

the Herald

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*"Were not our hearts burning within us,
while He talked with us on the road and
opened the scriptures to us?"*

LUKE 24:32

CONTENTS

4 Pre-Theology: “The Dash”



- 7 I Believe: My Parents’ Witness to Faith & Family
- 8 Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us
- 9 Formed and Transformed
- 10 Counseling Millennials
- 12 Alumni News
- 13 Serving the Church Together
- 14 Pre-Theologian Spotlight
- 16 *Community Notes*



18 Resting with the Lord

Cover: Seminarian Michael Trummer, Theology III – Springfield, IL, teaches PSR each week to students at Immaculate Conception in Dardenne Prairie as one of his parish assignment responsibilities.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT-RECTOR



Dear Friends,

“To be gritty is to keep putting one foot in front of the other. To be gritty is to hold fast to an interesting and purposeful goal. To be gritty is to invest, day after week after year, in a challenging practice. To be gritty is to fall seven times, and rise eight.” (p. 275)

The above definition is from a book I recently read by Angela Duckworth entitled *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. The book is filled with anecdotes and stories on describing and developing this virtue called grit. It’s a secular book. But it has a lot to say about the formation that happens at the seminary.

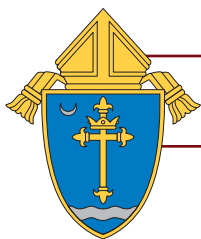
One of the points the book makes is that having a purpose outside of yourself is an essential aspect to being gritty. Three brick layers are asked: “What are you doing?” The first says, “I am laying bricks.” The second says, “I am building a church.” And the third says, “I am building the house of God.” The first has a job, the second a career and the third a calling. Those who have an understanding of their work as a calling are most satisfied with their jobs and lives, and are the most likely to display grit. The long days and evenings of toil, the setbacks and disappointments and struggles, the sacrifice – all this is worth it because, ultimately, the work we do matters to people other than ourselves.

Likewise, three seminarians are asked what they are doing. One says “I am reading a book.” A second says “I am studying ecclesiology.” The third says “I am learning about the beauty and gift of the Church and how to share this with the people of God.” The last seminarian will show the most grit in his studies, and he will become a priest who will be gritty in pastoring a parish and his flock to the life-giving union with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Please pray for us, that we will form men who see God’s purpose, and therefore become gritty priests.

In Christ,

Father James Mason, J.D.
President-Rector



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On June 30, I will submit my letter of retirement to the Holy Father. Since this may be my last letter to you in *The Herald*, please allow me to share a few thoughts on the growth I have witnessed in the last ten years.

One of the most noticeable changes at the seminary in the past decade is, of course, the physical renovation of the campus. Friends of the seminary pledged \$62.5 million through the Faith for the Future Campaign. Their generosity enabled us to make physical upgrades, providing an adequate, safe, and beautiful facility, and to expand the endowment, sustaining our programs. What an investment in the future of our seminary and the Church!

Just as important as the financial investment and physical renovation, however, has been the personal and programmatic investment in the formation of the men. Fr. James Mason and the seminary faculty and staff have invested an enormous amount of time and energy in getting to know each seminarian in every dimension of his formation – human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. This personal investment provides an adequate, safe, and beautiful spiritual space in which seminarians are free to grow as men in Christ, knowing that the formation team is there to help them become holier, healthier, more joy-filled parish priests. As a result of this personal investment, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary has a well-deserved reputation for an integrated program of formation that develops well-rounded men for the priesthood.

These past ten years have been a time to step up and make a difference. The problems within the Church do not mean that we should cower or become paralyzed by fear and anxiety. Together, I believe we have continued to experience and enact positive change – financially, physically, and formationally. What an honor it has been to work with you in these crucial years for the Church and for our seminary.

Finally, I promise to continue praying for God's blessings upon you. I also invite you to pray for our seminarians, priests, and bishops. Thank you for supporting the seminary as it seeks to meet the needs of our sending dioceses and the universal Church. It has been a privilege to be a part of this community of faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis



“Kenrick-Glennon Seminary has a well-deserved reputation for an integrated program of formation that develops well-rounded men for the priesthood.”

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson

PRE-THEOLOGY: “THE DASH” Between Kenrick and Glennon

By Will Targy, Pre-Theology I – Omaha

We are the men of Pre-Theology I and II, also known as “The Dash.” You will find us literally and figuratively in between Kenrick School of Theology and Cardinal Glennon College. Kenrick School of Theology refers to the men studying theology while Cardinal Glennon College is the home of the men in college seminary. “The Dashers,” the men of Pre-Theology, are tucked between. One may be tempted to wonder if Pre-Theology is a bit of an afterthought. On the contrary, it is a blessing. We have a certain uniqueness, a certain style that we have come to embrace.

Let me begin with my own story. I grew up a practicing Catholic. I attended Catholic schools, went to Mass on Sunday, and was active in my parish youth group. While I knew that my faith was important, I never really made it my own. In the first few years of college, I wrestled with a lot of questions and doubts, such as, who God is, who I am, and what plans He has for my life. I was very blessed later on in college to meet some incredible young adults who were campus missionaries with The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Their friendship, mentorship, and example introduced me to the healing and merciful love of Jesus Christ in a new way. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2009 with a degree in Religious Studies, I joined FOCUS as a campus

missionary and spent three years on the east coast ministering to college students. I then worked for six years as a youth minister in my home parish.

While I was never opposed to the idea of priesthood, I didn’t begin thinking about it seriously until I was working in a parish. It took some time for me to trust the Lord with such a big decision. I had worked in ministry for many

years but was reluctant to “put out into the deep,” the invitation Jesus made to Peter in the Gospels. While I believe I would have been fairly content working as a lay minister for many more years, I had a strong sense that the time for discernment of the priesthood was now. I dragged my feet part of the way but ended up taking little steps to saying “yes” to God in



this area. Trusting Jesus, especially with the unknown future, was just as important as the vocation to which He was calling me. Finally, after lots of discernment, prayer, and prompting from the Lord, I put in my application and was accepted to the Pre-Theology program at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

From an academic standpoint, the Pre-Theology program seeks to give men the necessary foundations in philosophy to not only aid their theological studies but also to help the men to think critically and reason well. Those men who finish their two years of Pre-Theology receive a Certificate of Completion from Cardinal Glennon College.

