



# PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

SUMMER/FALL 2024



There are many clichés when it comes to life and advice. In particular, one that is often used speaks about life as a journey or as progress through time and how we are called to take advantage of each moment and keep going. For example, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Or “It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.” While these sayings by recognizable figures like Lao Tzu and Ernest Hemmingway begin to capture the complexity of life, we know that there is always more to this life than can be put into words. And yet, we still try.

I write this as we look at these last couple of months and the events taking place around the country in connection with the Eucharistic Congress. We see people journeying from far and near to draw near to our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. And there is much truth in the quotes listed above, most especially when we apply them not just to normal earthly life, but to that deeper and more powerful journey or pilgrimage of one’s soul from this world to its heavenly home. And, it wasn’t just worldly writers or leaders that have spoken about this, but many saints have weighed in on this life as a journey and pilgrimage, not just to some man-made destination, but to a person, to our

loving God. St. John Paul II said back in 1979, “The most beautiful and stirring adventure that can happen to you is the personal meeting with Jesus, who is the only one who gives real meaning to our lives.”

It is this meeting with Jesus that our local Church and in particular, our seminarians have been involved in. Beginning with the National Eucharistic Processing that passed through the Diocese at the beginning of June and culminating in the National Eucharistic Congress, we have had the opportunity to enter into this once in a lifetime event by joining the faithful from across the country to draw near to Jesus, to meet him as we step outside of our normal lives and seek Him. This is what vocation is all about, this is what our seminarians are seeking to do in a much bigger way as they seek to do what God is calling them to do. They seek Christ to guide them to know their way here and know, how they are being called to give their lives for others, but also to guide them to their eternal home in heaven. Please continue to support and pray for our seminarians as they seek Christ and for many more young men to hear the call of Jesus inviting them to embark on the pilgrimage to serve and bring others to Him.

I end with this beautiful quote from St.

John Paul II at World Youth Day in 2000, “It is Jesus in fact that you seek when you dream of happiness; he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal... Have no fear of entrusting yourselves to him! He will guide you, he will grant you the strength to follow him every day and in every situation.”

In Christ,  
Fr. Nate Kuhn



**DIocese of  
LA CROSSE**

**TALK ABOUT YOUR PILGRIMAGE WITH CHRIST - EITHER IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, OR YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH "THE ANSWER"**



**JOHN FRANCIS**

I am blessed to have been a part of The Answer rally and witnessed the thousands of faithful who showed up for Christ. A grace-filled moment came when I had a some time to sit in the Adoration

chapel with Jesus and spend a few quiet moments with Him. My heart was full with gratitude for getting to participate in this historic pilgrimage and witness the encounter so many people had and His love for them!



**DEACON JOE GLATCZAK**

The Eucharistic Procession into La Crosse was a highlight of my first week as a transitional Deacon. There are so many things I could say about this experience, but mostly I would note a

sense of humility to walk with Our Lord as we crossed the Mississippi River and a sense of awe witnessing the faith-filled reverence of so many pilgrims when the Blessed Sacrament passed by them.



**ANDREW MCNALLY**

My pilgrimage with Christ is akin to the fifth joyful mystery in that there are times where I have journeyed with Christ to the heights of Jerusalem at Passover. The journey there is filled with numerous

joys, trials, and lessons. After that time, I believe we are to begin the next part of the journey but Our Lord does not desire to move on. I continue on my way believing Jesus is next to me until I stop to rest and come to realize I haven't been walking with Christ. In a trial greater than those I received with Christ, I search for Him. After some time I am guided to find Jesus still in the temple conversing with others on the journey we are on. During this time of the NEC, I have come to realize that the Lord wants me to remain with Him in His Father's temple and to share with others the journey which God the Father has led me on before I begin the next part of the journey in my formation towards the priesthood.



**LUKE KAISER**

Walking with Christ in pilgrimage means taking a step daily to incorporate and reflect on Christ's love in the struggle. I have had the beautiful opportunity to embrace pilgrimage and enter into

sacredness outside and within our diocese. This has developed a sense of community both with Christ and the other pilgrims on the journey, while hearing meaningful and impactful testimonies. Likewise, reflecting the power of the sacraments helps to understand that when I enter into a pilgrimage, this at the core reflects a deep integration of Christ's passion and his journey to bring hope, love, and healing. Personally, this means that a preparation for pilgrimage helps to refocus on the temporary nature in which we live and points to our higher calling, love, and home.



**JEREMIAH DEGROOT**

It was moving to see such a large gathering of our diocese to adore Christ at The Answer.



**JAKE LOZON**

Praise be Jesus Christ for the National Eucharistic Conference and the processions! This past year at seminary I have learned to Love with the Heart of Christ, which is at the foundation of this year's

Eucharistic Conference. Thousands upon thousands of Catholics will be adoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist. Along with those who will encounter Jesus in an intimate way for the very first time. I have had the blessed opportunity to love those with the Heart of Christ this summer, to draw people



**DEACON BRIAN WARD**

In the anticipation of NEC I got to do not one but two of the processions as a Deacon this past month in June. I was privileged to be there with Bishop Baron and to walk with him and then

to walk with Bishop Battersby into Wisconsin. Then, when I went back to my parish for the summer in Wisconsin Rapids, they came by again and I walked with them and had Mass. These events have only made me more excited about NEC in Indianapolis and I looked forward to enjoying it with my brother seminarians.



