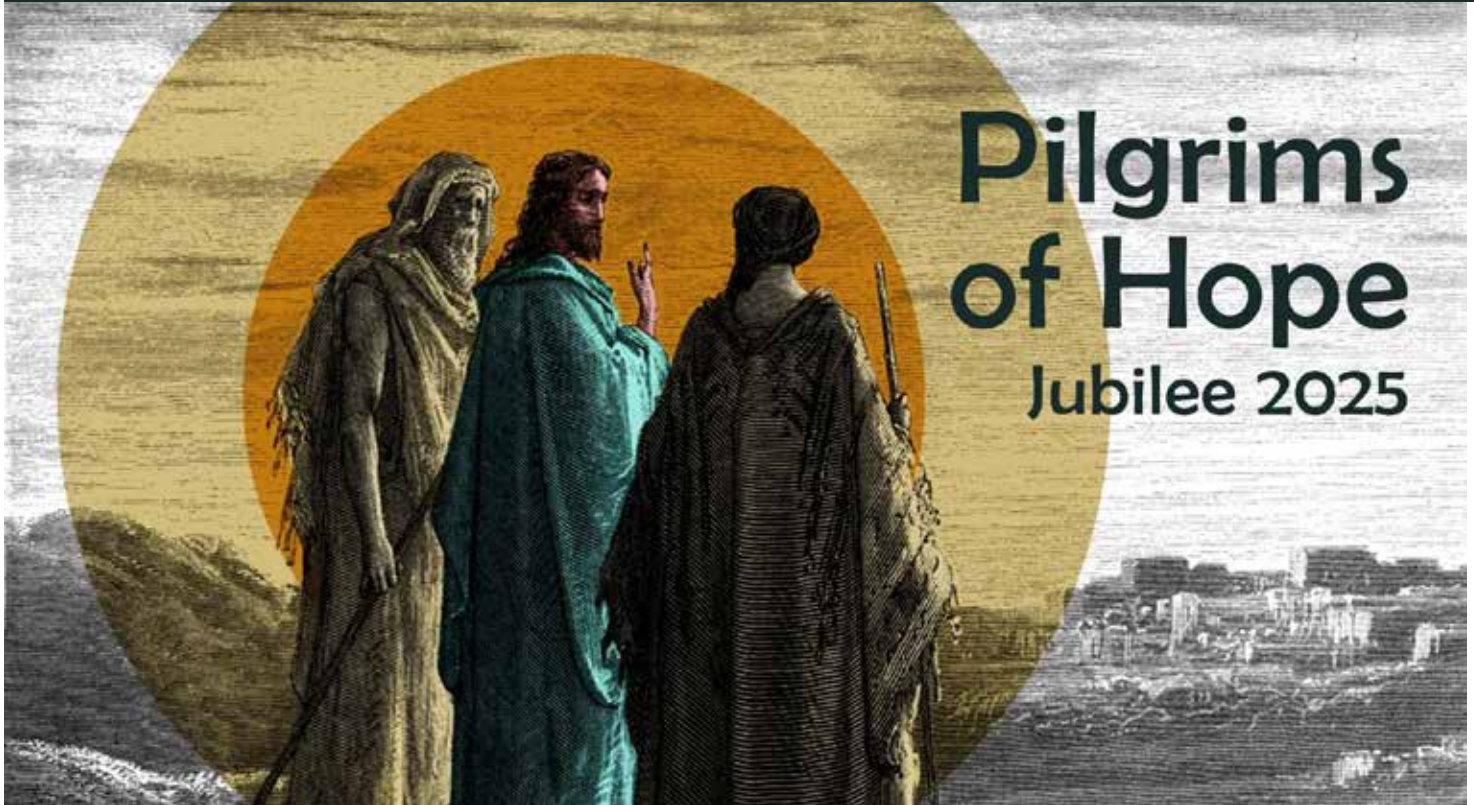




# PRIESTS FOR TOMORROW

SPRING 2025



**T**his year, we have a privilege of walking with the Church as we are invited to be “Pilgrims of Hope.” This invitation comes at the request of the Holy Father as we entered the Jubilee Year beginning this last December. This is a long-standing tradition within the Church dating back to the year 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII declared that during that year, they would honor the ancient Jewish tradition of setting aside the year as one of celebration and significance. He also decreed that this same tradition would take place in years following, beginning every 50 years and by 1875, were celebrated every 25 years. This year then is a Jubilee year where the traditions of mercy, hope, and reconciliation are emphasized and special opportunities are given for those who make pilgrimages to holy places, both within one’s local diocese as well as to Rome.