One challenge for Pre-Theologians is returning to a classroom environment. In my case, I thought the days of being a traditional student were behind me, so the transition was an adjustment at first. While it took time to hit my stride in the classroom, there were a few factors that helped. First, we are supported by an amazing faculty and staff who truly care for us and desire us to succeed. Second, there is a great brotherhood and comradery among the men. We spend a lot of time working and studying together. We want to see each other succeed. All that we learn, whether it be ancient philosophy, Scripture, ethics, Latin or



Greek, is presented within the beautiful worldview of Christ and His Church. As we desire to have our hearts more conformed to the heart of Christ, the content and discussion within the classroom aids us in doing that. We also get to be in class with some of the college men. All of our philosophy classes have at least one, if not multiple, college seminarians who are learning alongside us.

While intellectual formation (academics) is certainly a focus of seminary life, it is just one of four dimensions of seminary formation. The other three are human, spiritual, and pastoral formation. All of the men in Pre-Theology have college degrees and many of us have had some post-college work experience, such as teaching, engineering, and full-time ministry positions. I know for myself and many others, these experiences have been incredibly helpful as we transitioned into seminary life. One of my classmates, Dominic Buckley, Pre-Theology I – St. Louis, shares, *“Having a professional background has allowed me to see the world outside of the Church and understand challenges people outside the Church face. Conversations with these people have helped me grow deeper in my faith as well.”*

One of the ways we learn to relate to others is through parish assignments. While all of the Theology and Pre-Theology II men have an assigned parish for the year, the Pre-Theology I class does not. Acclimating to the seminary

schedule and expectations can take some time. The Pre-Theology formators seek to find an ordered approach to our new duties as seminarians. Without the added responsibilities of a parish assignment, we have a bit more autonomy in the weekend to prepare for the upcoming

academic week and a great opportunity to spend some quality time with our classmates. Since it is important to have some contact with local parishes, Pre-Theology I men visit a different parish each month together to attend Sunday Mass. This helps us to become familiar with local parishes and, because each parish is unique, experience various communities and

liturgies around town. It is also a great opportunity for our class to bond as we ‘road trip’ to all these parishes together.

Despite not having a regular parish assignment, there are many other ways for us to serve. Each man is assigned a house job for the semester that covers a wide range of duties. It is important for our own growth that seminarian brothers serve one another. This year, I am assigned to the Sunday Night Dinner (SND) Crew. The SND Crew is made up of five Pre-Theology men who prepare dinner for the rest of the house on Sunday evenings so the Carmelite sisters can have a day off from work. Many of the seminarians we serve come straight from their parish assignments and are ready to eat a good meal. This gives the men of “The Dash” a chance to serve our brother seminarians and enjoy a Sunday meal together (see page 6 for more details).

Now let’s talk about fashion. The required attire for men of “The Dash” during the week is known as “house dress.” It is straightforward – black pants, black shoes and a collared shirt. For formal occasions, we wear a black suit with a white shirt and tie. We wear a collar with our cassock and surplice for almost all liturgies. There can often be some confusion as to why we don’t regularly wear the Roman collar like the Theologians. For Pre-Theology men, ordination is still further down the road. Once we

HOUSE JOB: Sunday Night Dinners

Every Sunday afternoon, while most seminarians are finishing their obligations at the parish, catching up on sleep, or going on a run through the neighborhood, a small group of seminarians works in the kitchen, preparing a meal for the rest of the community. This is the Sunday Night Dinner Crew (SND) and they are responsible for feeding the community each Sunday evening so that the Carmelite sisters, who prepare meals during the week with a few lay kitchen staff members, can enjoy a day of much deserved rest.

The responsibilities of the SND Crew extend beyond one afternoon. The five men who comprise the team prepare the menu a week in advance, create and budget the shopping list, and shop for the necessary ingredients. Sample menus include breakfast burritos, BBQ, and coconut curry stew, with sweet potato fries and bacon making an appearance in nearly every meal. Although the men spend over five hours dedicated to the dinner each Sunday, they enjoy the fraternity that is fostered by teamwork. Their brother seminarians appreciate their efforts and the SND Crew also enjoys the fruits of their own labor. And someday, these men might bring their culinary skills to future parish rectories.



transition into the Theology program, we will begin to wear the Roman collar, enhancing our awareness of the vocational commitment we are preparing to make. In this way, we begin to step into the role of priesthood more concretely.

One final area I would like to mention about Pre-Theology is perhaps one of the most important: leadership. Will Carey, Pre-Theology I – Kansas City, KS, says, “Because Pre-Theologians bring the unique opportunity of having received a degree already and many receive leadership in the real world, ‘The Dash’ provides an opportunity to step up as a leader in the house right away.” From day one our formators have impressed upon us the importance of leadership as a priest, especially as a parish pastor. Much of our time, prayer, and attention at seminary is to help us discover the gifts God has given us so that we might use them effectively in whatever role He calls us to receive. Living in community and having regular meeting times with our formators and spiritual directors help us to do this as well. In fact, all of the current members of SLA (Student Life Association) as well as many other organizational and committee leaders within the house completed the Pre-Theology program.

Being a Pre-Theologian is more than I could have ever asked or hoped for in seminary formation. It is an opportunity to recognize the Lord’s plan for my life and to be grateful for the truly amazing people He has and will continue to bring alongside me on the road to holiness. I hope to provide the same encouragement for my brothers and everyone He leads me to encounter throughout my life.

I believe!

