



PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

FEBRUARY 2022



DCN. MATTHEW BOWE



JARED CLEMENTS



JOSEPH GLATCZAK



ALEX KREN



KYLE LANG



DAVID NOWICKI



ISAAC PECHA



JOHN DURANSO



ALEX RADTKE



MATTHEW SZYMANSKI



BRIAN WARD



DEACON STEVEN WELLER



JOHN ZWEBER

REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER CUPS OR JELLY BEANS? WHAT'S IN YOUR EASTER BASKET?

Deacon Matthew Bowe - Definitely Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

Jared Clements - Jelly Beans: Orange and Lemon

Joseph Glatczak - Sizzling Cinnamon Jelly Belly Brand jelly beans

Alex Kren - Watermelon Jelly Beans

Kyle Lang - The black jelly beans :)

David Nowicki - Reese's for sure

Isaac Pecha - Certainly Reese's Cups.

John Duranso - I am in the objectively correct camp, Reese's.

Alex Radtke - Jelly bean - black licorice

Matthew Szymanski - I'll go with Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Brian Ward - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups...of course!

Deacon Steven Weller - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups because chocolate and peanut butter are some of the best foods there are. Combined, they are even better.

John Zweber - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. It is too bad they don't make Reese's flavored jelly beans...

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

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

As we enter into the new year, we first thank God for the blessings we have received. This last year has been challenging in many different ways, but God was and is still at work and there are blessings to be thankful for. On a very basic level, an ongoing blessing is that God continues to call and support



Rev. Nate Kuhn
Director of Vocations

men in their formation as they approach ordination to the priesthood. This process has one goal in mind, to do what God is asking them to do. If that is to the priesthood, that is wonderful, as the Church needs more holy and faithful priests. If it is to another vocation, to religious life, married life, or the dedicated single life, that is also wonderful. The goal is to be holy sons and daughters of God who one day are with God in heaven.

That being said, I thought I would use this opportunity to share with you the process or order in which men go through the formation process to come before the altar to be ordained priests. We begin with the word order, which as St. Augustine said, is giving each person or thing its proper place. Order is identified as being in right relation to the people or things around you so that there is unity and continuity. Defining the term order is important because this path to the priesthood is one that is ordered, so that when a man is ordained, he enters Holy Orders. He has gone through various steps and stages in his learning and formation as to be called to enter into the life of priestly

ministry, building upon each ordered step as he goes.

This first formal step is what we in the Diocese of La Crosse have named the Journey Program. It is an academic year of living with other men and establishing the basics needed for entering into college or major seminary. It is a year focused on strengthening one's prayer life, growing in understanding of what formation and seminary life is like, and growing in the area of human formation.

We currently have two young men, Jake Lozen and Andrew McNally who are in the Journey Program and are in the process of applying to be seminarians for the Diocese of La Crosse.

After completing the Journey Program, the man applies to become an official seminarian for the Diocese. He submits his application and goes before the Admissions Board to be able to explain to them why he feels God has called him on this path. After approval from the board and the Bishop, he enters the seminary and is assigned to a particular school, depending on the

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS BIRTHDAYS

May 7, 2022
Diaconate Ordination

June 13, 2022
Golf Outing - Fox Hollow

June 25, 2022
Priestly Ordination

July 29, 2022
Priests For Tomorrow

February 17	Joseph Glatczak
February 22	John Duranso
March 20	Kyle Lang
April 6	Alex Radtke
April 8	Alex Kren
May 3	Deacon Steven Weller
May 15	Brian Ward
August 16	Isaac Pecha
August 23	Jared Clements
August 26	Deacon Matthew Bowe
September 30	John Zweber
October 8	Matthew Szymanski
December 3	David Nowicki



level of his educational background.

Upon entering into seminary formation, the man enters into a life of prayer and study. He learns about the faith, philosophy, theology, as well as the various aspects of formation: spiritual, human, intellectual, and pastoral. After completing the first portion of study, specifically the study of philosophy, which is usually completed between two to four years, the man will present himself for study in Theology. Once this transition is reached, there is an official step called *Candidacy*.

