



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Behold, how good and how pleasing it is for brothers to dwell as one.

Letter from the

Rector

As we continue to enjoy the opening weeks of a new calendar year, I am reminded of Saint Augustine's description of the divine in Book X of the *Confessions* as "beauty ever ancient, ever new." Entering into another year is hardly an unprecedented event, and yet, it still brings a freshness to our earthly journeys. And just as in such recurring events, we are able to discover some facet of novelty, so, too, in our encounter with the Lord, we can taste in a fresh way the love that He has showered upon us from before our birth.

In many ways, the work of formation is about mining this reservoir of "beauty ever ancient, ever new." We know that God's love is constant, steady, without beginning or end, and that it has accompanied the world from the very beginning of time-hence its antiquity. At the same time, as we journey throughout this life, the work of discipleship summons us to let that love wash over us time and time again, renewing and revivifying us—hence its newness. As the men here at IHMS ponder the possibility of a priestly call, they are working to access that richness of divine love that is ever present; they work to allow it to come to life each day in their hearts, asking the Lord if the master of the harvest wishes them to serve that love as ordained priests. They immerse themselves in that ancient love as they ask the Lord to manifest how He is calling them to carry His new life to others.

In these new days of 2022, all of us, whatever our specific state in life, are invited to plunge into that "beauty ever ancient, ever new." All of us are given the wondrous opportunity to savor again the immense love of God that comes to us in Christ, and thereby be transformed into agents of renewal in the world.



We know that God's love is constant, steady, without beginning or end, and that it has accompanied the world from the very beginning of time.

Rev. Robert Horihan

Rector

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Archbishop Thomas Gullickson

Diocese of Sioux Falls



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All Archbishop Thomas Gullickson ever really wanted was to become a priest and serve a parish in his home of Sioux Falls. But others within the Church – and, presumably, God Himself – had other ideas for the energetic, affable pastor from the plains of South Dakota, including those that would allow him to be a witness to Christ in nations far from the comfort of the United States.

It all started for Gullickson, who will receive the 2022 Immaculate Heart of Mary Award in April at IHMS's annual Bishops and Rector Dinner, when he enrolled at the newly opened Sioux Falls Minor Seminary in 1964, where he began formation at the age of 14. Following his time in that seminary, which has since closed, he arrived at Immaculate Heart of Mary, where he began his study of philosophy in 1968.

Gullickson himself arrived in Winona well prepared to discern a call to the priesthood, though he remembers doing so at a time when the country was in turmoil as the Vietnam War dragged on. He entered a seminary of more than 70 men, but not all of them were interested in becoming priests.

"A lot of them, they were good guys, but they were there for the exemption from the draft," he said. "You got a low categorization on your draft card, so for all practical purposes, there'd be no way they'd call you up."

But Gullickson's call was real, and its foundation was laid early on at home. The eldest of eight children, his mother was Catholic and his father was a convert to Catholicism, and he remembers his parents being very strong in the faith and supportive – but not forceful – of his decision to enter seminary.

"They were very balanced. Dad would say, 'Thomas, we're very proud that you're in the seminary, but just know that you should feel no obligation from your mother and me to pursue it. You can always come home and stay with us," he recalled with a laugh.

But Gullickson remained at IHMS for four years, and following completion of his undergraduate degree, he was assigned his theology studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. With that degree in hand, he returned home and was ordained to the priesthood in 1976. He began his pastoral assignment at Christ the King Church in Sioux Falls, with full-time teaching duties at Bishop O'Gorman High School, where he taught religion. Then, he became vice-rector of the Sioux Falls seminary for its final two years of operation.

Following his work at the seminary, he became an associate pastor at St. Joseph Cathedral for two years, and after five years at home in Sioux Falls, he returned to Rome to earn his doctorate in canon law, wherein he entered into diplomatic service of the Holy See.

