



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

WINTER 2018

NEWSLETTER



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

Psalm 133:1

Letter from the **Rector**

As I have visited with people about how my third year as rector is proceeding, I have often found myself commenting on how pleased I am not to be currently overseeing either a major renovation or building project! My first year saw me devote much of my energy to endeavors connected to the renovation of Kelly Hall, and my second year saw a great deal of effort dedicated to the addition of the new structure which now connects Kelly and Leo Halls, an addition which allows for greater fraternity among the brothers and hospitality to visitors. While I am grateful that we were able to implement such updates to our physical complex, I am especially grateful that we are now enjoying those updates rather than watching them come to fruition. Naturally, my thanks go out to all of our benefactors whose generosity made possible these enhancements to our facility.

Of course, these improvements to the physical plant are all in service of a still greater end—namely, aiding the seminarians who come to IHMS in discerning how the Lord is calling them to follow him. Our aim was not simply to create a more pleasant environment in which to live and work; rather, our goal was to enhance further the work that IHMS has been doing so well for seven decades: the work of discernment and formation. Our capital improvements were intended to help the men be more attentive to the movement of the Spirit in their minds and hearts; to assist them in being more focused on the presence of Christ accompanying them on the walk of discipleship; and to aid them in hearing the Father's call as he summons them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, his Son. As I continue my third year as rector, I have every confidence that this work of building up the life of discipleship and discernment—a work that ultimately is God's very own—**will be constantly in progress within the halls of IHMS.**

Our aim was not simply to create a more pleasant environment in which to live and work; rather, our goal was to enhance further the work that IHMS has been doing so well for seven decades...

Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector





Preparing for **CHRISTMAS**

Christmastime gives us the opportunity to reflect

with grateful hearts on all the gifts we have received from the Lord. This is a special time of year to gather together with our friends, family, and neighbors, and celebrate the gift of Christ Jesus coming to earth.

This season is especially beautiful when celebrated as a community- whether that be with your family, church community, or even with strangers coming together for a united cause. Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS) strives to provide a place of community where the seminarians are encouraged to focus on life in common and serving others. The formation program at IHMS requires all of the seminarians partake in apostolic works and community service, including visiting the elderly, teaching faith-formation classes, and volunteering at the Winona Warming Center.

Taking time this holiday season to serve one's community is a wonderful way to show gratefulness for the gift that we receive at Christmas. Visiting a neighbor who cannot be with their family, volunteering at a local food pantry or halfway home, or donating clothing or toys to families who may not be able to afford any presents are all great ways of giving back to your community.

Christmastime is also one of sacrifice, as we mold our hearts to be more like Jesus, basing our actions on the ways He lived. As we start a new year, take some time to contemplate what you can do to continue serving in your community year-round.

From everyone here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, we want to wish you a very blessed and Merry Christmas.



The Importance of Mother Mary for Vocations

By Fr. Jason Kern



When I came to Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary as a seminarian in the fall of 2005, I quickly came to realize that the Blessed Virgin Mary would be a significant part of my formation as I discerned if God was calling me to be a priest. Now, after spending my undergraduate years here and being a faculty member for over a year, I can truly say that it is in Mary that formation comes to fruition as she molds the hearts of the men who enter these walls.

We can sometimes think of Mary as a type of 'add-on' or bonus prize in our Catholic faith, but the reality remains that Mary is never just another addition to our faith; Mary is Mother and just as a mother forms the child, so Mary forms her priests to learn the way of her Son, to form men's hearts to become the Heart of the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

Mary becomes the way in which we learn to be open and receptive to the will of God. Mary teaches us docility and availability as we grow in generosity. Mary teaches us fidelity as we learn the truths of the Church and form our minds and hearts to live in conformity to the Magisterium. Mary teaches us obedience as we learn to trust authority and those who lead and govern the Church. Mary teaches us humility as we break down

the walls of pride and self-reliance. Surely, it is through Mary that life in Christ becomes the way forward for those preparing to be priests. Mary forms us to be her Son. I take great solace in the following words written on seminary formation by Pope Saint John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation,

Pastores Dabo Vobis

(I will Give You Shepherds):

“Every aspect of priestly formation can be referred to Mary, the human being who has responded better than any other to God's call. Mary became both the servant and the disciple of the Word to the point of conceiving, in her heart and in her flesh, the Word made man, so as to give him to mankind. Mary was called to educate the one eternal priest, who became docile and subject to her motherly authority. With her example and intercession, the Blessed Virgin keeps vigilant watch over the growth of vocations and priestly life in the Church. (No. 82) ”

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us
and protect our vocations!*

My Vocation Story

I grew up in Boscobel, Wisconsin, a small town located in the southwest corner of the state. Growing up, I spent most of my time playing outside with my friends and siblings, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and helping on my grandparents' farm. Up until I was about 16, I rarely attended Mass, though I did attend CCD.

