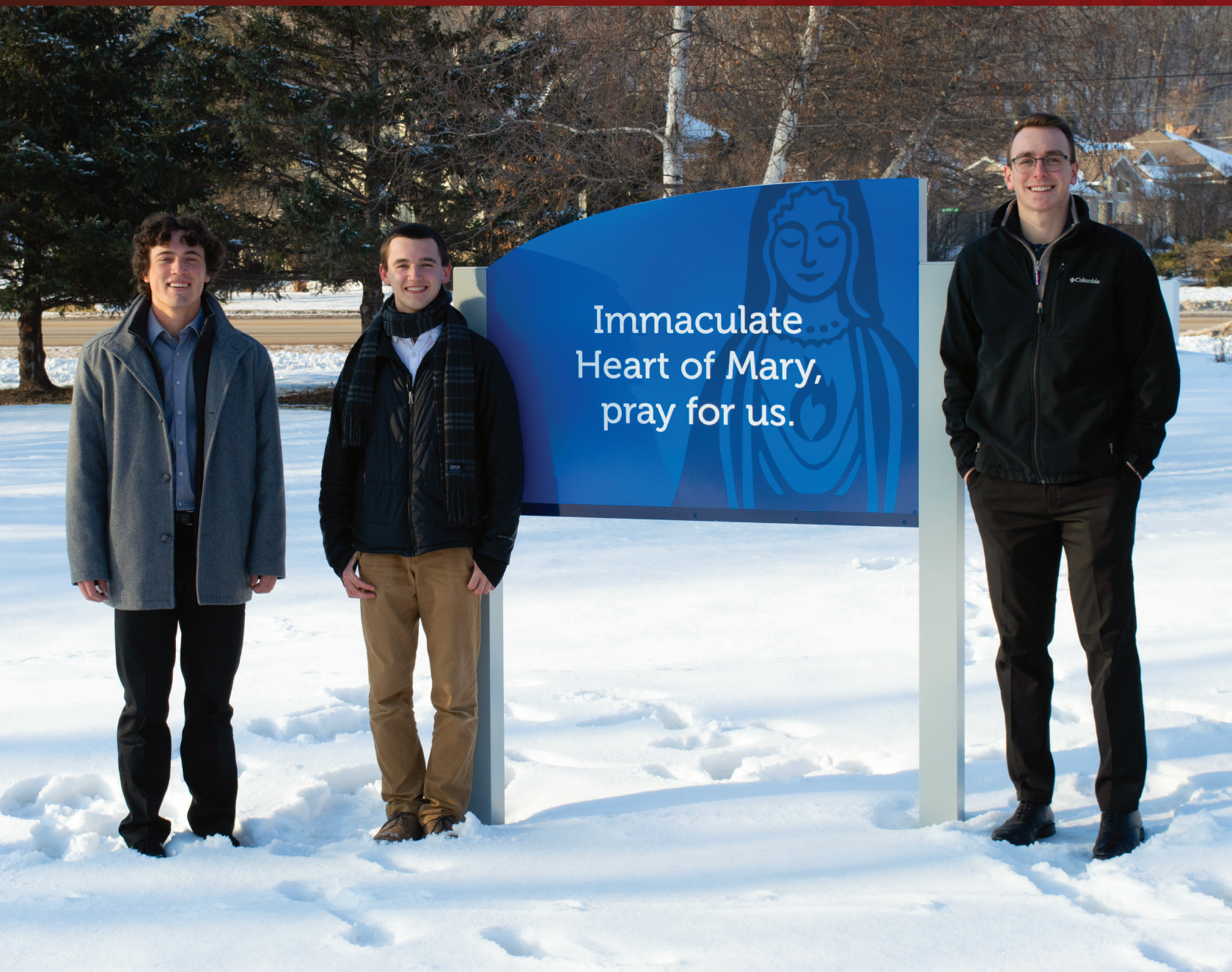


WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Psalm 133:1



Letter from the Rector

Since his recent passing, many have paid tribute to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. A plethora of loquacious expressions of gratitude for his contribution to the life of the Church—both during his pontificate and prior to his election to the See of Peter—have appeared, and I have no delusions about being able to match what has already been offered. Still, I am spurred to offer a comment, but only after letting our former Pontiff speak for himself.

