



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

WINTER 2023-24 NEWSLETTER

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

Psalm 133:1



Letter from the **Rector**

While the mystery of the Incarnation is always central to our faith, it gets particular attention in the season of Christmas. We pause to marvel at the mystery of a God who loves us so much that he chooses to become one of us, entering into all the details of a human life. The God revealed to us in the Incarnation is a God who does not keep us at arm's length but instead draws near to assure us that we are not alone. And as the Second Person of the Trinity takes upon himself our nature, he brings new dignity to everything that is truly human, including all the processes of development and maturation that mark our journey of life.

In walking with the seminarians, I witness such development before my very eyes as they come to give themselves more completely to Christ. This development also occurs in the very structures of formation itself. Throughout the past few years, the Church in the United States has been working toward implementing some new elements into the process of formation, and you will see some of those elements on display in the pages of this newsletter. In particular, we now refer to various "stages" of formation, and the two stages that unfold at IHMS are the "propaedeutic" and "discipleship" stages.

However we might structure formation, whatever tools and terminology we might employ, the end purpose remains the same: to aid those engaged in this work to come to know Jesus more deeply and give themselves to him more completely. As he gave himself to us without reserve in the mystery of the Incarnation, so we seek to respond to his generosity as best we can. In these days of Christmas celebration, I pray that all of us will experience the Lord's generosity and nearness in a new way and be moved to share in turn what he has given to us.



In these days of Christmas celebration, I pray that all of us will experience the Lord's generosity and nearness in a new way and be moved to share in turn what he has given to us.

Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector

Advent

A Season to Recline, Receive, and Relish

Fr. Martin Schaefer
Vice Rector, Dean of Formation

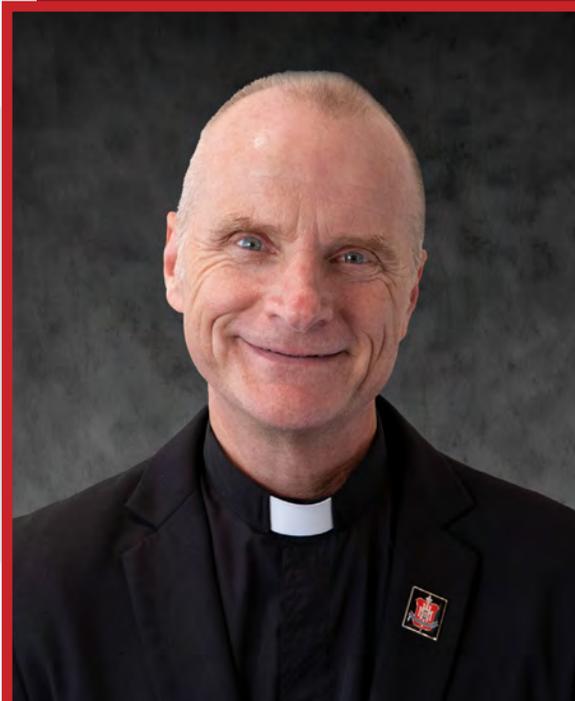
As the Dean of Formation, I'm always looking for opportunities to encourage the seminarians to embrace each moment where Christ desires to meet them.

So often we can hold on to past hurts and disappointments or get anxious about the future that we forget to live in the present moment where Christ speaks to us and loves us.

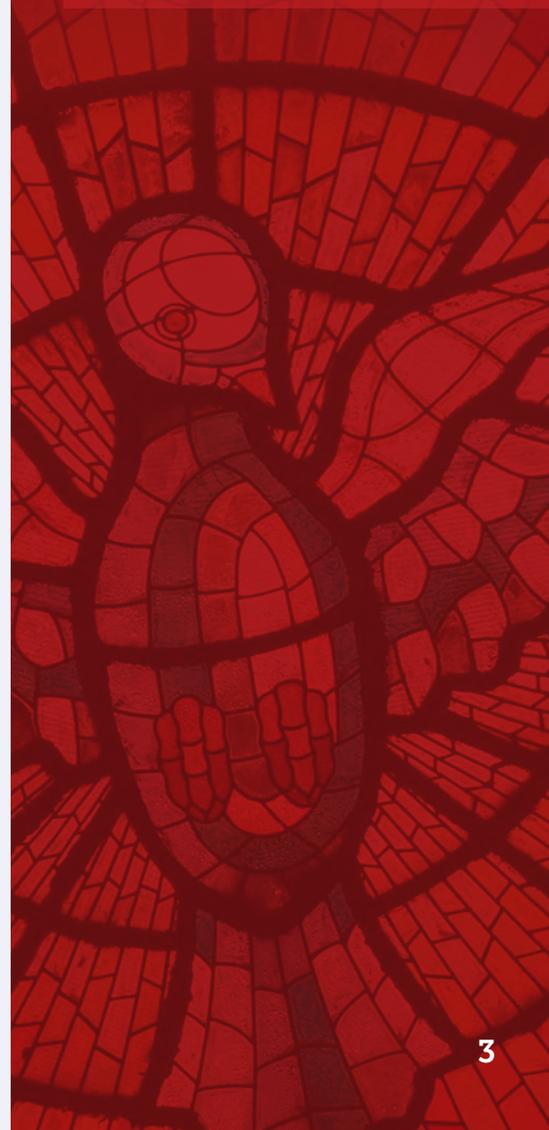
Each moment holds the promise of Christ presenting himself to us, calling us to abide with him in love. There is definitely a different tone in the seminary as we enter the Advent season. The semester is winding down and the men are eager to have a break. This is a time for them to enter into the prayer of wonder and waiting.