When I was a freshman in high school, I was involved in a relationship that ended on bad terms, and I was devastated. I felt very lost and confused. One night, shortly after the breakup, I was digging through my dresser and found a rosary and prayer card I was given the day I received First Communion. I had never prayed with the rosary, but for some reason, I picked it up, knelt beside my bed, and began to pray. The more I prayed the more I experienced an immense feeling of comfort. I didn't know what exactly I was experiencing, but I was intrigued, nonetheless.

A few days afterwards I went to the Catholic Church in town. The priest there, Father Peter Auer, answered and explained many of the questions I had pertaining to what I experienced and about the Church in general. I began attending weekly Mass and daily Mass when it was offered before school, utilizing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and developing a prayer life.

A few days after I turned 17, I enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and attended basic training the summer between my junior and senior year. This experience helped me realize how important my faith was, and I began to think of the priesthood as a serious possibility. I was attracted to the duty of the chaplains in the military, and I came to realize how important priests are; without the priest, there is no Eucharist.

After I graduated high school, I continued my training with the National Guard, and once more, by being away from the comforts of home, I was able to focus more on what truly mattered: God. I allowed the idea of the priesthood to re-surface while at training, but I shoved it to the side when I returned home.

After returning home I got a job logging and although I enjoyed the job, I knew I didn't want to do it forever. I began thinking of other possible things to do, and I decided to take advantage of the education benefits I receive through the military and started attending the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point the fall of 2017.

At the time, I didn't think it was possible to fulfill my Guard duties while also being in seminary. However, as I talked to my vocations director, he said they were willing to work around it, so I applied and was accepted. With my monthly National Guard obligations being in the southwest corner of Wisconsin, I was fortunate to be accepted into Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota, and I couldn't have picked a nicer location to grow into the man God is calling me to be.



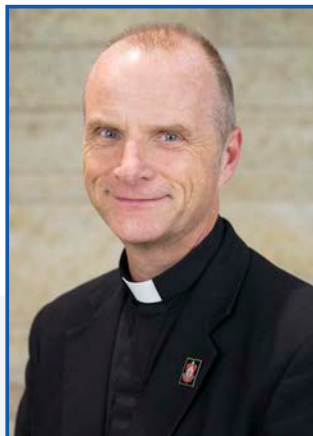
Trae Sander
Diocese of Madison

2018/19 IHM Seminary

FACULTY



Fr. Robert Horihan
Rector



Fr. Martin Schaefer
Vice Rector
Dean of Formation



Fr. Jeffrey Dobbs
Director of Spiritual Life



Fr. Jason Kern
Vocation Director

PRE-THEOLOGY



Matthew Koestler
Diocese of Winona-
Rochester



Nicholas Gawarecki
Diocese of Winona-
Rochester

SENIORS



Daniel Dionesotes
Diocese of Peoria



David Drefcinski
Diocese of Madison



Andrew Dushek
Diocese of La Crosse



Cullen Gallagher
Archdiocese of St.
Paul/Minneapolis



Alex Kren
Diocese of La Crosse



John Wilebski
Diocese of Crookston



John Zweber
Diocese of La Crosse

JUNIORS



Jordan Danielson
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Samuel Hurst
Diocese of Crookston



Jack Kinnunen
Diocese of Marquette



John Kluge
Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis



William Murray
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Joel O'Shea
Diocese of Gary



Tyler Pranger
Diocese of Sioux Falls



Peter Specht
Diocese of Duluth



Nathan Young
Diocese of Duluth

SOPHOMORES



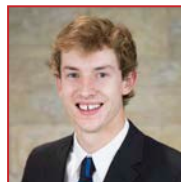
Ivan Alatorre
Diocese of Gary



Juan Carlos Altamirano-Herrera
Diocese of Green Bay



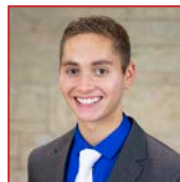
Daniel Buchal
Diocese of La Crosse



Konrad Bueckers
Diocese of Duluth



Daniel Delgado
Diocese of Peoria



Ethan Lacey
Diocese of Peoria



Isaiah Lippert
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Ryan Mann
Diocese of Peoria



