



# PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

MARCH 2023

## 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.

It is amazing how quickly time moves forward. It seems like just the yesterday we were preparing for and then celebrating Christmas. Now, we are entering into the Lenten Season with Easter and Spring around the corner and much more as we look ahead. Even though these last months seem to have flown by, they were definitely filled with a great deal of exciting events and there is much to be grateful for.

To begin, one of the ongoing points of focus has been the Eucharistic Revival. Beginning last June, the Bishops in the US have asked us to spend time fostering our devotion and appreciation of the Eucharistic Lord. Whether that is in the context of receiving the True Presence in the Eucharist at Mass, or time spent adoring before the Blessed Sacrament, we are all being invited to cherish this incredible gift of Christ present among us. We can also use this time to reflect on how Christ has been present and changed our lives. As we continue over this next year, there will be many opportunities that we look forward to participating in, both on a broader scale as well as locally that will encourage us to go deeper in our relationship with Christ in the Eucharist.

The seminarians have also been busy with their studies as well as different events. Right before Christmas, we had the chance to gather for our annual winter gathering. It was a chance for the men to spend time together, to pray, and to enjoy each other's company. Shortly after, the men at St. Francis de Sales Seminary had the privilege of travelling with their classmates to Rome for a pilgrimage. While there they were able to experience the beauty of the Eternal City and meet up with our seminarians studying there. It was a great opportunity for them to experience the Universal Church as they continue their preparation for one day hopefully serving the people of God as priests.

The men in the Journey Program were also busy as they continued their studies and formation. At the beginning of January, they were able to attend the SEEK Conference in St. Louis with about 17,000 other college-aged students. It was a week filled with prayer, talks, and reflection on living the faith in our world and growing in holiness. It was a great sign of hope as these young people came from across the country to spend time fostering their relationship with God.

Looking forward, we are beginning to plan for a number of events in the summer, including our Dare to Follow Days of Discernment throughout the Diocese, our annual Golf Outing, Priestly Ordinations, Priests for Tomorrow Dinner and much more. Thank you all for your prayers and continued support. During these times, we can definitely acknowledge the need to promote vocations for the future of our Church and the sanctification of the world. May God bless you and give you His peace!



Rev. Nate Kuhn  
Director of Vocations



DIOCESE of  
LA CROSSE



## SHARE A PROFOUND ENCOUNTER OR EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST.



### DEACON JARED CLEMENTS

The summer going into my sixth grade year,

I went to adventure camp for the first time and it was there that I had my first experience of adoration. It was there that Jesus made Himself present to me such that I wanted to follow Him where ever He leads me.



### JOHN DURANSO

My profound encounter with a Eucharist was right after I

was instituted an Acolyte in late 2022, as I was officially authorized to expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration. Acolyte is the last major step before Holy Orders for seminarians, and the ability to expose Our Lord for Adoration is an extraordinary privilege that helps prepare us to celebrate the Holy Mass. When my first chance came I was of course slightly nervous, but the Lord just gave me the idea that I was acting as His attendant in His royal court. The thought was both exciting and consoling, and is the image I have in my mind whenever I am asked to Blessed Sacrament.



### JOSEPH GLATCZAK

As an instituted acolyte, I am permitted to

expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration. Performing the action of exposing the Blessed Sacrament is something I find very profound. I am conscious that I am carrying Our Lord from the tabernacle to the monstrance, not merely bread. I am conscious I am physically

taking Jesus to others so they can see Him. I am conscious that as I genuflect behind the monstrance at the altar, I am ever closer to the priesthood; I am ever closer to offering bread and wine in my hands so that the faithful may not only behold Christ but physically receive Him.



### DEACON ALEX KREN

One of my most memorable

encounters with the Eucharist was when I heard the call to priesthood. I often go back in prayer to this moment, and it has been instrumental in getting me to where I am today. Without that grace I would not be where I am.



### KYLE LANG

A few months ago I had the opportunity to

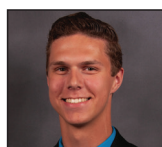
venerate the body of Blessed Imelda Lambertini, patroness of first communicants. She famously died from love having received the Eucharist, Christ himself, for the first time. It was a great reminder of the gift of himself that Christ wants to give us each time we approach the Most Blessed Sacrament.