Beginning in 1985, he was assigned to posts in countries around the world, including Rwanda, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Israel, and Germany. Gullickson, who speaks four languages, admitted that going from place to place every two or three years was a challenge. It was difficult, he admitted, to form long-term relationships with people living in those countries, as cultural and language barriers existed. He recalls one particularly hard memory.

"In Rwanda, some years after (I was there), the genocide took place, and I knew all the bishops who were executed," he said. "The secretary general of the bishops' conference was a friend of mine, and he was another one who disappeared."

Eventually, Gullickson was called back to the United States, where he was ordained a bishop in 2004. He then served as Papal Nuncio to nearly a dozen Caribbean island nations until 2011, when he was appointed Nuncio to Ukraine until 2015. He finished his vocation with a five-year assignment as Nuncio to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Gullickson retired at the end of 2020, though he's still administering a parish in Sioux Falls – which, in a sense, brings his vocation full circle after a priesthood that took him around the globe.

Ryan Henry, IHMS Communications



A Freshman Perspective

Ryan Pierce, Diocese of Gary

In my first semester here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, I have experienced goodness. It has been an experience like no other, and I am blessed that our Lord has guided me here. However, it has been by no means easy. I had no idea how busy I would truly be as a seminarian, but it has been a wonderful opportunity to learn time management. Balancing life as a full-time college student with house duties, prayer, exercise, and intense community life while still staying connected with my wonderful family back home certainly does not leave me with time to be bored. Through all of this, I am grounded in an ever-growing intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is interesting that the best and hardest part of seminary are the exact same thing: community. The seminary community life is something that cannot really be understood unless it is lived. There is something so splendid (ecce quam bonum) about living with other men that are walking the same path that I am. It is an incredible grace to not walk this journey alone. The same guys that can irritate me the most also bring me immense joy and push me toward Christ as we all strive for holiness.

I am very thankful for all the donors and benefactors of IHM Seminary and for those who have supported me on my vocation journey. Without your generosity, none of this would be possible. I look forward, God willing, to the many years to come of seminary formation as I am shaped in the hands of the Divine Potter. Jesus, I trust in You. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.







Spiritual Silence

IHMS Director Embraces Month of Reflection

It's an opportunity a priest may get but once in his life, and that opportunity for Father Jeffrey Dobbs, the Director of Spiritual Life at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary for the past 10 years, came in July when he traveled to Mundelein Seminary in Illinois for a 30-day silent retreat, more formally known as the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

"It's a time to really go into the depths," Dobbs said. "This particular retreat was a way for people to have a really deep encounter with Jesus Christ."



Fr. Jeffrey DobbsDirector of Spiritual Life

So along with a cadre of others with various vocations, including seminarians, women religious, and lay members of the Church, Fr. Dobbs embarked on this spiritual journey that made space for him to more deeply reflect upon his life as a servant of Christ. Each week was marked by a different theme – such as the passion of Christ and His resurrection – and each day, Fr. Dobbs spent four to five hours in prayer, examining ways in which Christ is reflected through his life. That, at times, included an hour of prayer in the early morning hours.

"It's really a way of seeing how Christ is living His life through me and how He is inviting me, in my daily life, to live in communion with Him," Fr. Dobbs said. "It's coming to a point of election, meaning how does Christ choose a person to live His mission in the world?"

In addition to the time spent in prayer, Fr. Dobbs met each day for one hour with a spiritual director, who provided scripture passages to pray with and graces to pray for. He also kept a journal about his experiences within each hour of prayer and discussed those the following day with his director. The remaining hours were spent at communal Mass, eating meals (in silence), and outdoors for exercise or further meditation. "Sometimes I'd go for hikes or bike rides," Fr. Dobbs said.

A retreat of this length isn't one a priest will typically attend more than once in his priesthood, and it's not required of diocesan priests. But when he sought permission from Bishop John M. Quinn of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Bishop Quinn was in favor of the idea, especially for a priest serving as the Director of Spiritual Life at the seminary.