We hearken back to the time of the first coming of Christ when the whole world was waiting for a savior foretold by the Old Testament prophets. No one expected that the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah, would be born of a Virgin in poverty. When the world wasn't looking, God's Word was made flesh and the Father gifted to us a savior, an infant king lying in a manger.

God acted in time and space to rescue us from sin and death. I suggest that our response to God's loving initiative is threefold. First, we recline at the mercy seat of Jesus being present in the "now" and basking in the mystery of the Father's love. Second, as we make ourselves present to the mystery, we receive from the Father the gifts of the Advent season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Third, we simply relish like Mary as she pondered all things in her heart and proclaimed the greatness of the Lord.



Fr. Martin Schaefer
Dean of Formation





Meet Fr. Matthew Fasnacht: New Director of Spiritual Life at IHMS

This August, IHMS welcomed a new Director of Spiritual Life into its halls.

A diocesan native from Janesville, MN and IHMS alumnus, Fr. Matthew Fasnacht has served several parishes across the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, including Church of the Resurrection - Rochester; St. Bernard - Stewartville and St. Bridget - Simpson; St. Mary - Caledonia, St. Olaf - Mabel, and St. Patrick - Brownsville; St. Casimir - Wells, St. John the Baptist - Minnesota Lake, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Easton; and St. Mary - Lake City and St. Patrick - West Albany. Now, he joins IHMS as Director of Spiritual Life in guiding seminarians in their formation.

As the title states, the Director of Spiritual Life is responsible for attending to the seminarians' spiritual journey during their formation, counseling them on their daily lives of prayer and spiritual formation.

"We talk about what's going on in their spiritual lives, mainly their prayer life, what God has been doing," said Fr. Fasnacht, "and then I walk with them in their spiritual journey and point out [blind spots], things they might be missing."

Along with directing the spiritual life of seminarians, Fr. Fasnacht is the Director of Liturgy, conducting the training of servers, sacristans, and lectors for Mass. The transition from parish ministry to IHMS formation teaching has been plentiful, said Fr. Fasnacht, thanks to the welcoming nature of his fellow formators and the seminarians.

"[IHMS] is different from parish ministry; parish ministry is very family based, with lots of married

couples' kids, RCIA, and baptisms. Here, it's all formation and so regimented, with the same schedule every day; morning prayer at 6:30 am, evening prayer at 5:30 pm. Sometimes I wake up, I don't know what day it is," said Fr. Fasnacht about transferring to IHMS, which includes living in the same place as his coworkers and seminarians. "It's a little bizarre. It's like all your parishioners live in a big house with you. But it's good, it's how it should be for seminary formation."

Fr. Fasnacht spent his early adulthood as a commercial artist, before experiencing a spiritual conversion in 2000. He entered IHMS the next year at 26, before continuing to Mundelein Seminary in Chicago for major seminary studies. After being ordained in 2007 and serving parishes across southern Minnesota, Fr. Fasnacht finds himself returning full circle to where his priestly journey began, at IHMS.

"I remember my days here fondly," said Fr. Fasnacht. "The priests here cared a lot about you, they were very patient and kind, but also honest with you in a charitable way. I had the feeling they cared and that they were good priests. I appreciate all that they did to help me in my prayer life and other aspects of formation, so I want to be like they were to me because I'm grateful for what I received."

IHMS and its seminarians have enjoyed Fr. Fasnacht's first semester in his role of spiritual formation. May he continue to prosper as Director of Spiritual Life.

| Carlee Shimek, IHMS Communications

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Thomas Mayefske

| Diocese of Green Bay

Born July 22, 1936, in Menasha, WI, it seemed from a young age Fr. Thomas Mayefske was destined for the priesthood. After receiving his first holy communion in second grade, he fell in love with Jesus through the Eucharist and attended Mass and Communion nearly every day from then on, walking a mile each way to church.

"Mass, church, it was always very important to my family," said Fr. Mayefske. "My own home parish had perpetual adoration and my father would go at 4 am to church, so the Eucharist was central in our family. By eighth grade, everyone was convinced I was going to the seminary except me."