Pope Francis has chosen the virtue of Hope for us to contemplate and live out during this Jubilee year. Hope, as we hear from St. Paul in his letter to the Romans is a gift and virtue from God that comes through our ordinary experiences of daily life. As he says,

“Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. (5:3-5)”

This hope is meant to spur us onward, and we respond to the call to do just that. Our seminarians too are striving to live in this hope as they seek to hear and follow God’s call in their lives. As we nearing the end of the academic year, we are joyfully anticipating the ordination of three men to the priesthood in June, a diaconate ordination in October, and the other men continuing to move forward in their studies. We will have a few men from our Journey program continuing on and we are hoping to welcome a full house of new men beginning their first year in the fall. There is hope! God is always working, and it is a joy for that work to be revealed in the lives and hearts of those responding to God’s call.

I would ask that you continue to pray for vocations, pray that young people will be filled with the virtue of Hope that will inspire them to hear and answer God’s call to be open to following in the footsteps of Christ, whether that is in the priesthood, religious life, or holy marriage. The hope of eternal life urges us heavenward, and the future of the Church depends upon that daily yes to Christ. May our response be like Mary’s yes; an act of Faith, filled with Hope, directed in Love.

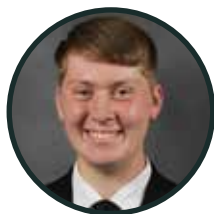
In Christ,  
Fr. Nate Kuhn



DIOCESE of  
LA CROSSE



# What does the Jubilee Year of Hope mean to you?



**THOMAS CUMMINGS**

In all the little activities and interactions of the day that cause grief, exhaustion, or even a simple annoyance, this year of hope sounds

like a call to perseverance and surrender for me. I surrender to the simple signs of the cross present in my life; and I surrender to the will of my Father in Heaven. This Jubilee Year of Hope sounds like a call to take up the cross, because it is only through the cross that I will enter into the Easter glory. It is this resurrection and glorification that I will daily hope for and persevere towards so long as I heed my Father's hopeful message.



**JOHN FRANCIS**

It is exciting being in seminary during this jubilee year since it only happens once every 25 years. For me, the virtue of hope is a great reminder to

place "all my trust in Christ's promises and rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit" as the Catechism tells us. It is only through hope in Christ that I can be conformed to Him.



**DEACON JOSEPH GLACZAK**

As I prepare for ordination, I am hopeful that in this Jubilee year the Lord will provide us with opportunities in

which the seeds of faith that were planted during the National Eucharistic Congress last year will begin to take root and grow in our parishes and the church.



**LUKE KAISER**

The Jubilee Year of Hope is a powerful invitation to rediscover the boundless love and mercy of God.

For me, as a brother, it's an opportunity to renew my faith and commitment to serving others, focusing on the hope that is at the heart of our Catholic faith. The Jubilee is a time to celebrate God's promise to always be with us, even in the most difficult times. Hope is the light that guides us through suffering and uncertainty, reminding us that God's love never fails.