"It's something you feel a call to and you do it," said Fr. Dobbs, who felt the inkling in January of last year. "For me, I (turned) 40 in September (2021), and I've been a priest for 13 years. I felt the calling to look with Jesus back over my life up to this point to see how He's been with me, and in the present moment, to really see the desires He's placed on my heart, as far as how to love in my current mission."

And in turn, Fr. Dobbs discovered even more of God's love for him. "I took away from this the nearness of God, and how the Trinity is continuously laboring to love me and God communicating Himself to me in both times of great joy and consolation, and also coming to me in places of pain or fear," he said. "God is with me, period, in whatever I'm going through."

This realization, he said, will benefit the work he's currently called to do. "Just as I've seen more and more how the Holy Spirit has been working in my life, that helps me more and more as I walk with the seminarians to help them see how the Holy Spirit is moving in their lives."

Ryan Henry, IHMS Communications

Vocation Weekend

Seminarians Share a Glimpse of Seminary Life During Vocations Weekend

One of the most common questions that a man discerning a call to the priesthood has is, "What is seminary and what goes on there?" He can find the answer in different ways, but there is no way more effective than coming to experience it yourself. That is what Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary vocations weekend provides. During this weekend, a man, typically of high school age, can experience seminary life and see just what it is we do in seminary formation.



Anthony Richter, Senior Diocese of Cheyenne

During the weekend of November 6-8, our 34 visitors joined the seminarians as they went to daily Mass, prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, prayed a communal holy hour, and ate together for communal dinner. All of these things are great experiences for the men who visited during the weekend, but the most important experience was the fraternity they saw present at the seminary. Our guests could see the building up and strengthening of one another that goes on in the seminary, and that fraternity can't be seen any other way than on a vocations weekend.

On top of the experiences, the men also learned about our campus, our studies, and the formation program through information sessions, where they heard the vocation stories of a few seminarians, who also answered questions about seminary life. The weekend was a great experience for those who came, and so long as a man is open to the Lord's guiding hand, it can be a helpful experience in his journey of discernment, wherever God calls him.

The next vocations weekends at IHMS are March 12-14 and March 19-21.

Please contact your diocesan vocations director if you're interested in attending.







Apostolic Works a Mainstay

of Seminarian Formation

This semester, I have been graced by the opportunity to engage as a teacher's assistant at St. Stanislaus Elementary School in Winona for my apostolic works assignment. Some might ask, what is apostolic work? Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, we are given the good fortune of being assigned to participate in community outreach and service roles at Catholic schools, nursing homes, and charities in Winona and the surrounding area. These roles allow us to gain great insight into the pastoral ministry we will someday, God willing, exercise in our own diocesan parishes.

At St. Stanislaus, I have been working every Wednesday morning with Mrs. Jane Menke, a fourth-grade teacher, and her class. My activities range from helping some of the children with their homework to reading stories and giving some catechetical lessons before they head off to their time at the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

I have been so blessed by Mrs. Menke and her openness and excitement for having me help and participate in the classroom. These days have been grace filled while working alongside her, and I am so grateful. I have said it many times: Wednesday mornings are the highlight of my week at the seminary, and I always look forward to engaging in the classroom setting and learning a thing or two myself as I help instruct the children in their lessons.

These roles allow us to gain great insight into the pastoral ministry...



Michael A. MilamSophomore
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



A Call He Couldn't Ignore

Pre-theology Seminarian Sets Nursing Aside to Pursue God's Will

Ryan Saltness had a plan. After graduating from high school, he decided that he'd follow in a long line of healthcare professionals in his family and enroll at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn., to study nursing. He loved the profession, but as he navigated this new chapter in life, his college experience wasn't playing out like he had hoped – that is, until he met a campus missionary who helped him discover a passion for an entirely different calling.