**KYLE LANG**

While at The Answer in La Crosse, a middle school-aged boy approached me and asked, "Can you write down for me the beginning prayers of the Mass? I want to go home and practice." I think this

captures the spirit of a pilgrimage: God places a desire for Him in our hearts, and we return home to our ordinary lives with a resolution and renewed spirit. Oftentimes the seeds of a vocation are planted as well.

into an encounter with Jesus. Not only have I seen the beautiful fruits of this Eucharistic Conference, but I too am being formed and Loved by our Eucharistic Lord for his Priesthood! I ask that you please keep all of us seminarians in your prayers this year so that we may continue to Love with the Heart of Christ and always keep our gaze fixed on our Eucharistic Lord.



**MICHAEL LEIS**

This time of Eucharistic revival has been such a blessing for the Church! I will always cherish the memories made at The Answer, especially the Eucharistic procession across the river. I

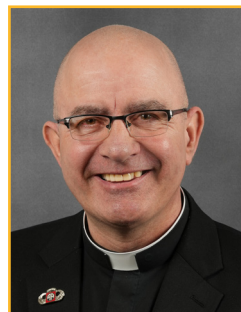
can't wait to see how God continues to bless our nation as we prepare for the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis!



**ALEX RADTKE**

During the answer, it was very beautiful to walk with Christ. Seeing the vast amount of people following behind Bishop Battersby and Bishop Barron was very much like Jesus walking in the

desert with the vast amounts of people following. I can only imagine that coming up in the National Eucharistic Revival that it will be similar to Jesus entering into Jerusalem and the beauty of people wanting to see Jesus. It has been beautiful to be praying while in my holy hours.



**DEACON MATTHEW SZYMANSKI**

It was an amazing experience in La Crosse when our Lord processed across the Cameron Street Bridge into the La Crosse Center. Words of mine cannot describe

how amazing it was. Seeing people from not only La Crosse, but from all over Wisconsin and the outlying states was incredible. It was a once in a lifetime experience. I am looking forward to meeting people from all

over the country at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis!



**THOMAS CUMMINGS**

Going to the Answer rally here in La Crosse was very inspiring. It was really beautiful to see what a huge turnout we had, with half of the La Crosse center filled up! I spent some beautiful time

in adoration. I didn't have any crazy experience or revelation while in adoration. I just sat there with my Lord, and rested in peace. That's all I needed. Some peace to ground my day. He always delivers what I need, and the simple moments like that really drive home that reality. The best part of it all, is knowing about how so many others experience the same thing on such a big day. Some with big encounters, but most with the simple peace they have been used to.

# 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.





AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE TRIP TO INDIANAPOLIS...  
WHAT'S THE MOST FUN THING ABOUT A ROAD TRIP?

**DEACON BRIAN WARD**

The best part about a road trip for me is sightseeing. I love seeing different cities and states.

**KYLE LANG**

Talking with locals

**JOHN FRANCIS**

The Roadside Attractions!

**ANDREW MCNALLY**

The best parts of a road trip are the conversations one may have and snacks.

**JEREMIAH DEGROOT**

The ability to converse with friends for an extended period of time.

**DEACON JOE GLATCZAK**

Exploring new restaurants.

**LUKE KAISER**

Regardless of pilgrimage, vacation, or simply work related travel, a road trip is most defined and most fun due to the people, community, and life-changing adventures I make with them. When taking a bus trip for the March for Life in high school, seeing the meaning and love poured out to others was constantly a highlight whether this was interactions with the homeless people, mothers, or politicians. Likewise later in college, I had the opportunity to travel to South Dakota and the Rocky Mountains, these road trips also were surrounded by life-giving experiences, God's natural beauty in scenery, and unexpected

challenges that allowed the travelers to bond and support one another. Regardless of the road trip, embracing God's call to be present where I am at has allowed me to recognize that these road trips are not defined by what

you do, but rather how you interact and embrace those on the trip and those who you meet along the path.

**JAKE LOZON**

The most fun thing to do on a road trip is to be goofy in the car with each other and to make random stops. I love laughing with others or getting hyped over a song in the car.

**ALEX RADTKE**

The most fun thing about a road trip is all the down time to hangout, jam to music, read books, and/or play games!

**MICHAEL LEIS**

Trying all the new food along the way.

**DEACON MATTHEW SZYMANSKI**

The most fun thing about a road trip is experiencing places I've never been to before.

**THOMAS CUMMINGS**

The most fun thing about a road trip is taking a big stretch after a long drive. Nothing beats it

Happy Birthday!



1/30	Thomas Cummings (IHM)
2/17	Joseph Glatczak (SFDS)
3/20	Kyle Lang (NAC)
4/6	Alex Radtke (SP)
5/15	Brian Ward (SFDS)
8/13	John Francis (SFDS)
10/8	Matthew Szymanski (SFDS)
10/8	Jeremiah DeGroot (SFDS)
10/11	Andrew McNally (IHM)
11/21	Luke Kaiser (SP)
12/31	Michael Leis (IHM)
12/31	Jake Lozon (IHM)

*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

**St. Paul Seminary (SP)**  
2260 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105