MY PARENTS' WITNESS TO FAITH & FAMILY

The creed we say at Mass begins with *I Believe*. This two-word declaration has an eternal impact on our lives and sets the stage for all that we do, everything we say and who we are. Our beliefs – and how we put them into action – make a difference in the lives of others. Joseph Martin, Pre-Theology II – St. Louis, shares his family's story of faith:

This story begins on a tennis court in Cleveland, Ohio in 1979, where two medical students played a friendly game on their first date. It turned out to be a great match: Dad converted to Catholicism and married Mom right after graduation. A few months after their wedding, St. Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Gospel to families in his exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*. Mom and Dad took the saint's inspiring message to heart as they moved to St. Louis to begin a new life. Today, their example of joyful and sacrificial parenthood motivates me to respond generously to my vocation as a seminarian.

Mom courageously sacrificed for her family. Advice from a priest prompted her to dramatically scale back her dermatology practice and take on greater responsibilities at home. After more prayer and discernment, Mom began homeschooling because of the many advantages it offers to large families.

Mom made a Catholic home for her seven children. She led us in prayers on our way to weekday Mass and made sure we knew the saint of the day. She kept track of the liturgical calendar and incorporated the Church's devotions into our daily lives. When challenges arose, Mom turned to the sacraments for supernatural help. She stood with us in line for confession while we wondered which one of us had put her there. After Mass, we all invaded the sacristy so she could give an unsuspecting priest a list of Mass intentions, a crucifix to bless, or an invitation to dinner.

¹ St. Pope John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 41.

Dad was Mom's constant supporter. His workday began with the rosary at 5:00 a.m. as his old diesel nine-seat Suburban roared

to life. He worked long hours but loved being an orthopedic surgeon who helped patients regain the ability to walk. Always "on call," Dad rarely vacationed or drank alcohol so he could be ready for surgery at a moment's notice.

In 2002, Dad left his partnership at a large surgical group to start his own practice. For the next fourteen years, he sacrificed income and prominence in order to build an authentically Catholic medical clinic. Dad asked a priest to bless the new location where a large portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe now resides. Dad closed the office on Good Friday and set a

schedule compatible with family dinner, swim meets, scout campouts, and deer season. He felt especially privileged to care for priests, always making sure to ask for a blessing before surgery.

Reflecting on my parents' faith always brings me to gratitude. In many ways, Mom's house was a "first seminary" that gave me an "awareness of prayer and piety and love for the Church." Dad provided me with an example of discipline, readiness, and devotion—three key virtues for fatherhood.

Many of my brother seminarians could write a similar story, and all of us would agree that a Catholic upbringing is an extraordinary gift from God. Together we aspire to the diocesan priesthood in order to serve families in the parish. Please pray for us as we discern this sacred calling.



Drs. Jeffrey and Ann Martin (center) with their seven children and grandchildren. Joseph, Pre-Theology II, is pictured at the far right.



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

WHEN WE PRAY THE CREED AT MASS – our profession of faith – we offer our yes to all that God has done and all that He has given to us. It is an intentional affirmation of God's presence in our lives. Each year, the Archdiocese of St. Louis invites you to show mercy and kindness to those who benefit from the Church's programs and ministries by saying yes to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift will impact the parishes, schools, and agencies supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal, including Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. For more information, visit archstl.org/aca or call 314-792-7680.

“Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us”

By Ty Taylor, Theology III – Wichita

One of my favorite passages in all of the

Gospels is the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. In the passage, Jesus explains the scriptures and prophecies about Himself to two disciples who were discouraged by His crucifixion. They reflect,

“Were not our hearts burning within us, while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?” (Lk 24:32). The experience of a “burning heart” – a heart on fire with joy at the awesome gifts of our faith, and especially of the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, prompted my own journey toward the priesthood. It was in the joy and peace of a deeper relationship with Jesus that I had the freedom to ask the important question, *“What are you calling me to do, Lord?”* The answer to that question led me to consider the seminary.

This past summer, I was blessed to be assigned to a parish in my home diocese of Wichita, where I worked in several areas, including the youth group, hospital visits, and catechesis. The pastor invited me to present faith formation talks for the parishioners. I first heard of this form of evangelization from my brother seminarians who had prepared similar materials in their pastoral assignments. They had taken the course notes from their seminary classes and turned them into presentations; one seminarian worked with college students and the other taught in an elementary school. I was encouraged by their example and I wanted to practice this for myself.

I structured the talks to help with apologetics and faith formation, starting first with how to defend and explain a reasonable belief in a Creator God in the light of the Big Bang theory and evolution. From there, we moved to Jesus, focusing on His historical existence and His divinity. Next we studied the Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Anointing, and the Eucharist. Each of these topics drew on the resources I had received from my classes at the seminary.



I was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was to come up with material for the presentations! The seminary had prepared me well, giving me plenty of resources: textbooks from former classes, course notes, and online articles. It was up to me to shape the content for my

audience, since evangelizing is more than merely providing good information. I also needed to communicate clearly and share that information in a way that was engaging and interesting to the parishioners. I was nervous about giving long talks, but I quickly realized that the shorter presentations and speeches I had given in seminary were a solid foundation that I could build upon when sharing the faith with others.

The old adage, “The best way to learn something is to teach it” rang true for me. I continued to grow in my public speaking abilities and noticed myself being able to think on my feet more quickly. As I grew in confidence and experience, I began to rely on my written notes less and less, and I was able to remember the mental outlines that I had prepared! Taking questions and responding to them also proved enlightening, because it showed me where there was still room for growth. That experience gave me valuable lessons in how to present and communicate more effectively.

I was excited to share the faith with the people I was called to serve, but I was especially excited to share with them the richness of Catholic teaching on the Eucharist. One of the scripture passages that I used to explain the Mass was the story of the road to Emmaus that I mentioned earlier. It reminded me of the fire in my heart that began my journey. The excitement I felt in giving the talks was a part of that fire. I wanted to catch other hearts on fire with love for Jesus! In sharing that fire and giving it away, I was also helping it to grow in my own heart.

FORMED AND TRANSFORMED

Pre-Theology to Priesthood

By Fr. Raymond Buehler, Class of 2013 – St. Louis

An insurance clerk. A golf pro. A nuclear-astrophysicist. A farmer. A restaurant manager. A teacher. Men in their 20's to men in their 40's. Men right out of college to men who have had a successful career. Men who were Catholic their whole life and also converts from atheism. This is just a small glimpse into the variety of men who entered the Pre-Theology program in August 2007. Only the Holy Spirit could gather such a diverse crew for the purpose of forming us into priests after the heart of Jesus Christ!