Saltness, who studies for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, is one of a handful of men each year who take a more nontraditional road to Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and begin formation as a pre-theology seminarian. Essentially, this designation is reserved for those who enter seminary with a college degree in hand, rather than the more common undergraduate seminarians pursuing both a degree and discernment. For Saltness, that means a philosophy-heavy two-year period of study at IHMS before moving on to major seminary.

Faith has always been a part of Saltness's life, from early on as a student at Rochester Catholic Schools to his time at Saint John's University. But that didn't necessarily lead to an active interest in the Church until his junior year of high school at Lourdes, when he met the youth minister at his home parish of St. Francis of Assisi.

"Just his witness and how freely he was living the faith was something that was attractive to me," Saltness said. "That was a very helpful laying of the foundation before getting to college."

Once at college, though, Saltness found the transition from high school difficult, so for the first two years, he simply kept his head down and focused on completing only what was necessary to pass his classes. His circle of friends was small.

"I think I was coming to a point where I realized I was not enjoying my time there," he said. "A lot of that fell on me. ... The lifestyle I was living wasn't satisfying."

But following his sophomore year, he was introduced to a group – and a person, in particular – that would change the course of his life. That summer, he met a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary at Saint John's, and over time, they developed a friendship. In doing so, Saltness began participating in more FOCUS programming and learning more about a community full of joyful people.

As he neared graduation, Saltness had a healthy group of friends and an even healthier daily prayer life, and he didn't want that to end.

"I felt this strong urge to do ministry," he said. "Fostering a prayer life and leading other men in Bible study, just the joy and life I felt in doing that was something I couldn't really ignore."

Though he still loved his experiences in nursing, Saltness was most fulfilled by people and Scripture. That's when he decided he needed to set aside nursing for the time being and follow his heart by becoming a FOCUS missionary, which was a two-year commitment, at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

"I felt like I needed to be attentive to this," he said. "And I had a lot of support from (nursing professors), too. It's a sacrifice, but you can do this for two years and still go into nursing."

Over those next two years, Saltness found that he enjoyed the missionary lifestyle, which included working closely with priests. Ministering to others and living a life of prayer was life giving, he said, and he recognized the fullness of those vocations in the priesthood. As his time as a missionary wound down, Saltness knew there'd be another decision to make.

"In many ways, it was a growing desire over time, so it was kind of this snowball that was growing and growing," he said of the building call to enter seminary. "But there were also significant moments and advances throughout that time."

He recalls a specific encounter at a spiritual exercises retreat he attended, a time geared toward discernment and making decisions about what's next.

"I could see how the Lord really used Ignation spirituality to communicate that," Saltness said. "It was just a very helpful space of prayer and helpful time on contemplation and meditation. It definitely became clear. Now the only thing that's left is my response."

So far, Saltness is glad he made the decision he did. During his first five months at IHMS, he's experienced much peace and prayer, and he's grown to appreciate the lifestyle of communal living with men discerning the same call.

"The joy of academics again and the joy of more intentionally studying the priesthood, there's been a lot of peace in that," he said. "I've really loved my time here, even though it's been only (a few) months. It's been a short amount of time, but it's been great."

And although Saltness still has a love of nursing and said he could be happy with a career in it, right now, he's allowing God's influence to shape his future.

"The Lord has called me here to seminary to pursue the priesthood, and that's the greatest desire of my heart right now."