In 1954, Fr. Mayefske originally attended then St. Mary's College, Winona to become an English teacher. In 1955, he joined IHMS. "It was kind of a conclusion to years of people telling me I was going to, so I thought I'd give it a try," said Fr. Mayefske.

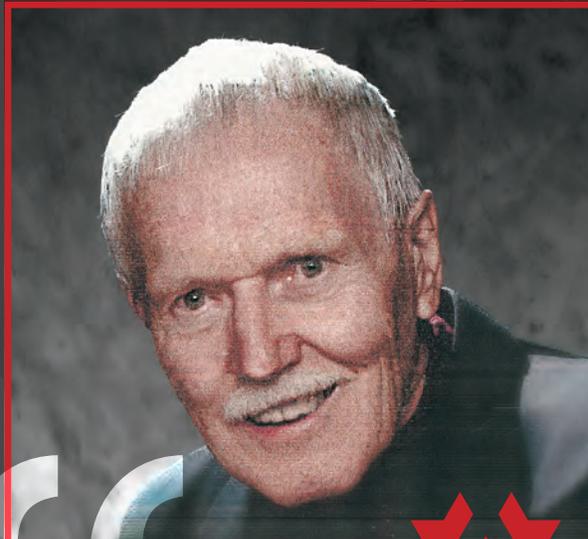
Thinking nothing would come of it, he eventually heard the call Jesus was sending him; part of that growing dedication to formation he experienced was the enjoyable environment of IHMS. "Kelly Hall is a special place," he said. "It was the camaraderie with the rest of the seminarians and the Christian brothers on the St. Mary campus, an excellent combination, that created an atmosphere of peace and harmony."

While attending IHMS, Fr. Mayefske was a man of responsibility as the bell ringer to summon seminarians for prayer, dinner, and other gatherings, and as head of the kitchen, who scheduled and assigned seminarians as waiters and made sure the dining hall was ready for planned events. "I really became a man in the process of going into seminary and living, working, and being in that whole environment," said Fr. Mayefske. "Before [IHMS], I was just a boy, and I became a man in that process."

Fr. Mayefske graduated in 1958, was ordained in 1962, and has served churches and communities across several states for his 60-some years as a priest, from St. Patrick - Green Bay to Lourdes High School - Oshkosh to St. Therese - Appleton five miles from his family home. He mainly served throughout the Midwest, but in 1994, he received a call from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in Albuquerque, NM for an interview as Head of the Office of Worship. It seemed to be fate that he would be offered the position, since members of Fr. Mayefske's family had already moved to Albuquerque from their home in Menasha, WI.

He never lost that itch to teach, however. Officially retired from active priesthood in 2007, Fr. Mayefske still helps in filling in for masses in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and teaching a Homiletics class in the parish hall, always remaining humble in his work.

| Carlee Shimek, IHMS Communications



I was just trying to accomplish what I thought God wanted me to do, be a priest. I also wanted to be a teacher, a formator.

He has certainly achieved all of that and more. Fr. Mayefske, through his priesthood, has shown the value and satisfaction of teaching, regardless of what topic one teaches, be that English like his original plan or liturgy to parishioners.

I do not preach, I talk to people, and they respond by listening and they really do listen.

A Propaedeutic Perspective

Leonidas Miller

Diocese of St. Cloud

Some here would say that their first semester has been crazily busy, and I might say that it has been “interesting”, but I think all would agree that the main theme of the first few months has been this sense of desire to draw closer, or as our vice-rector would put it, “really digging deeper”. I believe that God calls all of us to dig deeper, but at seminary it can be a lot easier to see the ways in which he is working, especially through prayer. I cannot speak for my fellow brothers, but I can testify that I have felt God calling me to something, and although I cannot tell yet what it is in terms of a vocation, I know that he has more planned for me.

Before coming to IHMS, one of my main worries was academics – specifically, could I, as a homeschooler, handle both formation and school? It turns out that it is indeed possible. While schoolwork, comprehension, and passing classes are important, the more important thing to focus on is getting to know the Lord better and building communal bonds with fellow seminarians and college classmates. It is not easy for me, but having learned this over the past semester, I believe that in the future I may be able to relax in God’s goodness more and stress less over the things I cannot control.

Some of my favorite parts about this semester relate to prayer and fellowship. Back in August when I first arrived, the propaedeutic seminarians went on a week-long trip to the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota, and that really helped me grow in relationships with a smaller, more condensed group of men. In October, the entire house attended Vir in Christo at a retreat center in Eastern Minnesota for a weekend, where we had times of prayer, games, and talks from a renowned psychologist. In short, the best times I have had thus far are the times when I stop focusing so much on myself and take time to be with my brothers and with the Lord.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to IHMS, without which such events would not be possible, and please know that we appreciate you.

Immaculate Heart of Mary – Pray for Us!



