

MATTHEW BOWE



An interesting skill that I have learned recently is to deepen my love of people truly and unconditionally. At the seminary, there are a bunch of really good men authentically discerning their vocation with God. On the other hand, there are areas in which they still need to grow. This past year has brought a bunch of changes and new “norms” because of the procedures against the coronavirus. This has stressed us out, and so naturally we find ways to vent our stress. At times, they crossed a line. When these things have occurred, I have felt anger and disappointment in my brothers whom I thought would have known better. In that struggle, I hear the Holy Spirit challenging and calling me to love my brothers even then. I do not approve of their wrongdoing, but I love them as a person, “warts and all,” and not to hate them because of their wrongdoing. I believe that in this God is preparing me for a more authentic and loving pastoral ministry.

STEVEN WELLER



Over the past year I have become a lot better at wiring. During the Covid shutdown, my parents encouraged me to make my time constructive and balanced, so we built a train set together at home. I was in charge of the math and circuits for all the various lights, rail switches, and tracks; I learned a lot from my father about wiring techniques. I loved every moment of it.

BRIAN WARD



Since I joined the seminary I have found an interest in playing the Organ and also playing the piano again after a few years of not playing. The Organ is new for me and has been pretty fun to learn because it is different from the piano. It has pedals and some switches that I have to figure out but it doesn't seem like it will be too bad. For the piano I have been tackling pieces that I never learned too well and am forcing myself to learn which has been good. I am very happy about my renewed interest in music after a very long time.

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.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY
3257 South Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE
Via del Gianicolo, 14
Rome, Italy 00165

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEMINARY
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

ISAAC PECHA



During quarantine, I finally learned how to roll my 'R's! Somehow I could just never get it before, and even when I studied languages that used a trilled 'R' I would just settle for a normal English 'R.' This will be a big help in speaking Italian and Macedonian.

ALEX KREN



In the past year I took up skateboarding again. Back in my middle school and high school days I skated quite frequently, but fell away from it after I graduated. I don't quite do what I used to do, but it's a blast to get on the board again and ride around doing some tricks.

DEACON ERIC MASHAK



I've learned how to play a new card game: Sheephead, or Schafkopf in German, is an old game that originated in Middle Europe in the mid to late 1700's. The game was developed by peasants who were fed up with their government and expressed their discontent by giving the King Card a lower rank.

DEACON ARTURO VIGUERAS



Over the last few months I starting learning how to do calligraphy.

JOHN ZWEBER



One of the skills I have developed over the past year is a better understanding of how to give pastoral counseling. I recently had a great class on pastoral counseling, and I have been able to apply many of the things I learned at my societal ministry and my teaching parish.

PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

WINTER 2021



MISSION OF LOVE

Greetings!

It is always surprising to me how quickly the time passes between the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent. Yet here we are, preparing to enter this season of prayer and penance to ready our hearts to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection once again on Easter. Here in the Office of Vocations, this has been a time of change and adjustments. At the beginning of December, Fr. Alan Wierzbza, with whom I was working closely with, requested

and was granted a leave of absence for personal and health reasons. He is doing well as he takes time to be strengthened and renewed in his priestly identity. Since his departure, I picked up where he left off in overseeing the Regency and Journey programs and caring for our seminarians. One of the beautiful things in all of this is that the Lord has continued His work, which has been visible daily. God's blessings are abundant and when we are open to receive them, what can be accomplished is far beyond what we could ever ask for or imagine. Thank you for your continued support for all the men in our Diocese who are discerning the Lord's call

in their lives, particularly those being called to the priesthood. They will one day be the future priests of our Diocese, following in the Lord's footsteps, serving all of God's people. Please continue to pray for me and our men, especially during this season of Lent, that we may continue to follow the call of the Lord to carry out His mission of love and sacrifice in our hearts and in our lives.



Rev. Nate Kuhn
Director of Vocations

In Christ, Father Nate Kuhn

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/REGENCY UPDATE

A warm greeting from our Journey and Regency men! These two programs have been working to form men in preparation for entering the seminary (Journey Program) and providing a year of spiritual and human growth for men who are already in the seminary (Regency Program). We currently have six men in the Journey Program from three dioceses - La Crosse, Madison, and Winona/Rochester, and four men in the Regency Program from three (arch)dioceses as well - Madison, Milwaukee, and Winona/Rochester. This year has been markedly different from years past, as we have adjusted because of COVID-19. Their days are filled with classes, formation, and apostolic



work. They have grown together as they spend much of their days here in community. Rather than working out in the community and in schools during the week as in previous years, the men have remained here, working around the Diocesan Center by assisting the Curia offices and maintenance. They also have found time to have a little fun. Please continue to pray for these men in their discernment and growth.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS BIRTHDAYS

May 1, 2021	Diaconate Ordination	February 17	Joseph Glatczak
June 26, 2021	Priestly Ordination	February 22	John Duranso
		March 13	Deacon Eric Mashak
		April 8	Alex Kren
		May 3	Steven Weller
		May 15	Brian Ward

HOW DO YOU BRING JOY TO YOUR LENTEN SEASON

DEACON ARTURO VIGUERAS



I bring Joy to lent by spending time with family and friends enjoying each other's company.

BRIAN WARD



I like to bring joy during the Lenten season praying for others, giving up things for others, and giving my time to help others when needed.