Ryan Henry, IHMS Communications

Ryan Saltness

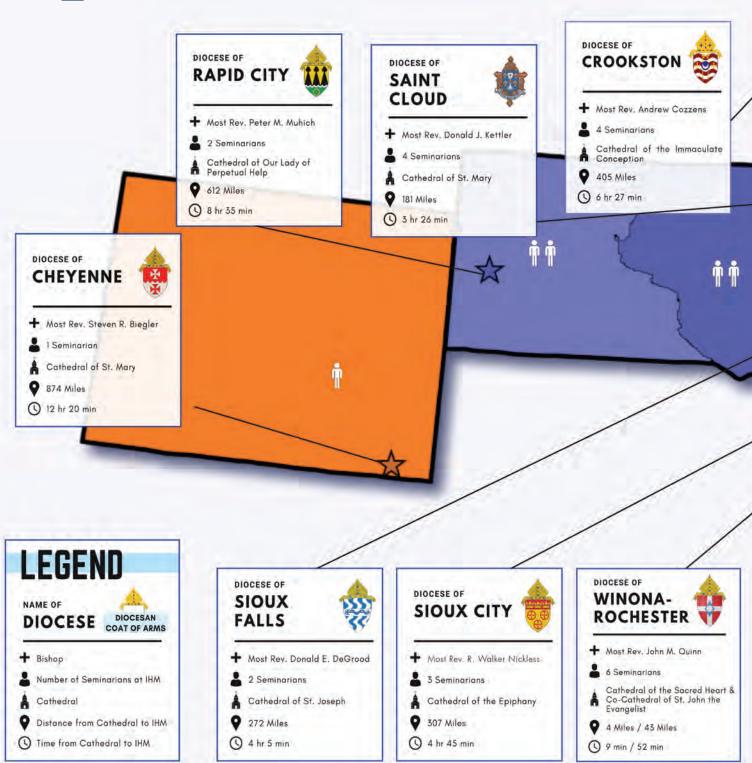
Pre-Theology 1
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

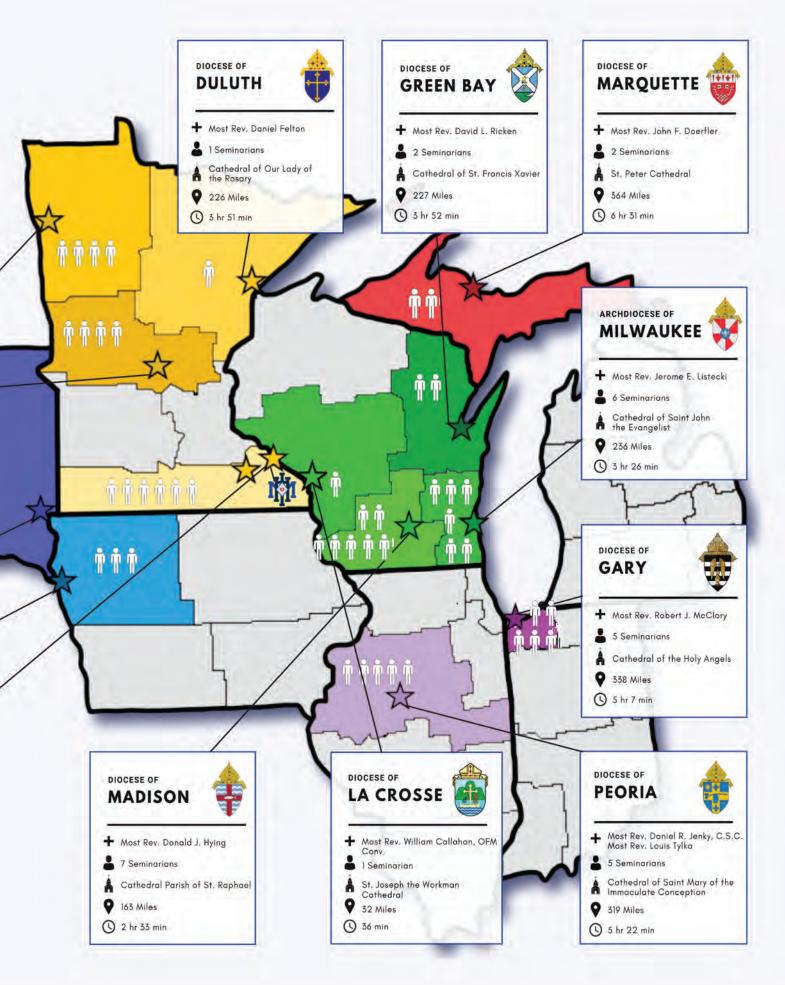




The Seminarians of

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (2021-2022)