In the homily of the Mass inaugurating his pontificate, Benedict observed that when “we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great.” As he remarks earlier in the same homily, there is sometimes a hesitancy to welcome the Lord fully into our hearts, to give ourselves completely to him, because we fear what we may then have to sacrifice; in short, we sometimes fear the cost of discipleship.

And yet, as Benedict notes, the truest and most authentic riches—“what makes life free, beautiful and great”—remain fully intact when we walk the path of Christ; arguably, those riches even shine more brightly and are enjoyed more fully, as the Lord teaches us how to savor the depths of his love and how it is manifested in so many ways. I am especially struck by the conviction Benedict brings to his statement through the triple repetition of “nothing,” even accenting the final iteration with the modifier “absolutely.” Benedict emphatically reminds us that friendship with Christ always enhances and never diminishes our lives!

In the work of formation that takes place here at IHMS, we strive to heed this insight and allow ourselves to be grasped more fully by Christ each day. As we grow in nearness to and friendship with him, we grow more able to carry his riches to the world and thus manifest to others the truth of “what makes life free, beautiful, and great.”



As we grow in nearness to and friendship with him, we grow more able to carry his riches to the world and thus manifest to others the truth of “what makes life free, beautiful, and great.”

Rev. Robert Horihan
Rector

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Corey Krengiel

Diocese of Peoria

It was not until he was 21 years old that Fr. Corey Krengiel first felt the Lord calling him to enter seminary for the diocesan priesthood. While studying to be a music teacher at Illinois State University, he realized the people he most admired in the entire world were two priests at his Newman Center, because they were doing the most important work of bringing salvation to college students.

With this deep respect for priesthood, he decided to begin studies at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary for the Diocese of Peoria in 2007. His three years at IHMS were filled with strong fraternity and a solid prayer life.

“I loved the rhythm of living the liturgical life... the daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours,” Krengiel said. “The way that we were developing the whole person in a very total way was awesome.”

Eager to be involved, Krengiel coached the seminary's ultimate frisbee team, helped with music at the annual Bishops and Rector Dinner, and wrote liturgical music in a composition class, which they later used at IHMS. From having a campfire with guitar music at the cave to various athletic events, he says the fraternal life of the seminary played a major role in his formation.

“We were very serious about philosophy and reading the primary texts, and it wasn't just something we did in class,” Krengiel said. “We'd go to lunch and sit around the table and discuss whatever we were discussing in class. It was something we really cared about. It really does set you up for understanding the theology.”

Krengiel never gave up on his dream of becoming a teacher; the dream just took a new shape.

“Now, being able to teach people about the Lord and to see that Light flood the mind and the heart in a new way is awesome,” he said. “I've been part of a school my whole time as a priest.”

“I love being a priest,” Krengiel said. “There are the days that are wonderful, and you're sharing in the joys of the heart of Christ and the hearts of your people, and there are days you share very much in the cross of Christ and the cross of the people. They come with each other. I would never tell anyone that being a priest is easy. It's not for the faint of heart, but it is good.”

Gabriel Rysavy, IHMS Communications



Krengiel says this poem by Dominican priest Jean-Baptiste Henri Lacordaire, *Thou Art a Priest Forever*, sums up his experience of the priesthood:

To live in the midst of the world
without wishing its pleasures;
To be a member of each family,
yet belonging to none;
To share all suffering;
to penetrate all secrets;
To heal all wounds;
to go from men to God
and offer Him their prayers;
To return from God to men
to bring pardon and hope;
To have a heart of fire for Charity,
and a heart of bronze for Chastity
To teach and to pardon,
console and bless always.
My God, what a life;
and it is yours,
O priest of Jesus Christ.

Welcoming Recently Installed Bishops!

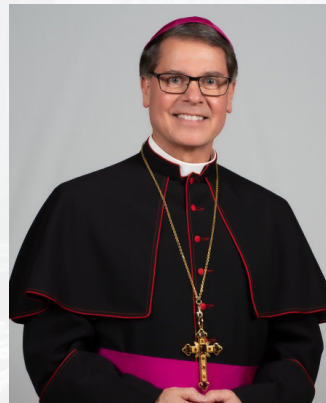
We welcome the shepherds of the flock of Christ who have been installed in the past three years and who sent their men to discern a vocation to priesthood here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary. May the Holy Spirit guide you always through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.