I believe that God calls all of us to dig deeper, but at seminary it can be a lot easier to see the ways in which he is working, especially through prayer.

Leonidas Miller

Propaedeutic

Diocese of St. Cloud



Reflective Essay

Nicholas Daubner

Discipleship II, Diocese of St. Cloud

I was asked, "In this month of Christ's birth, how has the holy event resonated in my life and others around me?"

When pondering the great importance of Christmas, I am constantly amazed by the Incarnation of Christ. Christ, in His perfect love, chose to take on our human nature and share in our vulnerability. Christ began His life in a vulnerable state, as a baby, and continued His vulnerability to His death on the cross. The real question is why? Why would God, an all-powerful being, become vulnerable?

I once thought that vulnerability was a sign of weakness. In reality, it is an invitation to healing. For most, Christmas is a time of great happiness, joy, and excitement. But for others, it may be a time of pain and sadness. We are all in need of interior healing. This succor comes through being vulnerable with God and others. This requires strength and courage on our part. When we share our thoughts, feelings, or emotions with others that are worthy of our trust, we can move forward to a greater recovery. Christ wants to bring us interior healing. The question is, "Do we want this healing?" We must be vulnerable with Christ and admit where we need to be healed. If we truly do not know where the mending needs to take place, we must ask God for the grace to see those areas. Only then can we be given the grace of healing.

Vulnerability also offers us the ability to grow in trust. When someone is open with another, a bond is formed between them. Jesus, during His passion and death, is the perfect example of vulnerability because He had perfect trust in His Father. He wants to share in our tenderness so much that He chose to remain vulnerable through the giving of Himself in the Eucharist. He wants us to be vulnerable with Him and is inviting us to unite His and our unguarded souls together, which will lead to a greater trust and more intimate relationship with Him. Let us live with a deep conviction in Christ, so that in doing so, we may say, "Jesus, I Trust in You".

This Christmas season, let us ponder the vulnerability of Christ and allow His example to change our hearts, so that in being vulnerable with others, and with God in prayer, we may develop relationships of trust that lead to interior healing.

Have a blessed Christmas Season.

Up North and Across the Sea

Ólafur Jóhannesson of Iceland joins IHMS

This year, IHMS is hosting a seminarian from the Diocese of Reykjavík, Iceland. Propaedeutic seminarian Ólafur Jóhannesson attended trade school and spent his early twenties as a full-time carpenter. After learning the history, goodness, and hardships of the Catholic Church and experiencing its community, Ólafur converted to the faith and attended and served at Mass at Christ the King, the Diocese of Reykjavík's Cathedral. There, Bishop Dávid Bartimej Tencer introduced him to Fr. Patrick Arens of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka - Winona. Fr. Arens visits Iceland fairly regularly and was the one to suggest to Ólafur the possibility of applying to IHMS when he contemplated entering seminary formation.

Essentially moving to a new country has been an interesting experience for the 25-year-old. He has been surprised by and enjoyed the very open, friendly, and excitable nature everyone appears to exhibit in the Midwest, not just to friends and family, but strangers as well. Ólafur has also noticed how formal and established the Catholic community feels compared to Iceland, as well as the many different facets it takes on at IHMS, with all the seminarians being from different dioceses and bringing different characteristics to the fraternity. This is not the case in Iceland, he says.

Though the Diocese of Reykjavík covers the entirety of Iceland, only 14,723 out of a population of 376,248 are Catholic, spread throughout an island a bit smaller than Wyoming. The Catholic community, therefore, is generally isolated; if you do not live in the capital of Reykjavík on the west coast like Ólafur, the rest of the Catholics are spread out along the coastal rim, with parishes and towns separated by quite a few miles. The Diocese of Reykjavík can always use more priests to guide its people in Christ's faith.

Ólafur hopes to one day help people as a priest in Iceland and contribute to its small but thriving community.



Ólafur Jóhannesson

Propaedeutic
Diocese of Reykjavík

Busy acclimating to IHMS his first semester, Ólafur enjoyed Thanksgiving with a visit from his mother and sister. Iceland does not celebrate Thanksgiving, so the three enjoyed their very first traditional Thanksgiving dinner with Fr. Arens and his family in Kellogg, MN. The trio stayed the rest of Thanksgiving break in the Twin Cities, where they visited museums, the Mall of America, the historical James J. Hill House mansion, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis' Cathedral of Saint Paul, went to a concert, and saw an IMAX movie for the first time.

Ólafur will spend his Christmas break back home with his extended family in Iceland. An interesting tradition in Iceland is that on December 23, they eat fermented skate stingray, which according to Ólafur does not taste good. The dish developed into a secular Christmas tradition when Catholics ate the fish in honor of Iceland's patron Saint Thorlak during Advent and in times of fasting.

IHMS is blessed to host Ólafur and hopes he enjoys his time amongst his brother seminarians.