The Pre-Theology program is tasked with the challenge of welcoming men to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary who are often called “late vocations.” While in one sense, this might mean we come to the formation program with more experience and maturity, or perhaps even a different sort of resolve compared to a young man right out of high school, it also means facing the challenge of shaping the hearts and minds of men who are more set in their ways. Fortunately, the formation staff is up to the task!

The experience was one of the most challenging and deeply inspiring things I had ever been a part of. Just three years earlier, I was a barely practicing Catholic trying to make his way in the world after college. By the grace of God, I experienced an “adult conversion” at an Awakening Retreat in 2005. The next couple of years saw me switch from a secular job to working for the Church, volunteering in youth ministry, dating, and growing in the life of prayer

and knowledge of faith. I was happy! Yet God stepped in and asked me to consider something more. Initially I fought it, but eventually surrendered to the Call.

The transition had its share of excitement – I can remember enjoying the fraternity of seminary life, as well as the academics (who would have thought that a computer

nerd grad from the University of Missouri – Rolla would enjoy philosophy so much?). It also had its challenges – I was a night owl, and 5:00 a.m. didn't exist unless I stayed up for it. Certainly, the various personalities of the class clashed at times – with each other and with formation – but our common desire to grow in the life of virtue and prayer turned all of this into opportunities to encounter Christ anew.



Fr. Raymond Buehler on the day of his ordination, May 25, 2013, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

Looking back at the time of Pre-Theology, perhaps one of its greatest strengths is that the seminary didn't just try to fit us into a “cookie-cutter mold.” For a stained glass window to be beautiful, each piece of colored glass needs to retain its unique color, but must be shaped and chiseled to fit into its place. Similarly, the formators met us where we were in our strengths and weaknesses, experiences and quirks. Our unique backgrounds and abilities that brought us to the seminary were not ignored, but formed and transformed by the grace of God in a way that only enriches the Church and the presbyterate, as we now bring those same gifts to bear in our parish ministry as priests of Jesus Christ!

Counseling Millennials

By Dr. Susanne Harvath, Director of Psychological & Counseling Services and Professor of Pastoral Counseling

Our current seminarian population is comprised of Generation Y or “Millennials” born between 1982 and 1999. The talented men of this generation bring a very different set of gifts, challenges, and ideas to the world and to seminary formation. This generation, criticized by some as self-focused, impatient, and flighty, brings flexibility, technological acumen, truth-seeking, and balance into a new way of living our daily lives. This difference presents challenges in the areas of formation as all gifts must be correctly ordered in future priests in order to meet the challenges that directly impact the future Church. My privilege is to work to guide seminarians so they can better know themselves, relate to each other, address family issues, establish healthy self-worth, and develop skills for holy, healthy, happy ministry.

The ability for connection and technological skills are unmatched by this generation and can be used in powerful ways. One of the challenges we see with Millennials, however, is a lessening of empathy and interpersonal skills, especially in conflict management. Millennials are often used to communicating by text and social media and may need more skills for face-to-face interactions. It is important for them to acquire emotional intelligence as future pastors so they can learn how to talk to people about difficult matters, be with people in difficult times, and to present difficult teachings in face-to-face communication.

This generation, often referred to as the most educated generation, has access to more information than any previous generation. They have a lot of information at their fingertips. Unfortunately, this often results in an oversaturation of facts and can result in the stacking of

material as “data” with a need to learn how to integrate material and develop opinions and insight. One of the things we try to do for them is incorporate a lot of role playing, case studies, and simulation - teaching them to slow down and process things. We remind them, “*Ministry is a process, not a product.*” This is very important because, in pastoral work, a priest must have skills for listening and an ability to develop a rapport with parishioners, communicating the care, concern, commitment, and the

trust that is necessary for pastoral relationship.

It is no secret that the Millennial Generation are stellar multi-taskers and are, more often than not, multi-skilled. This high-performing skillset, however, brings with it a fear of failure, shortness of patience, and distraction — often caused by

the stimulation of too much technology usage. For this reason, we find that many seminarians often need help finding meaningful ways to relax that do not involve technology. Utilizing quiet and solitude are important qualities for priests.

The effects of social media, especially Facebook, have created a world of perceived perfection in the lives of those posting and reading. Millennials are responding to this with a sense of self-importance and desire for recognition. They struggle to feel special and find an individual place in a society where everyone is so seemingly competent. Sociologists have coined the term *Facebook Envy* to describe this. We need to help them become more realistic about their goals, point out their abilities, and help them accept feedback.

This is a generation of truth-seekers, so oftentimes, their questioning of authority is actually a search for



meaning. Millennials are idealistic and place importance on balance, family time, and personal time. We do not have to encourage students to be *aware* of social causes. Instead, we have to teach them to be *engaged* with social causes. Oversaturation of world problems can lead to feelings of being overwhelmed and unempowered, resulting in a tendency to disengage.

There are more seminarians now than ever before who were professionals. These men pursued the American dream and realized that these pursuits seemed hollow to them. They come to the seminary because they are looking to have a positive impact on the world. The Millennial tendency is

to delay careers and marriage and be more dependent on their parents. Anxiety is prevalent among Millennials and extends to the seminarians. This generation, referred to as “trophy kids” (as in, everyone gets one), are often insecure about the world, the Church, and the problems around them. We make sure to encourage seminarians, to develop their gifts and overcome fear of failure.

The goal of all our human formation staff is designed to help these good and talented men by first understanding them and then aiding them to configure themselves to Christ, so they may become holy, healthy, happy priests. They bring many new gifts for the future Church.

When Siblings Answer the Call

By Deacon Tony Ritter, Theology IV – St. Louis

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me.’”

Matthew 4:18-19

I have often been struck by the fact that Jesus called not only individuals to follow Him in His earthly mission, but also siblings. Among the twelve apostles, there were two sets of siblings – Peter and Andrew, and James and John. I cannot help but identify with these apostles when I consider my own vocation to the priesthood and my sister’s vocation to the consecrated religious life.