Diocese of Winona-Rochester
Most Reverend Robert Barron
Installation: July 29, 2022



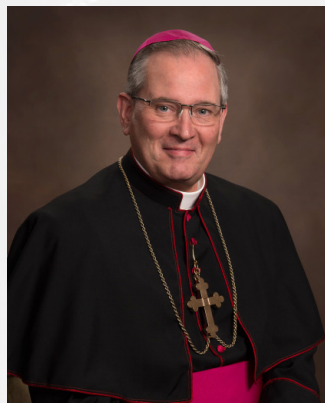
Diocese of Crookston
Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens
Installation: December 6, 2021



Diocese of Duluth
Most Reverend Daniel Felton
Installation: May 20, 2021



Diocese of Peoria
Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Installation: July 23, 2020



Diocese of Rapid City
Most Reverend Peter Muhich
Installation: July 9, 2020



Diocese of Sioux Falls
Most Reverend Donald DeGroot
Installation: February 13, 2020



Diocese of Gary
Most Reverend Robert McClory
Installation: February 11, 2020

A Freshman Perspective

Westin Gourneau, Diocese of Crookston

One of the many things I learned in my first semester at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary is that the process of walking with God is difficult. At times, I feel the immense joy that the seminary life brings, so much so that I just want to run far ahead in that process, leaving God behind. At other times, the burdening task of managing a schedule that includes school, community service, personal prayer, and fraternity makes me want to lie down, take a nap, and let God go on without me. Despite these appealing inclinations to move at my own pace, independent of God, formation here at IHM Seminary has taught me to walk with God at His pace, accepting and receiving the grace He gives along the way.

One thing that is discovered quickly in seminary life is that your walk with God intersects with other peoples' walks with God! To see that no one is walking alone is the largest blessing in seminary. Seminary reveals all the fruit people have received from their journey thus far, and how they will continue to develop their love for Jesus in the journey ahead. This community, full of good-hearted Catholic men, brings joy, love, and comfort to all who seek the Lord, and it is beautiful that I get to be a part of it.



Westin Gourneau
Diocese of Crookston

I would like to thank the benefactors and everyone who helps make this seminary experience possible. It is a tremendous gift to be able to live in God's love as I continue my walk with Him through seminary. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Vir in Christo: A Retreat Together

“And he said to them, ‘Come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while;’ for there were so many coming and going that there was no time for them even to eat” (Mark 6:31, NJB).

Of all the retreats offered in our time at the seminary, Vir in Christo stands out the most to me. In the fall semester, we leave the seminary for a weekend to stay at a retreat center run by the Lasallian Christian Brothers along the St. Croix River.

This retreat isn’t silent like others we attend throughout the year. Instead, we enjoy a boisterous weekend of fraternity. In between conferences centered around human and community formation, we are afforded opportunities for hiking, canoeing, playing board games, and football. We’ve even developed a tradition of jumping into the local, ice-cold lake together.

What unites all of these activities is a foundation of fraternity, as espoused by our seminary motto: “Ecce quam bonum” – “Behold how good [it is for brothers to dwell as one].”

Though our Lord spent time alone in the desert, He also made time to be with His disciples, because theirs was a relationship of true fraternity and community. So too, as priests, we seek to model a sense of living together, even as we prepare for the prospect of living in rectories alone. A priest lives in unity and not solitude. A priest is never his own, but a priest among priests and with priests.



Collin van Waardenburg,
Senior, Diocese of Gary



Informational Weekends

Seminarian Shares a Glimpse of Informational Weekend and Its Profound Impact

Peter Schoonmaker, Diocese of Peoria

I was already pretty set on going to seminary when I was invited to a “Come and See” retreat weekend. I encountered the Lord in a profound way that weekend. Just like in the Gospel passage of the Road to Emmaus – in which the disciples received an invitation, accepted it, and then encountered the Lord – it was because I received the invitation and accepted it that I was able to experience the Lord solidifying my desire to enter seminary as His own.

Knowing how beneficial “Come and See” was in my own life, I enjoy getting to be on the other side, listening and watching how those I meet received the invitation, accepted it, and by means of that, encountered the Lord during their own visits.

In the end, one of the best ways to know if the seminary is where God is calling you is to “Come and See.”