JOSEPH GLATCZAK



I usually enjoy adding a Lenten devotional for daily meditation to my holy hour. Each year I choose meditations by a different author for a new perspective each Lent.

ALEX KREN



During Lent, I think it is quite common that we often approach it as a period of detachment from worldly things, which it is, but it's also a time where we can add something. For instance, reading the Bible daily for 20 min, praying a daily rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, praying the stations, etc. It is in doing something I don't frequently do outside of Lent that brings me great joy. It's an invitation to grow in deeper union with Christ.

MATTHEW BOWE



I think that there are two ways in which I bring joy to my Lenten season. The first is to remember the purpose of Lent. The purpose of Lent is to prepare ourselves in our whole being for Easter, the climatic celebration of the liturgical year. The fasting and the penances that we do empty ourselves of "garbage" so that we may be filled with the Light of Christ at Easter. The joy, then, rests in the hopeful joy of Jesus's Resurrection.

The second way to find joy in Lent is to have a positive penance rather than a negative penance. A "negative" penance means to "give something up" (e.g., chocolate or coffee). A "positive" penance is to "add something good and holy" (e.g., praying the Stations of the Cross daily). It will take a little time to grow into a positive penance, but the joy is the fruit that the new positive habit will bring. Oftentimes, I continue my positive penance well past Lent because I found that I enjoyed my new penance.

JOHN ZWEBER



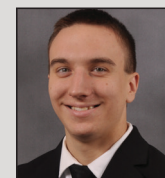
This might sound counter-intuitive, but one of the ways I bring joy to my Lenten season is by taking penance and aesthetical practices seriously. Little penances help me to become more disciplined, and they make me less sluggish. In the end, my Lenten exercises help me to be more attentive to the Lord, and they allow me to be more grateful for all the things He is doing in my life.

JARED CLEMENTS



During the Lenten season, I try to live a joyful life by reading a book that makes me want to be more zealous for the faith, usually of a saint or a spiritual book. Usually, this book accompanies me throughout Lent to help prepare me for Easter. Keeping Easter in mind helps for living a Joyful life.

JOHN DURANSO



I bring joy to my Lenten season by taking stock of what I actually find joy in and what I do to pass time that really doesn't bring me any lasting joy. Lent is the time of year when I try to cut out the things in my life that don't bring me closer to God, the source of all joy.

DEACON ERIC MASHAK



I usually read a book (10-20 minutes each day) on the spiritual life by one of the spiritual masters of the Church. Last year it was 'The Imitation of Christ.' This year I will probably do something in the Carmelite Tradition, perhaps by St. John of the Cross.

DEACON TIMOTHY REITHER



I bring joy to my Lent by refocusing my life as a seminarian. It is easy to get caught up in the many things we have to do, but Lent is a special time when I can take a moment and refocus on the Lord.

ISAAC PECHA



I love writing letters and sending postcards, and I make a special point of doing that during Lent. Lent is a naturally reflective season, so it's a good time to slow down and write a more thoughtful message. Plus, it makes me happy to know that people will be receiving mail that isn't just a bill or an advertisement.

JARED CLEMENTS



During this last year, a friend of mine from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and I created a new trick taking card game that we named Jack's Gambit. It combines Bridge, Sheephead, Pinochle, and Euchre. Because of COVID, we have had a lot of time to perfect the game and to teach guys how to play. Besides being a fun game to play, it has been a great time of fraternity with our brothers in the house.

DEACON TIMOTHY REITHER



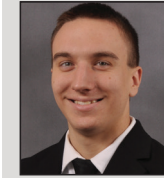
This summer I really got into road biking. It was a great way to stay active and to get to know the lay of the land.

DAVID NOWICKI



It's not easy to find joy in Lent, especially last year when it felt like our Lent never ended! However, Lent provides us with an opportunity to realize the immanence of God despite the sadness of the world. He is very close, despite everything that is happening in our lives! So even though we may not find joy in Lenten fish fries this year, the real joy is found in turning to the Lord simply through the Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

JOHN DURANSO



Quarantine being an excellent opportunity to pick up skills that don't involve other people, I bought a set of hacky-sacks and tried to see how long I could keep them in the air without using my arms or hands. My personal best was 80 hits before it hit the ground.

DAVID NOWICKI



In preparation for my departure to Rome last September, I spent a portion of the past year learning Italian. Though I still have much to learn, being able to communicate with Romans is a great way to learn about the special place that Rome is for Catholics everywhere. It's also useful in order to learn about Italian cuisine!

STEVEN WELLER



The Lord brings joy in Lent through the reclaiming of life-giving leisure, which I often confuse with entertainment. Leisure certainly includes entertainment, but our culture struggles to make leisure a broader category. Leisure is restful, creative and joyful; and it can be lost by too many screens and overworking. Each Lent, our Lord continues to invite me to rest with him in normal leisurely things that I have somehow lost time for, from long walks to visiting others more.

TELL US ABOUT AN INTEREST OR SKILL YOU DISCOVERED/DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST YEAR

JOSEPH GLATCZAK



In seminary we have house jobs, this year I had the privilege to be chosen as the "House Photographer" at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. While I have enjoyed photography for years, this house job has reinvigorated my interest in photography. Previously, I predominantly took photos with nature as the main subject matter, but at St. Francis I have been challenged to learn new skills and techniques as the main focus of the photos are other people during liturgies and other events.