Cathedral of Christ the King

Reykjavík, Iceland

A portrait of Andrew Beine, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. A small red and white pin is visible on his lapel.

Seminarians in Rome, Italy

Andrew Beine

Discipleship III, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

This fall, I was blessed with the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Italy and take part in the transitional diaconate ordination celebration of one of my brothers from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The ordination took place at the Altar of the Chair of Saint Peter, above which is set the stunning Bohemian-glass window of the Holy Spirit constructed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (~1660). Gazing upon this window during the ordination reminded me how intimately present and ceaselessly active the Holy Spirit is in the Church today, and that despite any darkness or discord that looms over the Church, God's Light could never be dampened, nor His Spirit ever conquered by our human frailty.

I also had the chance to reconnect with Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS) alumni while in Rome and hear about how the Lord is working in their lives as seminarians being formed at the Pontifical North American College. The following is a brief interview of Ryan Saltness (Diocese of Winona-Rochester), Zavior Franck (Diocese of Duluth) and Thomas Kollasch (Diocese of Sioux City).

| What experiences have been impactful to your formation so far?

Ryan Saltness: Starting my time in Assisi for language school and praying at places that were significant in Francis' life (San Damiano, La Verna, Greccio) has been especially impactful. Francis, like all the saints, is a great model of being "all-in" on what's important. I've found the only thing that matters is that I allow my life to be configured to that of Christ.

| What has studying at the Pontifical North American College (PNAC) been like?

Zavior Franck: Studying at the PNAC has been an incredible experience. In pondering the reality of studying in Rome, I often experience a renewed sense of wonder. This sense of wonder is summed up in a quote attributed to the philosopher Bernard of Chartres:



“We stand on the shoulders of giants.” The truth of this statement is made acutely present to me as I study at the same university where St. John Paul the Great studied and as I learn from the lives of the many saints and martyrs of Rome.

What are some challenges of living in Rome?

Thomas Kollasch: One challenge to living in Rome is the language. The process is engaging but I continue to develop the virtue of being willing to make mistakes as I speak it. Of course, being far from home, family, and the American culture in which I am competent is a challenge. The greatest challenge of living in Rome is learning how to react to my poverty and lack of control over my surroundings. God has been inviting me to reject a mode of self-preservation and to have faith in all He is doing for me here.

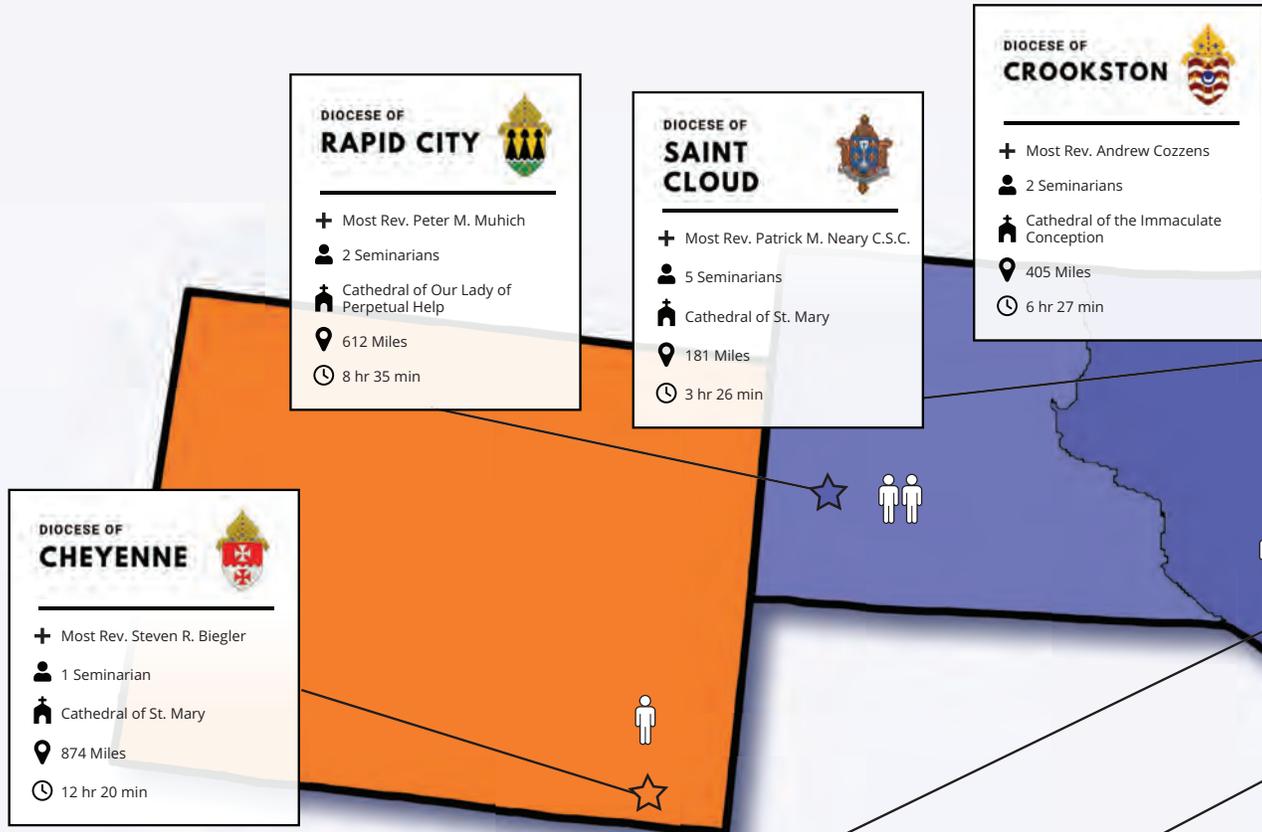
Be sure to keep these IHMS alumni in your prayers alongside the seminarians of IHMS.