Creating Human Connection

Through Apostolic Work

Apostolic work gives seminary students a chance to engage our pastoral formation at various places in the local community. This semester, I was assigned to visit with two residents at St. Anne's Senior Living in Winona, Minnesota, once a week. I have to admit that I had some apprehension about this. I had visited my late great-grandmother plenty of times at a senior home, and the location often left me discouraged.

My first meeting with my residents felt like an interrogation. I could only ask questions and would blankly stare at the wall during moments of silence. The weeks following, it was a struggle to grow comfortable in this ministry, because it felt painful. This was not because of my lack of interest, but rather me thinking I was doing everything wrong. On the days I would have my apostolic work, I grew anxious in the morning and would not be able to focus my prayer on anything other than how I could best present myself.

Eventually, I realized my apostolic work was becoming a mechanical gesture rather than a human interaction. I read 1 Corinthians 13:7, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things," and soon realized my ministry was calling me to love and embrace human connection. I was to be patient with both myself and those I visited. I needed to believe in the work of Christ that was being done and hope the connections I was fostering would eventually lead to a more profound conversion of heart and embody a greater understanding of Love himself. Beyond all, I was called to endure the challenges of mingling with strangers.

Within the next few weeks, God's grace was working in me, and I became excited to visit the residents. Not only do they hold a special place in my heart, but I have also begun to introduce prayer into my relationship with them. I conclude my time with them by asking, "How may I pray for you?" Afterwards, I add my intentions as well.

I love seeing how God has changed me through these people's lives, both in my mind and my heart. When we meet, I get to learn about all the wonderful activities they do each week. I have become more confident talking to strangers, a lesson that I was not prepared to learn so early on! I am beginning to see the many ways in which the meaning of priesthood is lived out, and I know there is so much more to learn.

The Head of Spiritual Life at St. Anne reassured me that no matter what happens, even if I were to sit quietly, I was making a difference. Upon reflection, I can attest to this fact. Presently, within our conversations, I speak more and try to be more attentive and caring to what they say. I appreciate the silence when it comes, because it allows our minds to comprehend each other. In an age of rapid communication, I am trying to live the real human connection that God calls each of us to.

Gianni DiTolla, Freshman, Diocese of Gary

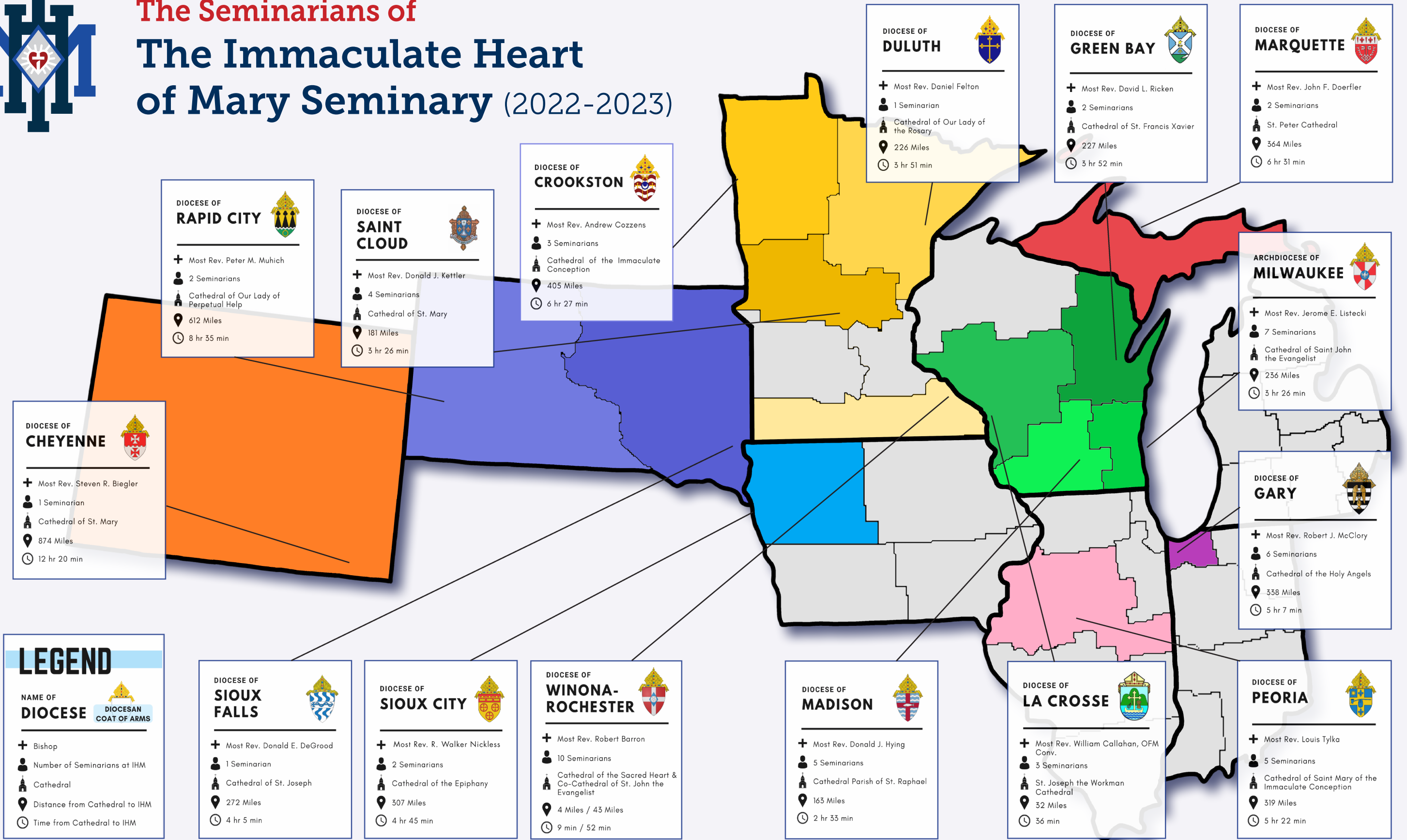
"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" ...my ministry was calling me to love and I was supposed to embrace human connection.