I entered the seminary right out of high school and, while this decision came as the fruit of a lot of prayer, it never would have been possible without my sister beside me, supporting me. Throughout our teenage years, we both developed a deep relationship with God. Together we would go to daily Mass before school and make trips to the nearby adoration chapel to pray holy hours. There were some who thought we were a young married couple, and

others called us the “angels” of the chapel. Both of us were beginning to recognize how incredible God’s love for us was, and we could not be kept away from Him. The natural competitiveness between us (as is common between all siblings) contributed to a virtuous cycle in which we both tried to help each other become as holy as we each possibly could.

When Jesus came by and asked me to “drop my nets and follow him” after my senior year of high school, I left home and entered seminary. When I did, I was pleasantly surprised to see that my sister was right behind me! Three years later, she entered a cloistered religious community in California to follow Jesus in that same mission. While we are separated by many miles here on earth, Sr. Mary Francis plays a vital role in my ministry – praying for those at my parish and

asking God to bless me as I minister to others.

Just like those first apostles who were invited to follow Him, my sister and I are doing all that we can to follow Jesus in each of our own vocations. I cannot thank God enough for giving us the grace to hear Him and to respond.



CARDINAL DOLAN Visits the Seminary

By Ryan Briggs, College I – Springfield-Cape Girardeau

During the fall semester, we were blessed to welcome His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, CGC Class of 1972 and Archbishop of New York, for a Day of Recollection. Cardinal Dolan, a St. Louis native, served as Vice-Rector and a faculty member at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary during the early years of his priesthood. In 1994, he was appointed the Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. In his initial remarks, Cardinal Dolan stated that a Rector is supposed to be a spiritual father to his seminarians and, since two of his seminarians were Fr. James Mason, our own Rector, and Fr. Paul Hoelsing, our Dean of Seminarians, that means we're his grandsons!

Each semester, the seminary hosts several days of recollection as a part of the spiritual formation program. Seminarians spend these days in prayerful silence, removed from the distractions of



technology, extracurricular activities, and studies. For me, these days bring great peace, consolation and joy because they allow each of us to rest, pray, and reflect on our spiritual and academic life. While the College, Pre-Theology, and Theology typically host separated days of recollection, all seminarians came together for this special day with Cardinal Dolan.

Cardinal Dolan's talks inspired us to push ahead in our studies and prayer lives and continue to form our lives to the life of Christ the High Priest. In his first conference, Cardinal Dolan spoke about our fear to call on Jesus by name in prayer. In his second conference, His Eminence talked about our fear to let go of our worldliness and to let God take control of our lives. He challenged each of us to maintain a steady prayer life and take up our cross daily just like Blessed Lord. His visit was one many of us will not soon forget.

SOULS AND GOALS SOCCER CUP

SNOWFLAKES DESCENDED ON THE SOCCER FIELD at CBC High School in November as seminarians and priests sang the *Salve Regina* after the I-O Clergy and Co. win against the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Lions at the 6th Annual Souls and Goals Soccer Cup. The clergy team, organized by Fr. Anthony Gerber, Class of 2011 – St. Louis, included several seminary alumni and faculty priests as well as members of the Theology IV deacon class. Fr. Gerber said, "I was very proud of both teams, both for their fraternity and their athleticism. And so thankful for the number of people who came to support the teams." For more information about the Souls and Goals Soccer Cup, visit soulsandgoals.org.



In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our priest-alumni who have passed away in recent months:

Fr. Donald J. Koch, Class of 1960 – St. Louis
Fr. Robert A. Marshall, Class of 1961 – St. Louis
Fr. Ferdinand J. Wesloh, Class of 1964 – St. Louis

Serving THE CHURCH Together

By Nick Fleming, Theology III – Belleville

HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER who is already a priest has been a blessing in my own vocational discernment and preparation for the priesthood. I was young when my uncle, Fr. Rodger Fleming, Class of 2007 – St. Louis, and Pastor at St. James Parish in Potosi, MO, first started his own seminary formation. He was what some might call a “late” vocation, but his “lateness” was actually just in time when I needed priestly influence in my own life.

Before Uncle Rodger became a priest, I knew very little about the man “up there” at the altar. As a back-of-the-church Catholic, I did not invest any time in getting to know priests outside of Mass. When I first heard Uncle Rodger was entering seminary, I imagined him living in a dark, dreary castle with dimly lit candles. So when I visited Kenrick-Glennon Seminary years later, I was pleased to see that, while I was wrong about the seminary being dark and dreary, the castle part is at least true!

In my own vocation, Uncle Rodger supported me when I rediscovered the truth, beauty, and goodness of our faith on a trip together in Medjugorje. He wasn’t pushy about my need for conversion and was present and willing to offer guidance. When I began to discern God’s call for my own life, I was able to open up to him about the joys and hopes I envisioned on the path to priesthood as well as the fears and obstacles I saw ahead of me.

Our lives relate now in new ways. When we get together for family gatherings, we touch base and see how the other is

doing. Whether we talk about my time in the seminary and at a parish assignment or his time as a pastor at St. James, I enjoy being able to see what is on the horizon in the

priesthood. I also hear about some of the great ministries and encounters he has with parishioners. This makes me look forward to being able to work with him as a brother priest in Christ, as laborers in the vineyard of the Lord together, serving the Church by the grace given through Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the best part of seeing my uncle become a priest was witnessing the transition. He grew into the role. It wasn’t overnight. It

wasn’t easy. But it was rooted in prayer and an openness to God. Uncle Rodger is the same person he has always been, but I can tell there is such an incredible elevation of grace at work. This is where the divine reality of the ontological priesthood meets our humanity.

Witnessing how he has grown into the priesthood has certainly helped my own vocation. I more clearly understand that formation is a gradual process – something that does not end when seminary is over. I also understand how a vocation must be rooted in prayer. And although my own calling and path to priesthood is going to be unique in its own way, I take courage in knowing that Christ is at the core of every priest’s transformation. I am grateful to Uncle Rodger for revealing so many of those to me and for being the type of priest I can aspire to emulate.