We are grateful for your support of the seminary and pray for you regularly. May God continue to make his presence known to you through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and all the saints and angels.





The Seminarians of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (2023-2024)



LEGEND

NAME OF DIOCESE

- + Bishop
- 👤 Number of Seminarians at IHMS
- 🏛️ Cathedral
- 📍 Distance from Cathedral to IHMS
- 🕒 Time from Cathedral to IHMS

DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Rev. Donald E. DeGrood

- 2 Seminarians
- Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- 272 Miles
- 4 hr 5 min

DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

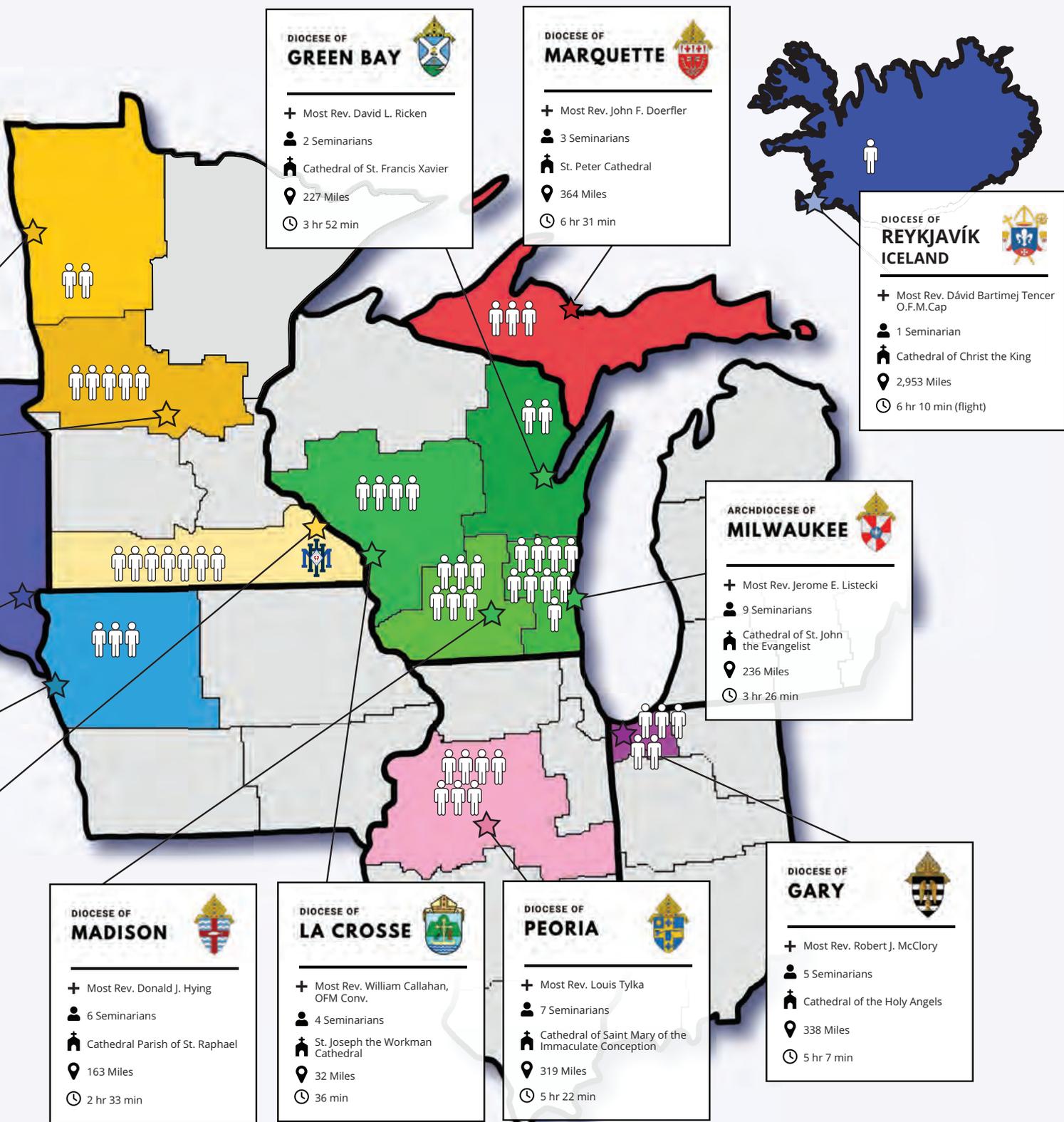
Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless

- 3 Seminarians
- Cathedral of the Epiphany
- 307 Miles
- 4 hr 45 min

DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

Most Rev. Robert Barron

- 7 Seminarians
- Cathedral of the Sacred Heart & Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
- 4 Miles / 43 Miles
- 9 min / 52 min



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

- + Most Rev. David L. Ricken
- 2 Seminarians
- Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier
- 227 Miles
- 3 hr 52 min

DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

- + Most Rev. John F. Doerfler
- 3 Seminarians
- St. Peter Cathedral
- 364 Miles
- 6 hr 31 min

DIOCESE OF REYKJAVÍK ICELAND

- + Most Rev. Dávid Bartimej Tencer O.F.M.Cap
- 1 Seminarian
- Cathedral of Christ the King
- 2,953 Miles
- 6 hr 10 min (flight)

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

- + Most Rev. Jerome E. Listecki
- 9 Seminarians
- Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
- 236 Miles
- 3 hr 26 min

DIOCESE OF MADISON

- + Most Rev. Donald J. Hying
- 6 Seminarians
- Cathedral Parish of St. Raphael
- 163 Miles
- 2 hr 33 min

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE

- + Most Rev. William Callahan, OFM Conv.
- 4 Seminarians
- St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral
- 32 Miles
- 36 min

DIOCESE OF PEORIA

- + Most Rev. Louis Tylka
- 7 Seminarians
- Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception
- 319 Miles
- 5 hr 22 min

DIOCESE OF GARY

- + Most Rev. Robert J. McClory
- 5 Seminarians
- Cathedral of the Holy Angels
- 338 Miles
- 5 hr 7 min

2023/24 IHM Seminary

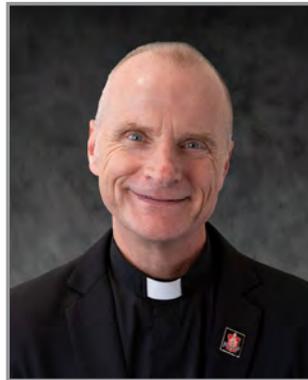
Formators and Seminarians

Formators



Fr. Robert Horihan

Rector



Fr. Martin Schaefer

Vice Rector
Dean of Formation



Fr. Matthew Fasnacht

Director of Spiritual Life



Fr. Jason Kern

Vocation Director

Propaedeutic



Patrick Cullars
Diocese of Gary



Brady Depoorter
Diocese of Peoria



Nathaniel Devlin
Diocese of Peoria



Thomas Dockendorf
Diocese of St. Cloud



William Heiny
Diocese of Marquette



Jared Hernandez
Diocese of Peoria



Ólafur Jóhannesson
Diocese of Reykjavik



Benjamin Kehoe
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Thomas Lundholm
Diocese of Marquette



Dokken Malmberg
Diocese of Cheyenne



Leonidas Miller
Diocese of St. Cloud



Mateo Pascual
Diocese of Peoria



Joseph Putzer
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Finnegan Ritter
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Brian Schmit
Diocese of Sioux City



Vincent St. Marie
Diocese of St. Cloud



Cade Sullivan
Diocese of Madison



Patrick Waddell
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Discipleship I



John Assaf
Diocese of Peoria



David Bauer
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Dominick Brezinski
Diocese of Madison



Thomas Cummings
Diocese of La Crosse



Gianni DiTola
Diocese of Gary



Jacob Fiala
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Andrew Glanville
Diocese of Madison



Westin Gourneau
Diocese of Crookston



Phillips John Paul
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Eric Kohr
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Timothy Kujawa
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Leo Marcotte
Diocese of Gary



Samuel Miron
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



James Nelson
Diocese of Sioux Falls



Liam Pelayic
Diocese of Rapid City



Jarod Raber
Diocese of Peoria



Zachariah Steffens
Diocese of Sioux City

Discipleship II



Nicholas Daubner
Diocese of St. Cloud



Bennett Feudner
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Blase Gebes
Diocese of Rapid City



Paul Guertin
Diocese of St. Cloud



Seth Hakes
Diocese of Madison



Nicholas Klika
Diocese of Green Bay



Jake Lozon
Diocese of La Crosse



Andrew McNally
Diocese of La Crosse



Ryan Pierce
Diocese of Gary



Charles Pomroy
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Peter Schoonmaker
Diocese of Peoria