2021/22 IHM Seminary Faculty and Student Body

FACULTY



Fr. Robert Horihan Rector



Fr. Martin SchaeferVice Rector
Dean of Formation



Fr. Jeffrey DobbsDirector of Spiritual Life



Fr. Jason KernVocation Director

PRE-THEOLOGY 1



Ryan SaltnessDiocese of Winona-Rochester

SENIORS



Riley Becher
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Nathan Budde Diocese of Green Bay



Peter Danner Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Jacob FreundArchdiocese of
Milwaukee



Joshua JohnsonDiocese of Crookston



Thomas KollaschDiocese of Sioux City



Barry MeinholzDiocese of Madison



Andrew MullaneyDiocese of Sioux Falls



William O'Donnell Diocese of Gary



Luis ReyesDiocese of Madison



Anthony Richter
Diocese of Cheyenne



Paul Rupert
Diocese of Peoria



Todd VandermayDiocese of Rapid City



Mark Wagner
Diocese of Madison



John WatersDiocese of Sioux City

JUNIORS



Jacob BrunsArchdiocese of Milwaukee



Robert BudziusDiocese of Gary



Bennett FeudnerDiocese of Madison



Zavior FranckDiocese of Duluth



Josiah HansonDiocese of Rapid City



Scott KahlerDiocese of Saint Cloud



Mark Nosbush Diocese of Saint Cloud



Gabriel RysavyDiocese of Winona-Rochester



Collin van WaardenburgDiocese of Gary



Ethan WilcoxDiocese of Marquette



Lawrence WirriesDiocese of Crookston

SOPHOMORES



Andrew Beine Archdiocese of Milwaukee



John Paul Bickerstaff Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Brendan LoganDiocese of Sioux Falls



David MarroneDiocese of Madison



Michael Milam Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Luke OlsonDiocese of Peoria



Charles Pomroy Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Alex RadtkeDiocese of La Crosse



Anthony Vera
Diocese of Sioux City



Thomas WilliamsDiocese of Peoria

FRESHMAN



John Paul BurrowDiocese of Crookston



Nicholas Daubner Diocese of Saint Cloud



Nathaniel Garity Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Paul GuertinDiocese of Saint Cloud



Seth Hakes Diocese of Madison



Nicholas HuzaDiocese of Green Bay



Ryan PierceDiocese of Gary



Isaac Sanders
Diocese of Peoria



Peter Schoonmaker Diocese of Peoria



Jon Stone Diocese of Crookston



Michael Szymanski Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Charles TackmanDiocese of Marquette



Ethan Vinyard Diocese of Gary



Bastien WolfeDiocese of Madison

He Finished the Race

Seminarian Completes Twin Cities Marathon to Honor Brother

"Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we, an imperishable one. Thus, I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

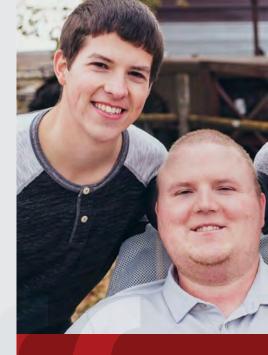
As the sun rose over U.S. Bank Stadium at the starting line of the Twin Cities Marathon, I pondered these words of St. Paul, asking myself why I run. Why do I have this great desire to push myself to the furthest limits? Why am I seeking challenges to overcome, to stand tall on the other side of 26.2 miles? St. Paul reminded me that I must not run for vain glory but for the glory of God. But what does this glory of God actually look like? I found the answer in prayer.

Standing outside the Minnesota Vikings' home field, I found my answer as I asked God who my intention for morning prayer should be. My intention for the occasion was obvious: my big brother, Danny. Just as I had offered each run throughout training for his health and holiness, so I would especially offer this one for him. Danny is the central reason I found myself preparing to run the Twin Cities Marathon on that brisk Sunday morning in early October.

