the priest gave her Communion and left her to pray. When a nun came into the chapel later, she found Imelda kneeling, eyes closed and smiling towards heaven. She tapped her on the shoulder and Imelda fell to the floor, having died of joy.

Through the intercession of Blessed Imelda, may we approach Our Lord in the Eucharist with the same great love and desire.

DEACON STEVEN WELLER

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



St. John Vianney has become dear to me because his holiness was contagious. Just a couple centuries ago, in a little French

town, this priest ignited the hearts of Europeans. People traveled by train across nations just to meet this humble priest, and Jesus healed tens of thousands through his ministry. The most inspiring part was that he was not known to be very smart, or even very gifted at speaking; but he was holy and humble and God can work through humble hands.

MATTHEW SZYMANSKI

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



My favorite saint is St. Cecilia. She is the patron saint of musicians. I have no musical talent whatsoever, but I

have always loved her determination and courage facing torture and martyrdom. St. Cecilia was one of the most revered early virgin martyrs of Rome, as evidenced by her name appearing in the Roman Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer 1). She is one of the seven women commemorated by name in the Roman Canon. St. Cecilia died laying on her right side with her hands crossed in prayer. The position of her fingers—three extended on her right hand and one on the left—were her final silent profession of faith in the Holy Trinity, Three Persons in one God. When I was 18 years old, I visited St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska. There was a statue of St. Cecilia, as the one pictured below, located in the choir loft.



When you walked into the cathedral and looked up underneath the choir loft, her hands stretched out over the choir loft railing denoting her belief in the Holy Trinity as one God. I was edified by that beautiful image and it has been carved in my memory ever since. St. Cecilia was buried in the Catacomb of St. Callistus. I have had the privilege to see where her body was found incorrupt in the Catacomb. I also visited the Basilica of St. Cecilia in Trastevere, Rome. St. Cecilia in Trastevere Basilica was built on the site of her house. St. Cecilia, pray for us.

BRIAN WARD

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



My favorite saint is St. Augustine because he is a great teacher, preacher and has inspired many people’s lives

in the last several centuries. I think St. Augustine is also great because of his great conversion from a life of sin and the perseverance of being a great saint with the help of the Lord. I also really enjoy his work of Confessions which is a masterpiece and shows the beauty of how God works on a person with his love and mercy even though we are sinners.

ISAAC PECHA

PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE



The Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas was crucial in my conversion to Catholicism and

Aquinas is still my go-to saint for questions of theology and philosophy. In a characteristic story, Jesus appeared to him and said, “You have written well of me, Thomas. What would you have as your reward?” Aquinas responded, “Nothing but you, Lord.” Aquinas’ unwavering focus on Christ is a magnificent example for any priest.

Last year, I took a pilgrimage to Naples to see the scene of that apparition. As a bonus, I was even invited to enter his bedroom and office and see his left arm, which is preserved as a relic. I feel inspired to read some of the Summa just thinking about it!

JOHN ZWEBER

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY



Although every seminarian’s answer should be the Blessed Virgin Mary, I’ll pick another saint so as not to be cliché! I

also have a love for St. Augustine of Hippo. St. Augustine has an awesome conversion story, but the thing I like most about him is the writings he left behind. St. Augustine left behind a wide variety of writings all of them are written from the heart and they show his tremendous pastoral zeal. He was also extremely prolific, so I will never have to worry about running out of things to read from him!

You are encouraged to write to our seminarians as a way of showing your support and prayers throughout the school year using the addresses provided below.

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