Gianni DiTolla
Freshman
Diocese of Gary



The Seminarians of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (2022-2023)



LEGEND

- Bishop
- Number of Seminarians at IHM
- Cathedral
- Distance from Cathedral to IHM
- Time from Cathedral to IHM

2022/23 IHM Seminary Faculty and Student Body

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

FRESHMEN



John Assaf
Diocese of Peoria



Dominick Brezinski
Diocese of Madison



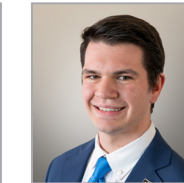
Gianni DiTolla
Diocese of Gary



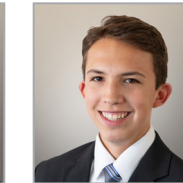
Jacob Fiala
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Blase Gebes
Diocese of Rapid City



Andrew Glansville
Diocese of Madison



Westin Gourneau
Diocese of Crookston



Nicholas Klicka
Diocese of Green Bay



Eric Kohr
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



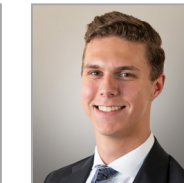
Timothy Kujawa
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Jake Lozon
Diocese of La Crosse



Leo Marcotte
Diocese of Gary



Andrew McNally
Diocese of La Crosse



Samuel Miron
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Zachariah Steffens
Diocese of Sioux City



Dominic Van Hecke
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

SOPHOMORES



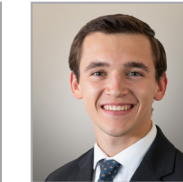
Nicholas Daubner
Diocese of Saint Cloud



Nathaniel Garity
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Joseph Grosz
Diocese of Cheyenne



Paul Guertin
Diocese of Saint Cloud



Seth Hakes
Diocese of Madison



Nicholas Huza
Diocese of Green Bay



Ryan Pierce
Diocese of Gary



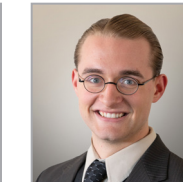
Jarod Raber
Diocese of Peoria



Isaac Sanders
Diocese of Peoria



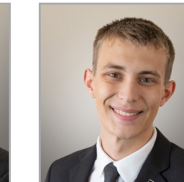
Peter Schoonmaker
Diocese of Peoria



Jon Stone
Diocese of Crookston



Michael Szymanski
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Bastien Wolfe
Diocese of Madison

JUNIORS



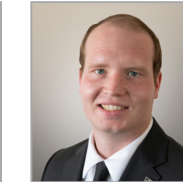
Andrew Beine
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