### JAKE LOZON

The beauty of adoration is that I can sit in the pew with

joy knowing that God has an immense and infinite Love for me. Sometimes in adoration the Lord allows my soul to feel but a drop of this infinite Love and what a delight this is!



### ANDREW MCNALLY

A profound experience I had with the Eucharist

was entering into an hour of

prayer with Christ full of anger, anxiety, and stress. Being alone in the small chapel I expressed everything I was feeling to Jesus in the tabernacle and by the end of that hour, I was completely at peace and had no stress, anger or anxiety towards the cause of those three emotions.



### DAVID NOWICKI

Profound experience of Christ: When I was in college, I went

to a Catholic charities inference with 10,000 college students in attendance. We were in the front row at the Adoration Night, and it was there that I first heard the Lord's priestly calling in my life. Eight years later, the Lord still reminds me of this experience of His love.



### DEACON ISAAC PECHA

An impactful experience of Jesus in the

Eucharist occurred during my first time going to Adoration, while I was still in the process of becoming Catholic. Other denominations of Christianity often have some form of "communion," or bread distributed during a church service, but the act of Adoration highlights our Catholic distinction: we know that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, and we treat the Eucharist accordingly. For me, that was a significant moment in showing Catholic doctrine in action, through worship.



### ALEX RADTKE

A profound experience that I have had with the Eucharist, is

going to adoration with confessions being heard. Then going to confess my sins and feeling the weight of the sins being lifted off of me. It is like having a

50lb grain sack being taken off of my shoulders as I walk back into adoration to do my penance in front of Jesus sitting in the monstrance.



### MATTHEW SZYMANSKI

It is a very powerful experience exposing and

reposing the Blessed Sacrament. When I am called upon to expose and repose our Lord for adoration, I am fully aware of my unworthiness when I carry our Lord to and from the monstrance. It makes me strive even more to be closer to Him and to live as Christ-like as I can in all that I do



### BRIAN WARD

I have to say that the only real powerful experience I

have with Christ in the Eucharist is the very common and everyday recognition that he is truly there. That I can speak to him and know that he loves me and listens to me. Or to simply sit with the Lord and not speak but knowing this he is with me in all my struggles in life.



### DEACON JOHN ZWEBER

There are a lot of personal experiences that

I probably wouldn't share here, but as a new deacon, I am able to encounter the Eucharist in a very privileged way. I always appreciate being able to expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration. The walk between the tabernacle and the altar is very precious; it is there that I am able to hold Jesus right next to my heart. In a way, I feel like the beloved disciple who reclined on the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper.





## ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY ROME PILGRIMAGE

This January, all the seminarians in theology were given the privilege of going on a 9-day trip to Rome. I'm not going to lie; the trip over was pretty long. On top of all that, I had a severe cold at the beginning of the trip. I didn't sleep at all from US to Germany or from Germany to Rome. When we finally landed, we would have had a nice quiet bus ride to Assisi, but someone decided it would be a good idea to sing Christmas carols! Some moments are so irritating that they're actually pretty funny, and that was one of them.

Nonetheless, there's something about Rome and Assisi; no matter how you feel, they still manage to break through. We spent our first day touring Assisi. Once we got to the hotel, my roommate went to bed, and I found myself running through the streets of Assisi at night, just wanting to take it all in! No matter how tired or sick you are, the beauty and wonder still break through!

It was truly a wonderful trip, and we had some amazing opportunities. We saw many of the major basilicas, we had Mass with Pope Francis, we had Mass with Cardinal Dolan, and we had dinner with Cardinal

Harvey, Cardinal Pell, and George Weigel. We saw works by Michelangelo and Raphael, we got a private tour of the Vatican Museum, and we got to pray all alone in the Sistine Chapel. There are so many more experiences that I cannot recount here.

It was also very moving for me to be in Rome during the passing of Pope Benedict XVI. I think we all have an attachment to the Pope of our youth. Not to make you feel old, but I was eight when he was elected. Pope Benedict has been very influential in my life. When I was 13, I wasn't a very prolific reader, but for some reason, I picked up his second encyclical, *Spes Salve*. I didn't understand most of it, but something sparked my interest. That encyclical was what first kindled my love for theology. Now, I am at the end of my theological studies as I prepare for the priesthood. I can't explain how moving it was for me to visit his body and to pay my respect and gratitude.