Danny has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a degenerative neuromuscular disease that has placed him in a wheelchair since he was 12. I have helped to physically care for him all my life. But now, since I have been away from home, I have cared for him in different ways, specifically through my prayers and through fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which I have done through training and running a marathon for each of the past three years.

Danny's joy and perseverance through suffering has inspired me to live courageously. My pursuit to run marathons was born of that courage and of love for him. One thing I have learned through my experiences of growing up with Danny and running marathons is this: God always provides us with His strength to persevere through any challenge. Further, God Himself is the prize of our perseverance.

Thomas Kollasch, Senior, Diocese of Sioux City



St. Paul reminded me that I must not run for vainglory but for the glory of God.



Save the Date!

Bishops Rector Dinner

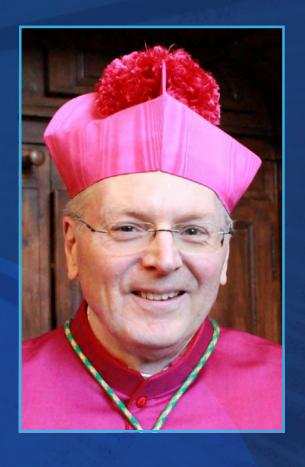
April 22, 2022
Rochester International Event Center

Social 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Dinner** 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Honoring His Excellency Archbishop Thomas E. Gullickson

Apostolic Nuncio Emeritus to Switzerland and Liechtenstein — 2022 Immaculate Heart of Mary Award Recipient

For questions about the event, contact Ryan Henry: 507-858-1275 or rhenry@catholicfsmn.org



UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

January 18

Spring semester begins at Saint Mary's University

February 28-March 4 Spring Break

March 12–14, 19–21 Vocations weekend

March 26-27

Vir in Christo weekend

April 22

Bishops and Rector Dinner

May 7

Saint Mary's University commencement

IHMS COMMUNICATION CONTACT:

RYAN HENRY

PHONE: 507-858-1275

EMAIL: rhenry@catholicfsmn.org

IHMS OFFICE: 507-205-9237

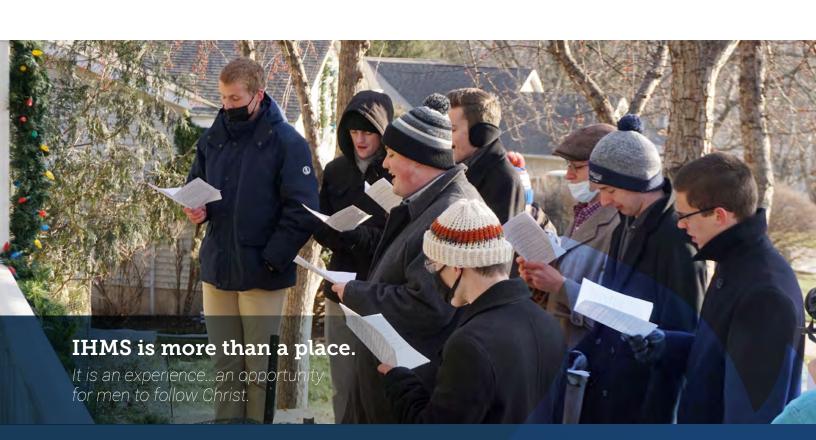
IHMS EMAIL: info@ihmseminary.org

Please let us know of others who should receive the IHMS Newsletter or if you have an address change.

Please let us know if you are an alumni of IHMS. We are always looking for alumni spotlight stories, please share yours!







The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is honored to be represented by the following dioceses, who have entrusted us with their seminarians' formation.

Diocese of Cheyenne, Diocese of Crookston, Diocese of Duluth, Diocese of Gary, Diocese of Green Bay, Diocese of La Crosse, Diocese of Madison, Diocese of Marquette, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Diocese of Peoria, Diocese of Rapid City, Diocese of Sioux City, Diocese of Sioux Falls, Diocese of Saint Cloud, Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

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