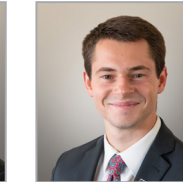
John Paul Bickerstaff
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Bennett Feudner
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Brendan Logan
Diocese of Sioux Falls



David Marrone
Diocese of Madison



Michael Milam
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Charles Pomroy
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



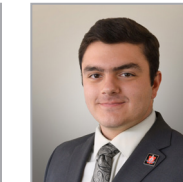
Alex Radtke
Diocese of La Crosse



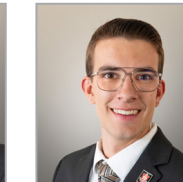
Anthony Vera
Diocese of Sioux City



Ethan Vinyard
Diocese of Gary



Thomas Williams
Diocese of Peoria



Charles Tackman
Diocese of Marquette

SENIORS



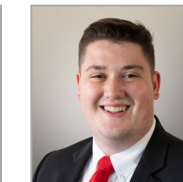
Jacob Bruns
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



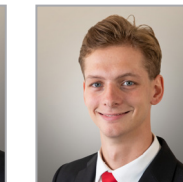
Robert Budzius
Diocese of Gary



Zavior Franck
Diocese of Duluth



Josiah Hanson
Diocese of Rapid City



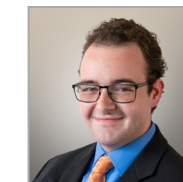
Scott Kahler
Diocese of Saint Cloud



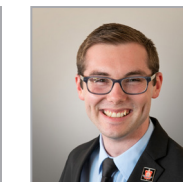
Mark Nosbush
Diocese of Saint Cloud



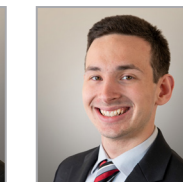
Gabriel Rysavy
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Collin van Waardenburg
Diocese of Gary

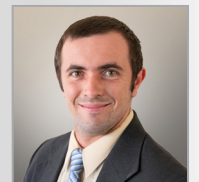


Ethan Wilcox
Diocese of Marquette



Lawrence Wirries
Diocese of Crookston

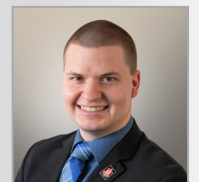
PRE-THEOLOGY 2



Alex Peters
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Ryan Saltness
Diocese of Winona-Rochester



John Vrchota
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

From Framing to Formation

Quiet Six Weeks Helps Seminarian Listen to God's Call

Although I grew up in a Catholic family, my faith wasn't solid as a teenager or into my early 20s. I received the Sacraments, but let other hobbies take my attention away from living and acting in faith. I had a good job as a framer, but didn't feel fulfilled or satisfied with where I was. Even though I felt a pull to pick up the Bible, I didn't follow through.

I experienced a work-related injury right before my 24th birthday, which took me off my feet for about six weeks. This gave me time to intentionally pick up the Bible and dedicate focus to my faith life. The process was slow, but the Holy Spirit kept pushing me forward. Even as I went back to work, the desire was planted.

I came to understand how much God loves, and this pulled me deeper into my faith. As I followed this path, the Rosary became important in my prayer life. I started getting involved with my home parish, became an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and even taught the seventh-grade religion class the year before entering seminary. During this time, I started to feel God calling me to the priesthood.

After talking with my home pastor, I was put in contact with the vocations director of the Diocese of St. Cloud. I visited Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, but was still hesitant. After more prayer, I took the step to enter IHMS, and am now in my final year. I have been very blessed with God's graces as I have gone through formation.

Mark Nosbush, Senior, Diocese of St. Cloud



Mark Nosbush
Senior
Diocese of St. Cloud

Save the Date! Bishops & Rector Dinner

April 14, 2023

Rochester International Event Center

Social 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Dinner 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Mark your calendars for this special event - more details to come.

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



**Most Reverend Bishop
Robert E. Barron Presenting**

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

February 25–March 5
Spring Break

March 11–12, 18–19
Vocations weekend

March 25–26
Vir in Christo weekend

April 14
Bishops and Rector Dinner

May 1–5
Formation Workshops

IHMS COMMUNICATION CONTACT:
MONICA HERMAN
PHONE: 507-858-1276
EMAIL: mherman@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!



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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 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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