Teagan McDermott
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Joseph Pyka
Diocese of La Crosse



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Diocese of Madison



Trae Sander
Diocese of Madison



Benjamin Schoonmaker
Diocese of Peoria



Jack Swoik
Diocese of Peoria



Joseph VanDenheuvel
Diocese of Saint Cloud



Maxwell Vetch
Diocese of Rapid City



Mark Wagner
Diocese of Madison



Timothy Welch
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Isaac Wolfe
Diocese of La Crosse

FRESHMEN



Riley Becher
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



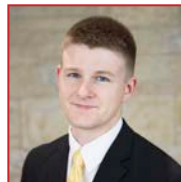
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Diocese of Crookston



Nolen Langrock
Diocese of Sioux Falls



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Elliott McLarty
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Barry Meinholz
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Andrew Mullaney
Diocese of Sioux Falls



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Diocese of Gary



John Regnier
Diocese of La Crosse



Luis Reyes
Diocese of Madison



Francis Strong
Diocese of Peoria

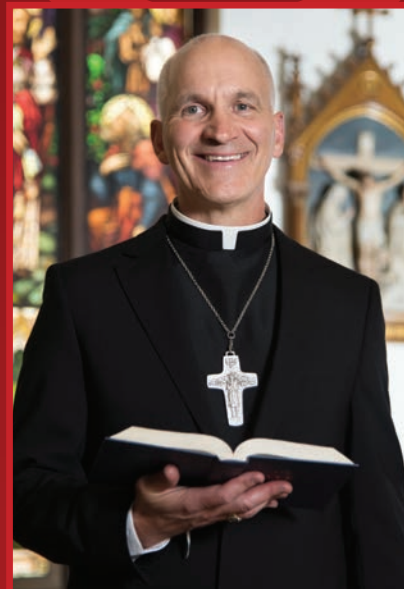


John Waters
Diocese of Sioux City

Alumni HIGHLIGHT

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary has had the privilege to teach and form over 1,500 men in the 70 years it has been established, and IHMS alumni have excelled in both clerical and secular endeavors.

The Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler graduated from IHMS in 1989; he went on to attend the Pontifical North American College in Rome and was ordained to the priesthood on July 9, 1993. Originally from Timber Lake, SD, Bishop Biegler was the pastor for several parishes throughout the Diocese of Rapid City and held multiple diocesan positions there. On June 5, 2017, Bishop Biegler was ordained as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, which encompasses the entire state of Wyoming.



Bishop Biegler entered seminary later than most: he was 27 when he started at IHMS and says that while he did not heed the call to the priesthood right away, “God kept hounding me to the priesthood through the ways in which I experienced Him- through the peace and forgiveness I received.” Before coming to IHMS, Bishop Biegler worked a variety of jobs, but most of his time after graduating high school was spent working on his family’s farm, which gave him the opportunity to think about what he wanted with his life. Eventually, this pull brought him to the realization that he might be called to the priesthood. After talking to his Vocations Director, he enrolled at IHMS in the fall of 1986.

“Saint Mary’s has a strong academic program,” says Bishop Biegler, commenting on the education he received at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota: “I’m grateful to have taken all those liberal arts courses.” He reflects that in particular the strong philosophy program under the leadership of Fr. Fabian and the languages he studied, Latin and Greek, were very important as he continued his education.

Bishop Biegler believes the guidance he received at IHMS was vital to his discernment, particularly the formation he received from then-Rector Msgr. Gerald Mahon, “The formation that I received at IHMS really helped increase my leadership skills and confidence,” says Bishop Biegler, “and it really encouraged prayer life.”

Bishop Biegler attributes the development of his prayer life to the guidance of the recently deceased Msgr. Donald P. Schmitz, who was his Spiritual Director.

Reminiscing on his time at IHMS, Bishop Biegler also recalled that being able to attend Mass regularly was a large blessing, and part of the way he was able to build such a strong foundation for his vocation.

Senior Responsibilities

Four years ago, I entered seminary after my senior year of high school. I came from a Catholic homeschooling family, and I remember being very shy and nervous. As I entered seminary, I never would have guessed at the many blessings that God would bestow on me. Seminary has helped to form me into the man God is calling me to be. Seminary has given me the ability to see more clearly my many strengths and shortcomings, but most importantly, it has taught me to bring everything I have to Christ so that it may be transformed, elevated, and empowered to be a manifestation of His love on earth.