Jon Stone
Diocese of Crookston



Charles Tackman
Diocese of Marquette



Bastien Wolfe
Diocese of Madison

Discipleship III



Andrew Beine
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



John Paul Bickerstaff
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Nathaniel Garity
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Nicholas Huza
Diocese of Green Bay



Brendan Logan
Diocese of Sioux Falls



David Marrone
Diocese of Madison



Michael Milam
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Alex Radtke
Diocese of La Crosse



Anthony Vera
Diocese of Sioux City



Ethan Vinyard
Diocese of Gary

Apostolic Work Bringing Youth Closer to the Faith

Tim Kujawa

Discipleship I, Diocese of Winona-Rochester

Apostolic works are important because it gives us seminarians an opportunity to test our call to the priesthood. It begins to highlight the ways God desires to love the people He puts before us. It is important to receive God's faithful people with great care, as he says to us in Paul's letter to Philemon, "I am sending [them], that is, my very own heart, back to you" (1:12). It is in living out our vocation that we receive clarity from the Lord as to whether this is the path He intends for us.

I was fortunate over the summer to participate in training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). It is a complete immersion of your body and soul into the heart of our Catholic faith. It is an excellent program. For the outside observer, it resembles seeing a book on prayer come to life in the children who effortlessly live the biblical practices out. The program presents aspects of faith to the children in a tangible way as a "work". There are many different works for the children to do, who choose what they want to spend time on.

As they do the work, they enter meditation and contemplation of the material and the "work" becomes prayer and life as its intended: through Him, with Him, and in Him. Often, as children are raised into adults, they're taught to seek affirmation, acceptance, direction, happiness, and identity from outside of themselves. In CGS, the children are taught to stay within themselves and interact with the "interior witness" as they perform a task, the Holy Spirit within their souls as St. Gregory the Great explains.

My role has been assisting Sr. Mary Andrea, RSM, in the classroom with children in kindergarten through second grade in St. Luke Hall at Cotter Schools, Winona, MN. I assist the children with questions about the "work" they have chosen to perform and sometimes teach them new works. Some of the classes have over 20 children, so there are a lot of them to keep track of.



As the year has progressed and the children have become more familiar with the environment, less interaction is required as they quietly and prayerfully attend to their work. It truly becomes a moment of contemplation and intimacy with the Lord for them. I have read countless books and listened to even more talks and conferences on prayer that try to bring adults to this state; the children are there naturally. With CGS, this natural state could be cultivated before it is lost. Perhaps this would result in fewer youth leaving the faith since they can develop a stronger, more intimate, working relationship with the Lord in their daily life.



Seminarians Bringing Cheer through Caroling

Jon Stone

Discipleship II, Diocese of Crookston

Before finals week and the end of fall semester, around twenty seminarians (and several campus students) spent their afternoon partaking in the well-loved annual event of Christmas caroling. The jolly group first traveled to Saint Anne's nursing home to put on a Christmas concert, where the singers were warmly welcomed for the festive recital. For two hours, the troupe of carolers made their way around Saint Mary's University of Minnesota campus and neighboring homes announcing the time of year in four-part harmony.

Many households thanked the group heartily for the Christmas cheer, some even welcoming the group into their home to warm their hands for a bit. Singing these well-loved carols has proven to be truly a joyous way to announce the coming of Christ to the community at large, particularly as it is no longer often done. **As the season of Advent draws to a close, let us all be mindful of the joyous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ; peace to you all!**



**IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY
SEMINARY**



SAVE THE DATE

BISHOPS & RECTOR DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL EVENT CENTER | ROCHESTER, MN

4:30 – 5:30 PM **Social Hour** (cash bar)

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM **Dinner/Program**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS
SPECIAL EVENT, MORE DETAILS TO COME.

For questions about the event, contact Monica Herman:
507-858-1276 or mherman@catholicismn.org



THIS YEAR WE HONOR
BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS OF
THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

December 30—January 6
Seminarian Retreats

January 8
Spring semester begins at
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

January 22
March for Life

**February 24—26
and March 15—18**
Vocation Information Weekends

March 2—10
Spring Break

March 19
Founders' Day, Saint Mary's
University of Minnesota

March 23—24
Vir in Christo Weekend

March 25
Chrism Mass

March 28—April 1
Easter Break

April 12
Bishops and Rector Dinner

May 4
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Commencement

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 alumnus
of IHMS. We are always looking for alumni
spotlight stories, please share yours!

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IHMS is more than a place.

*It is an experience...an opportunity
for men to follow Christ.*

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 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 Reykjavík, Diocese of
Sioux City, Diocese of Sioux Falls, Diocese of Saint Cloud,
Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

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