**KYLE LANG**

I think Psalm 27 casts a fitting image of hope: "Come," says my heart, "seek his face"; your face, LORD, do I seek! Do not hide your face

from me; do not repel your servant in anger. You are my salvation; do not cast me off; do not forsake me, God my savior! Even if my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in



**MICHAEL LEIS**

The Church, in her wisdom, has given us, her children, a beautiful reminder of our need for Hope. In a world that has forgotten God, it is easy

to fall into the despair that is so commonly found, but we are reminded as Catholics that we must have Hope both in this life and in the next. The title "Pilgrims of Hope" that Pope Francis uses, reminds us that this life is a journey towards Christ! As Saint Therese of Lisieux said, "The world is thy ship and not thy home". On this journey we must be joyful witnesses to the Hope that Jesus Christ has given us! This Jubilee year of Hope reminds me that Christ is calling me to a life of constant conversion

and trust in His loving plan for my life. It is a reminder to have Hope in God's wonderful Love for us all!



**JAKE LOZON**

Our Jubilee year of hope means for me, a renewed act of love, especially in the area of Hope. This year I will be going deeper into

the theological virtues of Faith Hope and Love.



**ANDREW MCNALLY**

The Jubilee Year of Hope means to me a deeper opportunity to grow in the theological virtue of hope amidst the uncertainties of

life. As it says in Romans 8:18, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." All that we experience in this life allows us to draw closer to the love of God and hope for all that He has promised. With this Jubilee year, I desire to grow more intentionally in this virtue.



**ALEX RADTKE**

It is a time for reflection. I recognize the places in my life where I do not allow Hope to flourish, specifically through prayer

and asking the Lord for things with true hope that they will be done. Often, I can dismiss that God will not grant the prayer because it benefits me too much. Yet, we are called to ask constantly from him with true hope that they will be given.



**DEACON MATTHEW SZYMANSKI**

Pope Francis stated, "The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not



Bishop Battersby celebrating FAT TUESDAY with Fr. Kisewski, and the St. Francis de Sales seminarians

fade, our hope in God ... May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfillment of the Lord's promises."

We should pray that this Year of Hope brings peace throughout the world and comfort to those in need.



**DEACON BRIAN WARD**

What the Jubilee Year of Hope means to me is a year to reflect on trusting in the Lord, where we can look to Christ, beyond the

troubles of this world and know that he is with us. Even though it is not easy to reflect in this way, Christ will always help us to look to and trust only in him.

## 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.**



## Baby Chicks or Baby Bunnies?

### THOMAS CUMMINGS

I am partial to baby bunnies. They are much more interactive and very cute.

**JOHN FRANCIS** - Baby Bunnies

**DEACON JOSEPH GLATCZAK** - Bunnies

### LUKE KAISER

Both baby bunnies and baby chicks are symbols of new life and joy, but if I had to choose, I would say baby chicks. There's something deeply symbolic about the way they break free from their shells, a reminder of the resurrection, a new beginning, and the fresh hope that we experience in our faith. The little chicks are a vivid picture of how we, too, are born anew in Christ.

**KYLE LANG** - Chicks!

### MICHAEL LEIS

It's so hard to choose between babies of different species because babies of every animal are so adorable! I think I am going to have to pick baby chicks. They are so cute and fluffy!!!

### JAKE LOZON

Baby bunnies because when they grow up there great in stews!

### ANDREW MCNALLY

Baby Chicks since they are more adorable and once they are older they taste great!

**ALEX RADTKE** - Baby Chicks

**DEACON MATTHEW SZYMANSKI** - Baby bunnies for me.

**DEACON BRIAN WARD** - Baby chicks

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 30	Thomas Cummings (IHM)
February 17	Joseph Glatczak (SFDS)
March 20	Kyle Lang (NAC)
April 6	Alex Radtke (SP)
May 15	Brian Ward (SFDS)
August 13	John Francis (SFDS)
October 8	Matthew Szymanski (SFDS)
October 11	Andrew McNally (IHM)
November 21	Luke Kaiser (SP)
December 31	Michael Leis (IHM)
December 31	Jake Lozon (IHM)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dare to Follow, June 17-18

Registration starts in April

Priestly Ordination – June 28, 2025

Brian Ward, Matthew Szymanski, Joseph Glatczak

Priests For Tomorrow – July 27, 2025

Diaconate Ordination in Rome – October 2, 2025

Kyle Lang

*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