The faculty and my fraternity with my brother seminarians have helped me grow in ways that I could never have on my own. The guidance of my formators and spiritual director has been crucial to my formation, and the faculty and staff here have always challenged me, encouraged me, and taught me, both by word and example, how to live in an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

I have also received many excellent opportunities to practice leadership. Currently, I serve as the head prefect for the seminary, I have three first-year seminarians whom I mentor, and I am a leader of a formation sharing group. In my role as head prefect, some of my responsibilities are to have weekly meetings with the rector, make the daily announcements, and lead the Community Council meetings. As a mentor and a leader of a formation sharing group, I have the privilege of being able to share the joys and struggles of seminary with other seminarians and offer support, advice and prayers. Getting to know my brothers and sharing in their struggles, joys and sorrows has truly been one of the greatest blessings of seminary. I know that I would not be the man I am today if it were not for my brothers who were there to support me.

Most importantly, I have found that seminary is a place where I have everything I need to grow in personal holiness. I know that the formation I have received through faculty members, my brothers, and in the hours of personal prayer has led me closer to God. Now I pray that, as I come to the end of my time at IHM, my life will lead others to experience God's goodness.



"The faculty and the fraternity with my brother seminarians has helped me grow in ways that I could never have on my own."

John Zweber
Diocese of La Crosse



VOCATION INFORMATION WEEKEND

This semester IHMS had the privilege of welcoming 26 prospective seminarians from 6 dioceses for the biannual Vocation Information Weekend. This weekend retreat is a wonderful opportunity for men to learn more about what the process of discernment is like here at IHMS. It provides them a chance to meet and spend time with current seminarians and contemplate what the next step is in their faith journey.

The weekend retreat was created to help the prospective seminarians understand the commitment that comes with being a seminarian, and to show them the culture of IHMS and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. It was a busy, and fulfilling weekend, including Mass and daily prayer, discussions with the Rector, and time to get to know the current seminarians.

If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about becoming a seminarian there will be another Vocation Information Weekend in March; for more information you can contact our office by calling **507-205-9237** or emailing **info@ihmseminary.org**. If you are interested in registering please contact your diocesan Vocation Director.



A New President for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

At the start of the school year the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota community, which includes the students of IHMS, welcomed the University's 14th president,

Fr. James P. Burns. Officially becoming the president on July 9, 2018, Fr. Burns celebrated his inauguration on October 5, 2018. Fr. Burns succeeded Brother William Mann, who held the office of the president for ten years. He is the first priest to hold the title since Monsignor John H. Peschges, who was president between 1918 and 1933.

Fr. Burns designated his inauguration theme to be "Saint Mary's: A Sign of Faith, Hope, and Knowledge." Before joining Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Fr. Burns was the dean of Woods College of Advancing Studies and Summer Session at Boston College, Boston, MA from 2010 to 2018, where he helped lead the college to a twenty five percent increase in first-year retention, and a forty percent increase in revenue, among other contributions.

IHMS is grateful to have had the opportunity to celebrate this joyous occasion with the Saint Mary's community and looks forward to working with Fr. Burns in the years to come.

Letter from the Communications Office



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If you want to keep connected with what is happening at the seminary between the Summer and Winter newsletters, follow us on Facebook for weekly updates. This year we started a bimonthly email newsletter. This is another channel to keep up with what is going on at IHMS and upcoming events. If you are interested in receiving the email newsletter, contact me by phone or email to be added to the list of recipients.

Launching our NEW website!

We have just launched our new website! We hope this will provide a more effective place for us to communicate with the greater Catholic community, as well as prospective and current seminarians.

You can check it out by going to <https://ihmseminary.org>



Merry Christmas!

As the year comes to a close, the faculty and staff want to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who has supported Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary this past year. It has been a wonderful year for us and we could not do it without you. Whether you supported us financially or with prayers, it has made tremendous difference.

Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector





UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

January 4

Juniors and Seniors Return

January 6

Freshmen and Sophomores return

January 14

SMUMN Classes begin

January 22

March for Life (St. Paul, MN)

January 25-27

Mundelein Seminary Basketball
Tournament (Mundelein, IL)

February 23-March 3

Spring Recess

March 16-18

Vocation Information Weekend

April 12

Bishops and Rector Dinner
(Rochester, MN)

April 18-22

Easter Recess

May 11

SMUMN Commencement

May 13-17

Formation Workshops

May 19

Summer Recess begins

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Dioceses we serve:

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 St. Cloud, Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Diocese of Winona-Rochester