



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

FALL 2019 **NEWSLETTER**



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

Psalm 133:1

Letter from the Rector

In one of the most significant documentations of recent decades on priestly formation, Pope St. John Paul II notes that those working in formation should seek "to become ever more suitable for carrying out the task entrusted to them" (Pastores Dabo Vobis 66). All of us serving on the faculty here at IHMS are well aware of this call to refine and hone our ability to walk with the seminarians in the way of discernment and formation, and all of us have taken advantage of various opportunities in recent months to strengthen our own skills as formators.

In the final weeks of June, Fr. Kern and I participated in a certificate program for seminary formation for missionary discipleship. Earlier in June, Fr. Schaefer attended the annual conference sponsored by the National Association of College Seminaries, in which he gained further insights about the role of psychology in seminary formation. Still earlier, in the spring, Fr. Dobbs partook in a "Prophecy School" conference, which focused on the role of the charism of prophecy and its contribution to the work of evangelization; as we know well, evangelization is one of the key duties of priests, and hence potential future priests will be well served by familiarity with all the tools provided by the Spirit to facilitate the spread of the Gospel.

As we have all engaged in these efforts of continuing education, we have certainly gained skills and insights into our work and our charge, but above all, we have also gained a new awareness of the depth of God's love for us in summoning us to this ministry. Ultimately, it is this love that renders us "more suitable" to serve in formation, and it is this divine generosity that we hope to share with the men at IHMS as they continue in their work of seeking the Lord's will in their lives.

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Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector



From left to right: Rev. Martin Schaefer, Alex Kren, Rev. Jason Kern, Cullen Gallagher, Matthew Koestler, John Zweber, Most Rev. John M. Quinn, Rev. Robert Horihan, John Wilebski III, Daniel Dionesotes, Rev. Jeffrey Dobbs, David Drefcinski

With graduation wrapped up, I look back on my time at IHMS with gratitude for all that God has given me through attending seminary.

When I first arrived at the seminary two years ago, I was very anxious and nervous. I had just finished two years of college and had been running from my vocation for just as long. When I arrived at IHMS, I didn't know anyone, I had no idea what life here would be like, and it would have been a stretch to say I had a prayer life. All I knew was that I was finally where God wanted me to be. I immediately felt God's reassuring peace, and this place quickly became my home. I developed a prayer life, formed friendships, and made lasting memories.

While formation was not easy, I found that through the guidance of the priests and the encouragement and community of my brother seminarians, I grew closer to Christ with a spirit of constant conversion. I now look back on the times I failed to trust in God and realize my radical dependence on His grace and mercy.

I had the pleasure of graduating with David Drefcinski, John Zweber, John Wilebski III, Alex Kren, Cullen Gallagher, and Matt Koestler. The evening of May 10th, Fr. Horihan celebrated the IHMS Baccalaureate Mass with the seniors and their families and friends. In the homily, he compared the transformative aspect of Saul's conversion to seminary formation. As I sat there, this analogy resonated with me since the person I was when I first stepped foot in the seminary seems so distant from who I have become.

May 11th brought the graduation ceremony at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. When commencement finished, we said our bittersweet goodbyes, knowing we will never forget our time at IHMS or the Christ-centered relationships that we developed here.

Daniel Dionesotes, Diocese of Peoria

Ordination

This year IHMS had three alumni ordained to the priesthood and three to the transitional diaconate.

On Saturday, June 8th, Patrick Hoeft, Brady Keller, and Thomas Skaja from the Diocese of St. Cloud were ordained to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud, MN. After graduating from IHMS in 2015, all three men attended major seminary at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN. After finishing their summer assignments, they will be returning to St. Paul Seminary to complete their studies and prepare for their ordination to the priesthood in the summer of 2020.

This summer Deacon Hoeft is working at the cluster of St. Joseph Parish in Bertha, MN; Christ the King Parish in Browerville; and St. Joseph Parish in Clarissa. Deacon Keller is stationed at Sacred Heart Parish in Staples, MN and St. Michael Parish in Motley, MN. Deacon Skaja is working at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Battle Lake, MN; St. Edward Parish in Henning, MN; and St. James Parish in Underwood, MN.

Fr. Matthew Faucett was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay on June 22nd at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay, WI. After graduating from IHMS, Fr. Faucett attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome and is currently at St. Francis Xavier Parish, De Pere, WI and St. Mary Parish in Ledgeview, WI.

Fr. Zane Pekron was ordained to the presbyterate on May 28, for the Diocese of Rapid City, SD, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Originally from Milesville, SD, Fr. Pekron attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN, after graduating from IHMS. His first station will be as the Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Spearfish, SD, and St. Paul Parish, Belle Fourche, SD.