Candidacy is a Rite, which means that the process takes place in a liturgical context and is a way in which our worship and sanctification takes place. The Rite of Candidacy is the opportunity for the man to formally and publicly state his intention to take the process of formation and study for the priesthood with seriousness and make a public commitment with this intention.

Kyle Lang will be our next seminarian who will participate in the Rite of Candidacy.

Following Candidacy, the next steps in the order are what used to be part of what were called minor orders. This was the practice of admitting one in the formation to the priesthood to take a particular role in liturgical celebrations according to his state and level of preparation. We have two minor orders, which are now called ministries, namely the Ministry of Lector and the Ministry of Acolyte. These are administered by a bishop and the men are installed to these ministries usually during their second and third years of Theology studies, respectively.

Joseph Glatczak, Matthew Szymanski, and John Duranso will be receiving the Ministry of Lector at St. Francis de Sales Seminary on March 26, 2022. Bishop Callahan will be presiding.

The Ministry of Lector calls men to be servants of the Living Word of God. In proclaiming the readings at liturgy, the lector does more than simply read. Those who exercise the Ministry of Lector must be truly suited and carefully prepared, so that the faithful may develop a warm and living love for Sacred Scripture from

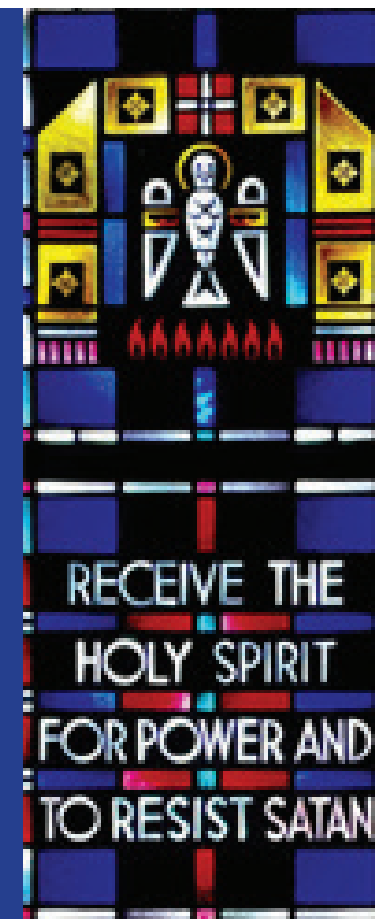
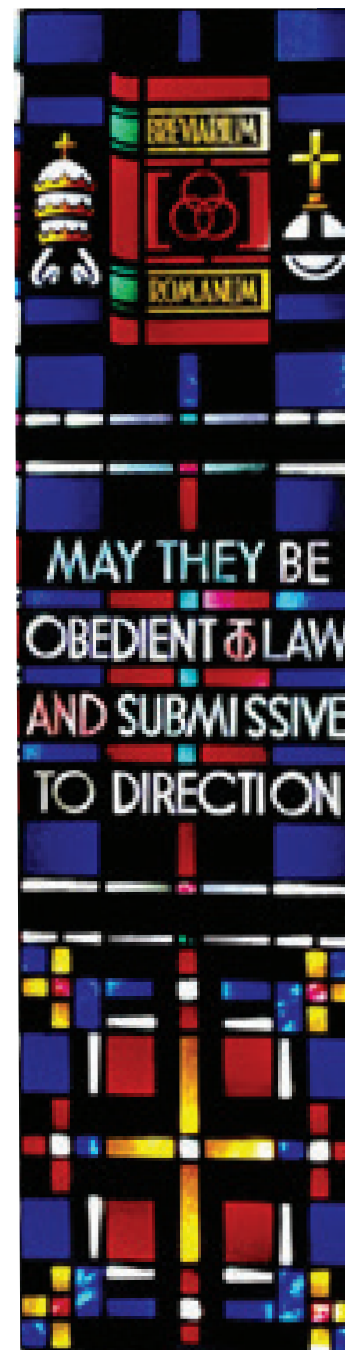
listening to the sacred readings.

The Ministry of Acolyte is meant to be a ministry of service. When a man is instituted as an acolyte, he is handed a paten by the Bishop who says, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church." The acolyte is instituted for service at the altar and to assist the Priest and Deacon. It is his place, principally, to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels and, if necessary, to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful as an extraordinary minister.