Being in Rome is a wonderful experience, and I would go back there in a heartbeat, but at times it can be a little overwhelming. The size of the churches, the

quality of the art, and the whole experience is much more than you can take in. At times, it feels like you're just running from one overpowering thing to another. Nonetheless, a pilgrimage is not just a consumeristic sightseeing event; a pilgrimage is a place of encounter. As beautiful as all the churches and monuments are, I sometimes wanted to be back in our little chapel at seminary. There is actually something very good about this; no matter how big and beautiful the monuments are, you can remember that they are only a testimony to Jesus Christ. The greatest art and architecture in the world cannot compare to the One who lives inside every tabernacle. That's the purpose of a pilgrimage; you go so you can come back. You go on a pilgrimage to encounter the wonder of the One who called you, the One who still calls you, and the One who wants your life to be lived in His service.

Thank you so much for your support and for making trips like this possible. It makes us all the more excited to be right here, studying for the Diocese of La Crosse, and to one day be priests of Jesus Christ.

~Dcn. John Zweber

### SAVE the DATE

## JUNE 5, 2023

3rd Annual Diocesan

## GOLF OUTING & DINNER

Supporting Vocations to the Priesthood  
[www.dioc.org/golf](http://www.dioc.org/golf)

The Diocese of La Crosse Office for Vocations is pleased to invite you to sponsor and/or attend our annual golf outing, an 18 hole, four-person scramble. It will be held at picturesque Fox Hollow in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The proceeds from this event will assist the Diocese in the recruitment, education, and formation of our seminarians.

To help sponsor or for more information contact:  
**Reneé Orth at 608-791-2667**  
or [rorth@dioc.org](mailto:rorth@dioc.org)

### Save the Date

**Priestly Ordination**  
**Saturday, June 24**

**Priest for Tomorrow**  
**Sunday, July 30**



## MARVEL vs DC

**DCN. JARED CLEMENTS** - Marvel

**JOHN DURANSO** - As for Marvel or DC, I have no interest in either of them these days, but by now I would rather watch what DC is producing than have to sit through whatever Marvel is doing these days.

**JOSEPH GLATCZAK** - DC

**DCN. ALEX KREN** - I am a huge fan of Batman...but Marvel takes this easily.

**KYLE LANG** - DC

**JAKE LOZON** - Marvel

**ANDREW McNALLY** - I will choose Marvel due to the company's beautiful array of connecting the films together in great cinematic pieces.

**DAVID NOWICKI** - Marvel

**DCN. ISAAC PECHA** - I don't watch Marvel/DC movies or read comics. Jesus is my only superhero!

**ALEX RADTKE** - Probably Marvel, though DC has a couple that are good.

**MATTHEW SZYMANSKI** - I like Marvel more than DC. I was always a huge Avengers and Doctor Strange fan when I was a kid.

**BRIAN WARD** - Marvel

**DCN. JOHN ZWEBER** - Usually Marvel, but Batman could hold its own against any Marvel movie.



### Prayer for a Deeper Love of Jesus in the Eucharist

Jesus, You came into the world to save us and to give Yourself to us in the Eucharist, saying

*"I am the Bread of Life."*

You love us unconditionally and want to remain with us, to dwell within our hearts.

Strengthen our understanding and love of You, truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



*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 (SFDS)**  
3257 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235

**Pontifical North American College (NAC)**  
Via del Gianicolo, 14, Rome, Italy 00165

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHM)**  
750 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987

## Happy Birthday!



Feb. 17	Joseph Glatczak (SFDS)
Feb. 22	John Duranso (SFDS)
March 20	Kyle Lang (NAC)
April 6	Alex Radtke (IHM)
April 8	Deacon Alex Kren (SFDS)
May 15	Brian Ward (SFDS)
Aug. 16	Dcn. Isaac Pecha (NAC)
Aug. 23	Dcn. Jared Clements (NAC)
Sept. 30	Deacon John Zweber (SFDS)
Oct. 8	Matthew Szymanski (SFDS)
Oct. 11	Andrew McNally (IHM)
Dec. 3	David Nowicki (NAC)
Dec. 31	Jake Lozon (IHM)