Fr. Matthew Wagner was ordained June 28 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona, MN for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. Starting July 1, he began his time as the Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. Casimir Parishes in Winona, MN. Fr. Wagner attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, MI, after graduating from IHMS.

We are very proud of these men and are grateful to have been a part of their formation journey. Please pray for all these men as they start their new assignments.



Rev. Zane Pekron and Most Rev. Robert Gruss



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rev. Matthew Faucett, Most Rev. David Ricken, and Rev. William Evans



Rev. Matthew Wagner and Rev. Jason Kern

Summer Formation

Ivan Alatorre, Diocese of Gary

During summer, we take a break from academics and time off from the seminary.

Though we take a break from being at IHMS, our formation continues beyond the walls of the seminary. Many of us have assignments in our home dioceses, such as a parish assignment, or other ministerial work such as Totus Tuus – a summer Catholic catechetical program dedicated to the youth in order to evangelize and teach the faith of the Church.

Last summer, I was assigned to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Schererville, Indiana. I lived in the rectory and worked with the pastor, shadowing him and observing the daily life of a priest. This assignment was a great way to grow in my pastoral formation and learn more about communities in my diocese.

During this time, we are also asked to continue deepening our relationship with Christ. To do so, we must continue attending daily Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and spending time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our formators will not be around, so we must take the skills taught throughout the year and incorporate them into our lives outside the seminary. We are asked, though not required, to set a goal during our break to prepare ourselves for the next year. For example, I will take advantage of my additional free time this summer by exercising regularly, thus developing healthier habits.

Though summer is a time to relax from papers and exams, it is also an excellent opportunity to engage in our home dioceses and to continue to ponder the call from our Lord. As Father Horihan always reminds us, we must always keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Only by doing so can we come closer to fully understanding His call.



Junior Year

Jordan Danielson, Diocese of Winona-Rochester

I was very excited to attend IHMS right out of high school, and I was not disappointed in my experience here. Throughout the three years that I have attended IHMS, I have been able to grow and develop myself in a multitude of ways. During my first year of formation, I focused on becoming more aware of myself by understanding my thoughts and emotions. In my second year of formation, I concentrated on growing in self-acceptance and being able to relate my feelings and emotions to the Father in prayer. I also started to adopt healthier strategies for developing and strengthening stress management.

The third year of seminary formation is usually the most formative because we are preparing for senior year and discerning the call to the priesthood. This includes taking on more leadership positions within the seminary.

My junior year of seminary formation had many challenges as well as opportunities to cultivate skills for senior year. As a junior, I had to take up more of a leadership position within the seminary. For my first two years at IHMS, my house job was working on the yard crew. In my junior year I was the Hall Director and Guest Master, making sure that our guests had clean rooms and that all the seminarians had what they needed to do their house jobs.

Another responsibility that I was asked to take on last year was to be the junior-class prefect. As the junior-class prefect, I lead and facilitate class meetings, am a member of the IHMS Community Council, and coordinate various events within the seminary community.

These responsibilities are in place to foster a sense of self-gift and integration and are being cultivated to prepare me for my senior year. In my fourth year of seminary formation, I am expecting to come to a greater sense of self-mastery and to capitalize on my capacity for pastoral charity.



Alumni SPOTLIGHT

By: William O'Donnell, Diocese of Gary

For this Alumni Spotlight we are featuring Fr. David Kime, vocations director for the Diocese of Gary, Indiana.

Fr. David Kime says, "there are two main points I learned from IHMS that I continue to use as a priest." One is the importance of living a life of prayer, and the other is the ability to connect and build Christ-centered relationships.

Fr. Kime recalls that when he first entered IHMS in 1991, he immediately noticed the importance of living a life of prayer focused on the Eucharist and Our Lady. He sees the reason IHMS excelled in this area is that a life of worship was "encouraged and practiced in a spiritually rich environment." Fr. Kime says that this encouragement "called me into the depth of Christ's love." It was this factor that led him to a real appreciation for receiving the Eucharist and the practice of devotion to Mary.



The second factor he notices continuing to influence him is the recognition of the importance of building fraternity. Fr. Kime went on to explain how his experience at IHMS led him

...to learn how brothers can come to love and serve the Lord, in any way of discernment."

Since his ordination in 1997, Fr. Kime continues to give thanks and praise to IHMS for helping him develop these cornerstones of his life as a priest. As the Diocese of Gary's vocations director, he is honored to assist in sending men to the place the Lord is calling them to discern their vocation.

2019 Bishops & Rector Dinner

On Friday, April 12th, IHMS hosted its 16th annual Bishops and Rector Dinner at the Rochester International Event Center, celebrating IHMS's work in forming seminarians from 15 dioceses.