These two ministries allow men in formation to put into practice the skills that they have learned in their formation. They will put these ministries to use both at the seminary and at Diocesan events, such as an ordination Mass.

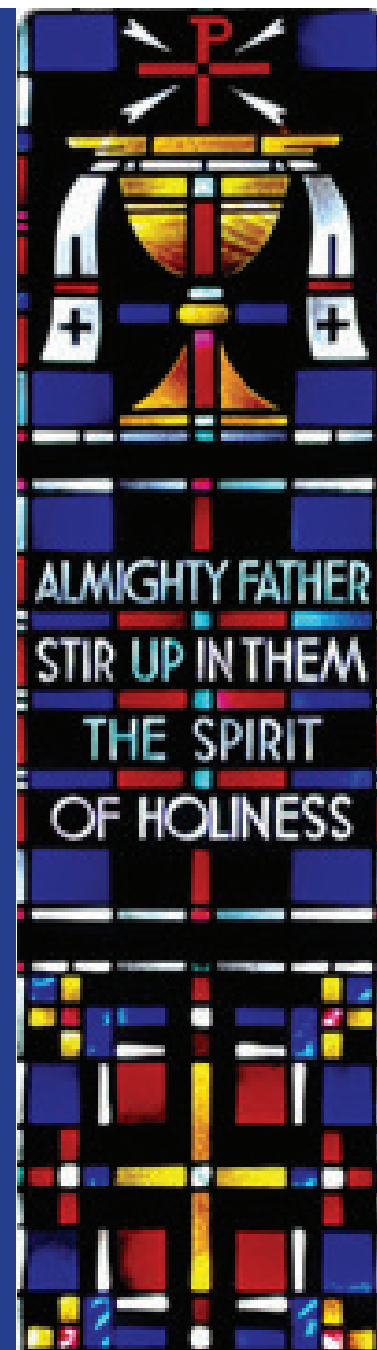
The last part of the process before being ordained a priest is the Ordination to the Diaconate, or becoming a Deacon. This is also a ministry of service, as a Deacon is one who primarily serves at the altar and ministers to those in need. This step is bigger than the others because it is an official order rather than a ministry. It is considered to be part of the clerical state, by which promises are made and one's way of life is forever changed. As a deacon, a man can celebrate certain Sacraments within the Church such as Baptism and Matrimony. He is to assist in the celebration of the Mass and bring the Eucharist to the faithful. As men who are preparing for the priesthood, this time as a Deacon is transitional, meaning that this will be their state for a short time as they complete the final steps to be ordained as priests.

Lastly, is Ordination to the Priesthood. This is the culmination of years of study, preparation, growth and formation. Ordination to the priesthood is the moment when a man configures his life to Christ in a unique and radical way, to be another Christ in the world through his serving as a minister of the Sacraments. His identity now changes, as the priesthood is not a job or a career, but a way of life. It is the free commitment to be a spiritual father, to provide for the spiritual needs of the people of God. In making this commitment, the priest takes promises of obedience, prayer, celibacy, and dedication to serving



ALEX KREN and JOHN ZWEBER will be ordained Deacons on May 7, 2022 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse. Bishop Callahan will be presiding.

ISAAC PECHA and JARED CLEMENTS will be ordained Deacons on September 29, 2022 at Pontifical North American College in Rome.



God and the Church. Priesthood is a profound gift and one that is so important in the Church as priests are called to be the bridge between God and His people. After ordination, the newly ordained priest is sent out into God's vineyard to carry out the mission of the Gospel and winning hearts and souls for Christ.

Deacon Matthew Bove and Deacon Steven Weller will be ordained priests on June 25, 2022 at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse.

To bring this to a close, hopefully this was illuminating when it comes to what the

process of becoming a priest looks like. It takes time, as is necessary, in order to undertake great responsibility and to be, as St. Paul says, "all things to all people." I would ask that you pray for our men in this process, going through these ordered steps, so that God may strengthen them in their call and increase their holiness. And while this may seem like a long and daunting process, just remember that anything of value is worth taking the time to do right and well. We hope and pray that those studying and those discerning the priesthood may continue to be prompted by the Holy Spirit to say yes in following God's call for their lives.