From left to right: Nick Fleming, Theology III – Belleville, Bishop Edward Rice, Class of 1986 and Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and Fr. Rodger Fleming, Class of 2007 – St. Louis, on the day of his installation as pastor of St. James Catholic Church.

PRE-THEOLOGIAN SPOTLIGHT



WHEN A MAN ENTERS PRE-THEOLOGY, he brings his own unique professional and educational experiences. Some men leave behind careers, others sell homes, or find new homes for their pets. And while none of them know exactly where the future leads, they do know that they must respond to the invitation of Christ to pursue the path to the priesthood. Here are a few stories from men who entered the seminary this year in Pre-Theology I.



DOMINIC BUCKLEY

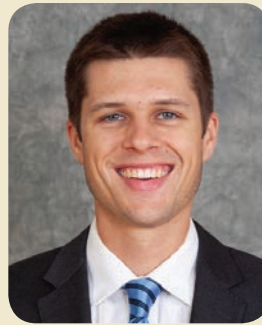
Archdiocese of St. Louis
Age: 26
Background: M.S. Cell and
Molecular Biology

Before I entered seminary, I was in the Cell and Molecular Biology PhD program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. My plan was to use my degree to teach biology at a Catholic university. In addition, I planned to conduct research on molecular factors that contribute to Alzheimer's disease.

In Lent of 2018, I committed to attending daily Mass, praying the rosary daily, and making a daily holy hour at an adoration chapel. During this increased time in prayer with the Lord, I reflected on my career choice and my life in general. What became apparent was that I had ignored the question of what my vocation was in favor of determining what career path was best for me. Further reflection revealed that God might be calling me to the priesthood.

One of the greatest challenges in my transition to seminary life was finding out how to balance prayer life and studies. I had been used to an academic life in which studies were the primary focus. However, as is proper in seminary life, prayer is the primary focus.

One of the best surprises in my transition to seminary life has been the introduction of spiritual direction into my spiritual life. Having a spiritual guide has helped me discover graces that, if left to my own reflection, would have gone unnoticed. It has also helped me find motifs in my prayer life and the significance they have for me in my spiritual journey.



WILLIAM CAREY

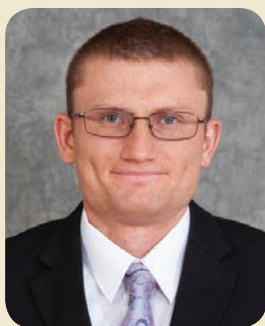
Archdiocese of Kansas City in KS
Age: 27
Background: Accounting/Missionary

I studied accounting at Emporia State University in Kansas, graduating in May of 2016. I then accepted a job offer with a CPA firm after graduation but turned it down in order to serve as a college missionary. There were many students who were not living out their faith, some who were caught up in the party culture, and others who knew a lot about Jesus, but did not know him personally.

My call to the priesthood originated during my conversion in an RCIA class on marriage and holy orders. I had not known that St. Paul spoke of celibacy in scripture and my heart burned in a new way when I read the passage. The call to the priesthood began to tug more fully after I attended a summer conference with Saint Paul's Outreach and later attending SEEK, a national conference hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), in 2015.

The transition from a life of missionary work on a college campus back into a college atmosphere where I am the one studying has been difficult. Studying philosophy in Pre-Theology is much different than studying accounting! I have come to appreciate the foundation philosophy provides, but it was a bit of an adjustment. This was coupled with an entirely new way of life that is structured towards the formation of priests.

One surprise about seminary life was the seminary campus itself! As a runner, I love having my own personal "cross-country course" here on the seminary grounds, with the nearly two mile Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Nature Trail to explore and use as a track.



JACOB CONNEALY

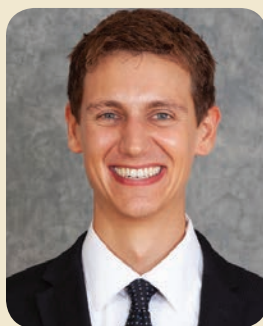
Archdiocese of Omaha
Age: 26
Background: Accountant
(Auditor)/Residential Dean

The priesthood had always been in the back of my mind, but I did not take it seriously until I finished college. I began to think about it

more seriously when working as a professional auditor. I was not fulfilled in my job and was looking for more. It was clearly time for me to give the priesthood a more serious look. This is when I started working as a Residential Dean at Mount Michael High School in Elkhorn, Nebraska. I was in charge of the Junior Class and was the jumps and throws coach for the track team. During my last year at the school, I assisted with the youth ministry program as well. Working at the school gave me a chance to discern the next step in my life. Seminary was on my mind and I knew this job would give me the opportunity to really focus in on prayer and discern the call.

Adjusting to the seminary schedule was a bit challenging, but it was made easier because of the 11 other men in my class who all made similar transitions.

The best surprise of seminary life for me was the well-rounded formation. Not only does it focus on academics and prayer, it also makes time for leisure and social interaction. Having been a college athlete I really appreciate the workout facilities and the opportunity to participate in intramural sports.



CRAIG RICHTER

Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph
Age: 28
Background: Business

In 2015, I left my job as a business consultant in Minneapolis, MN and moved to Overland Park, KS for a job as a strategy analyst for Cargill, a multinational agribusiness firm.

Although “priesthood” crossed my mind as a possibility during high school, the real catalyst for my discernment was my involvement with Catholic young adult communities in Minneapolis and Kansas City. In Minneapolis, I attended a weekly young adult Bible study at my parish during a three-month job search. Upon moving to Kansas City, I built relationships with men and women in Saint Paul’s Outreach and City on a Hill, the young adult ministry of the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. These communities were, and still are, full of men and women my age on fire for their Catholic faith, answering the call to seminary, religious life, and married life. Their witness to joyfully living and pursuing their vocations gave me the courage I had always lacked to consider if God was calling me to the priesthood, not just as a distant possibility, but as an immediate next step.