Three hundred sixty attendees heard from Bishop John M. Quinn of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, IHMS's Rector Fr. Robert S. Horihan, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Archbishop Chaput was the recipient of the 2019 Immaculate Heart of Mary award for all of his efforts in promoting vocations to the priesthood. During his time as the Archbishop of Denver, he ordained 71 men, and he continues his work of supporting vocations in overseeing the efforts of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

Archbishop Chaput's spoke on the topic of "Faith and Hope for an Uncertain Time." He touched upon what it means to think of ourselves as Catholics in our modern world, and how to trust in the plan God has for us.

"The construction of a Christian culture begins by giving our hearts to God, without plans or reservations, and letting him begin the work. As Christians, we know better than anyone that worlds and empires can turn on the smallest yes," concluded Archbishop Chaput.

Attendees of the Bishops and Rector Dinner were also able to visit with seminarians during the social. IHMS alumni David Kruse and Fr. Matthew Wagner, and current IHMS seminarians Riley Becher, Jack Kinnunen, Ethan Lacey, Isaiah Lippert, and Tyler Pranger provided the musical entertainment during dinner.

IHMS invites you to join us at next year's Bishops and Rector Dinner to be held April 17, 2020, at the Rochester International Event Center. Bishop William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv. DD of the Diocese of La Crosse will be the speaker and recipient of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Award.



My Vocation Story

I grew up in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, just west of Madison, in a Catholic family. We attended Mass every Sunday and CCD, and I remember even at a young age thinking about the priesthood, but never too seriously. In high school, my faith started to wane. I still attended Mass and CCD, but it was not the focus of my life. After Confirmation, I did not put much effort into learning about or caring about the Church or the Faith. I never entirely fell away, but I was just going through the motions.

That went on for about six years, and it was my coworkers who helped me slowly come to learn more about the Faith. They knew I went to church regularly and began to ask me about the Faith. I did not have answers for them, and it forced me to investigate what we believe as Catholics and why. As I learned more, the logic and beauty of the Faith drew me to learn even more. After six years, I returned to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and it was amazing! I slowly learned more about the Faith and began to see the reasoning behind our Faith.

While I learned more about the Faith, the thought of priesthood began to grow again. In my research I saw that many saints had devotions to Mary, and in 2015, I made a consecration to Jesus through Mary. Making the consecration helped increase my faith, and I began to see Mary's influence increase in my life. I went to a discernment group meeting in Madison and told the vocations director, Fr. Greg Ihm, that I was thinking about attending seminary. He invited me to different events, including a trip to the Shrine Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I was able to go, and during the trip, I asked for guidance if attending seminary was the path God wanted for me.

In 2017, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, I asked Fr. Greg for the application to the diocesan seminarian program. After being accepted into the program, they told me I would either go to Seton Hall Seminary in New Jersey, or Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Minnesota. Once I heard IHMS was a possibility, I knew Mary would be sending me to Minnesota.

"It has been a great first year, and I look forward to continuing to grow in my faith here at IHMS."



Barry Meinholz
Diocese of Madison

Vocation Information Weekend

We want to invite anyone who is thinking about attending seminary to join us for a Vocation Information Weekend. This school year, we will be hosting three Information Weekends to better accommodate all the potential seminarians. The dates are November 9-10, 2019, March 14-15, 2020, and March 21-22, 2020.

We had terrific turnouts to both our Information Weekends last year with 26 potential seminarians at the fall weekend and 42 during the spring weekend! By adding additional dates, we hope to more completely show what day to day life is like as a seminarian by giving a more individualized look at what attending IHMS is like. This way, we can better show the duties and responsibilities of being a seminarian here. Attendees also spend time touring Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, learning about the courses seminarians take.

If you or anyone you know is interested in attending the Information Weekend, please contact your diocesan vocation director for the application and additional information.



Mundelein Basketball Tournament

This past January, IHMS sent a team of seminarians to Mundelein Seminary in Chicago to take part in the 19th Annual Father Pat O'Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament. This year, the team made it to the quarterfinals before being defeated by the team from Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, from Denton, NE, who then went on to win the tournament. This is the furthest the IHMS team has gotten in recent years, and it was very uplifting for all the seminarians to have the team do so well.

The Mundelein Tournament brings together seminarians from all over the country to experience friendly competition and fraternity. This tournament helps the seminarians build bonds by working towards a common goal, and it shows the importance of Christ-centered interpersonal relationships. This tournament is one that the seminarians look forward to attending, and they are all eager to see how the team does each year.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

October 12-15
Autumn Recess

November 2-3
Free Weekend

November 9-10
Vocation Information Weekend

November 27 - December 2
Thanksgiving Recess

December 18
Christmas Recess Begins

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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 serve the following dioceses, who have entrusted us with their seminarians formation.

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 Superior, Diocese of
St. Cloud, Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

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