Living with more than 100 men in the seminary community has been an adjustment. We are together all day during the week, from Holy Hour of Adoration at 6:00 a.m. to dinner at 6:00 p.m. Spending all that time together, I sometimes get distracted by small, incidental habits, so learning to let go of these distractions has been a humbling challenge for me.

Intellectually, the classes and community of seminarians and faculty have helped me learn about the faith and philosophy. Spiritually, through a regular prayer routine including holy hour, Mass, and spiritual direction, I have come to cherish time in prayer before the tabernacle. Mass is the best part of my day. On the human and pastoral aspects of formation, I am humbled by the examples set by my brother seminarians and the priests at seminary. Their example, from conversations at lunch to the way they approach the liturgy to their involvement in our pro-life ministries, has shown me in greater detail what I desire to be as a Catholic man and, God-willing, a diocesan priest of Jesus Christ.

Weekly Seminarian Spotlight

Follow the seminary on Facebook and Twitter and get to know all our seminarians in the weekly #SeminarianSpotlight posts.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Spotlight

Quang Dinh, Theology IV - Phat Diem, Vietnam

I was born in a Catholic family with three brothers and three sisters in a countryside village in the province of Ninh Binh, Vietnam. After graduating from university in 2008, I had worked in Phuoc Du Long Company, which manufactures pottery and ceramics in the South of Vietnam for three months. Then, I got home to register as a seminarian in my diocese at the beginning of 2009. I lived in Bishop's Residence for almost three years before entering seminary... It is a great blessing for me to have an opportunity to be formed in an American seminary.



kenrick.edu

A Gift from the Little Sisters of the Poor

By Ryan Truss, Theology II – St. Louis



After Mass on November 29th, the seminary community processed from the Chapel of St. Joseph to the building's west wing to witness the blessing of a statue of St. Louis King of France, given to our community as a parting gift by the Little Sisters of the Poor. In his blessing, Fr. James Mason encouraged us to follow the example of St. Louis, modeling our lives after his example of service and sacrifice. The statue, which now sits

prominently near the Fr. Emil Kapaun Student Center, beautifully depicts St. Louis feeding bread to the hungry.

This statue previously stood just outside the doors of the Little Sisters of the Poor's home for the elderly. St. Louis served as a model to the sisters who worked tirelessly to serve the poor and elderly in this city for almost 150 years. My own parish assignment this year is in North St. Louis, where the sisters lived and worked until recently. At their last Mass in St. Louis, I was greatly moved by the gratitude I saw in many of those who had been touched by their ministry. Each time I walk past this statue, I am reminded that God is calling me to do the same. I see the compassion in St. Louis' face as he feeds bread to the hungry and I look forward to the day when as a priest, God-willing, I will feed souls with the Bread of the Angels.

We are greatly honored to have this statue on our grounds and we pray that God will reward the Little Sisters as he rewarded his servant St. Louis. To the Little Sisters of the Poor, thank you for your service to our city. You will be missed.

Highlights

Mr. Leonard Dino, Jr. and **Mr. Thomas Heeger** recently joined the Board of Trustees. We appreciate their willingness to serve our seminary community in this important capacity.



The trophy cabinet in the seminary's Student Center is filling up quickly after the fall semester wins at the **Conception Seminary Volleyball and Soccer Tournament** and the annual **St. Meinrad Disc Golf Tournament**. Pictured here are Adam Pleimann, Theology I – St. Louis, and Michael Laugeman, College II – St. Louis, who participated in this year's disk golf competition with individual and team wins.

As part of our 10-year evaluation, the seminary welcomed visitors from the **Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC)** and the **Association of Theological Schools (ATS)** in February.

Recognition by these associations affirms that our academic programs are consistent with the quality, improvement, and accountability expectations that they have established.

It was standing room only at the **23rd Annual Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture** in October. A recording of the lecture presented by Dr. Mary Healy, entitled "These Signs Will Accompany Those Who Believe – the Role of Healing in Evangelization," is available on our YouTube Channel (youtube.com/kenrickglennon).

The **2018 Advent Novena** brought record-breaking crowds to the seminary for the nightly hour of prayer, reflection, and music by the seminarian choir. The events were also live streamed on the seminary's YouTube channel so friends could participate from their homes around the world.

Members of the seminary community traveled to the nation's capital on January 18th for the annual **March for Life** in Washington, DC. The men attended the march with parishes, youth groups, and pro-life clubs, facilitating programs before, after, and during the event.

Volunteer Spotlight: Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Suzanne Baer

Parents of Mitchell Baer, Pastoral Internship and Michael Baer, Pre-Theology I – St. Louis

In 2013, when their son Mitchell was a freshman in Cardinal Glennon College, Dave and Suzanne Baer attended their first Convivium Dinner Auction. Both were so impressed with the event that they knew they had to become a part of the team of volunteers who run the event year after year. They quickly found themselves welcomed by a large volunteer community, consisting of other seminarian parents, parents of priests, and individuals from the St. Louis area.

Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Baer have worked hard in a wide array of event planning areas. Mrs. Baer helps to acquire items from local businesses and individuals and brings her creativity to help the team assemble them into over 125 silent auction items. Mr. Baer is always on-hand to provide solutions to problems and implement new ideas to help streamline the process. Both are on their feet the entire night of the event,

assisting seminarians, guests, and other volunteers.

The Baers enjoy everything about Convivium, but are especially touched by the way it deepens relationships between future priests and the community. Mr. Baer sees the fruits of their labors in the priests themselves. *"It is an incredible sense of joy each year to see the men develop, complete their vows of ordination, and know that we were able to play a small part in God's plan."* Mr. and Mrs. Baer concluded six years of working with Convivium on November 3, 2018 with what Suzanne, now in the Co-Chair leadership role, declared, *"our best year ever."* The Baers enjoy helping to grow and improve the event each year. And now, with two sons in seminarian formation, their efforts have doubled the impact in their own family life.

The seminary is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Baer and all Convivium volunteers



for their tireless efforts in making the event possible. The 27th Annual Convivium Dinner Auction will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Chase Park Plaza. Mark your calendar to support the seminary, so that, as Mr. Baer states, *"Seminarians have a wonderful environment to thrive in and focus on their formation and discernment."*

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KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY

THE CONVERSATION

A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Issues

Saturday, April 27, 2019

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

5200 Glennon Drive • St. Louis, MO 63119

To register, visit: rcfstl.org/the-conversation or call 314.918.2892.



RESTING WITH THE LORD: JACOB PRICE

Conversing with Christ in Silence

By Jacob Price, College II – St. Louis

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” *Mark 6:31*

These words of Christ to His apostles were not merely an offer to relax after finishing a round of the mission He had given them. They were an invitation to take time away from that toil and recollect themselves in His presence - to rest and be revitalized by Him. So, too, every year Jesus invites His seminarians to get away for a time and center themselves around Him once more. This takes place in the form of an annual five-day silent retreat, which each seminarian attends as part of his spiritual formation. For collegians and pre-theologians, the retreat is hosted at the White House Jesuit Retreat, situated just above the Mississippi River, providing gorgeous scenery and an opportune location for quiet reflection. Each day of retreat consists of Mass, a meeting with a spiritual director, and a conference given by the retreat master. Seminarians are also encouraged to make four prayer periods, each lasting about one hour.

My experiences at the White House Jesuit Retreat have been flooded with grace. Nevertheless, before going on my first retreat, the idea of spending five days in silence intimidated me. I had never been on a silent retreat before and, as someone who typically prefers staying busy, being pulled away from my daily schedule and regular interactions with others challenged me. As time progressed on the retreat, my attitude towards the silence shifted. I started desiring to return to my prayer periods after meals or a break rather than making them obligatory. I began to find recollection and enjoyment in the silence of the stone-walled chapel and subdued, serene landscape, praying with the Scriptures and listening to Christ conversing with me.

With the help of my spiritual director, I came to better recognize the generous graces the Lord wanted to pour into my heart through the silent time with Him and I learned how to better receive those graces with open and trusting hands. These graces continue to marvelously unfold as I work with the Lord to weave the spiritual insights from retreat into the study and apostolic work of the school year. Praying with the words of Scripture also brought greater insight to the text itself and to how Christ wanted me to apply them to my day-to-day life. This time of rest with the Lord, though it seems unnecessary to a non-stop world, is truly an essential time of formation for those learning to serve Him as future priests.



RETREATS AT A GLANCE

4

RETREATS



127

PARTICIPANTS



30+

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS



2,000+

HOLY HOURS



LOCATIONS:

- White House Jesuit Retreat – St. Louis
- Chiara Center – Springfield, IL
- Our Lady of the Snows Shrine – Belleville, IL
- Mount of Beatitudes Guesthouse – The Holy Land

PRESENTERS:

- Fr. Tim Gallagher, O.M.V. St. Ignatius Chair for Spiritual Formation at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver
- Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield, IL
- Fr. David Pignato, Director of Human Formation at St. John's Seminary in Boston
- Fr. Charles Samson, CGC Class of 2009 and Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology

ANNUARY SPIRITUAL RETREATS

Holy Land Retreat & Pilgrimage

This year, 12 deacons in Theology IV participated in the annual Holy Land Retreat & Pilgrimage, accompanied by four priests, including their tour guide, Fr. Charles Samson, CGC Class of 2009 and Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology.

After completing a five-day silent retreat near the Sea of Galilee, the men stepped from one grace-filled experience after another, visiting holy places from both the Old and New Testaments. The seminarians sang Christmas carols in the very place where the shepherds received a visit from the angels upon Jesus' birth. They venerated the place where Jesus was born and prayed the *Magnificat* together where Mary and St. Elizabeth greeted each other at the Visitation.



A day-by-day video journal of the journey, recorded by Deacon Patrick Russell, Theology IV – St. Louis, is available online at [YouTube.com/kenrickglennon](https://www.youtube.com/kenrickglennon).



1. Deacon Bill Cremers rode a camel at Jericho! 2. While in Nazareth, the group met and was hosted by Fr. Hanna Kildani, the Patriarchal Vicar for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. 3. At the Jordan River, the priests and deacons renewed their baptismal promises. 4. Deacons Bill Cremers, Andrew Kleine, and Joel Haug, A.V.I. during a boat cruise on the Sea of Galilee. 5. Fr. Edward Ahn, A.V.I. celebrated Mass at the Latin altar on Calvary, honoring the place where Mary, the Mother of God stood at the foot of the cross. 6. Fr. Charles Samson explained the significance of a first century olive press discovered in Tabgha at the Monastery of the Fish and the Loaves, where Jesus fed the hungry crowds of 5,000 people.

Photo Credits: Deacon Nicholas Ashmore 1 | Deacon Patrick Russell 2 | Deacon Emmanuel Lopez 3, 4, 5, 6



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CALENDAR *of Events*

APRIL

Friday, April 5: Nazareth Night

Tuesday, April 9: Installation of Lector – Theology II

Wednesday, April 10: Board of Trustees

April 12-14: Come and See Weekend

Sunday, April 21: Easter

Thursday, April 25: Installation of Acolyte – Theology I

Saturday, April 27: The Conversation: A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Issues

Monday, April 29: Deacon Oaths

MAY

Friday, May 3: Cardinal Glennon College Trivia Night

Saturday, May 4: Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – St. Louis

Tuesday, May 7: Priesthood Oaths

Saturday, May 11: Kenrick School of Theology Graduation

Friday, May 17: Cardinal Glennon College Graduation

Saturday, May 25: Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood – St. Louis

JUNE

June 2-8: Kenrick Glennon Days

June 10-16: #FathersWeek

AUGUST

August 18-25: Orientation

Monday, August 26: Classes begin


SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 12: Mass of the Holy Spirit

Our Mission

*Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
is a proper ecclesial
community of the
Archdiocese of Saint Louis
preparing men for the
ministerial priesthood of
Jesus Christ
in the Catholic Church.
Under the guidance of the
Holy Spirit and to the
glory of God the Father,
we seek each seminarian's
configuration to the
Heart of Jesus Christ,
High Priest and Shepherd,
so that he can shepherd
wholeheartedly with
Christ's pastoral charity.*

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