

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY HOUSTON, TEXAS

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

Community of Formators

Very Rev. Eurel Manzano '11
RECTOR

Rev. Matthew Súniga '18
VICE RECTOR & COORDINATOR OF HUMAN FORMATION

Rev. Richard Hinkley, STL
COORDINATOR OF
SPIRITUAL & INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

REV. JUSTIN CORMIE '19
PRIEST FORMATOR

REV. JOE LUIS HERNANDEZ '20
PRIEST FORMATOR

Mrs. Kathi Kramer
PASTORAL FORMATION SPECIALIST

Mr. Zachary Turner
DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Dr. Chris Stravitsch
STAFF COUNSELOR

*The 2024-2025 Annual Report is published by St. Mary's Seminary.
Every effort has been made to provide accurate information.
The unaudited financial information set forth is preliminary and
subject to adjustments and modifications.*

*Photography courtesy of St. Mary's Seminary, the Archdiocese
of Galveston-Houston, the Diocese of Austin & the Diocese of
Victoria in Texas.*



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Mary's Seminary is to accompany Discipleship and Configuration stage seminarians in their discernment of a call to the Roman Catholic priesthood in Texas and across the continent, and to form holy, virtuous, competent, and compassionate Roman Catholic priests.

VISION STATEMENT

This esteemed school of Mary is committed to the most excellent and comprehensive formation of Discipleship and Configuration stage men, through programs of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. Through effective witness and pedagogy, the seminary's faculty, staff, and supporters will challenge seminarians to be espoused heralds of the Gospel, configured to the heart of the Good Shepherd, that they might provide worthy pastoral service to the mystical body of Christ as priests.

In the spirit of mutual respect and shared vision, the community of formators of the Seminary, along with the sponsoring bishops and faithful in Texas and across the continent, work together to produce true pastors for their respective flocks, which is essential to the work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God.



FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts!

I am pleased to share with you this Annual Report for St. Mary's Seminary. It covers the 2025 fiscal year – from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

This past summer, together with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Dioceses of Austin, Brownsville, Victoria in Texas, and the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, we celebrated the ordination of eight new priests and nine transitional deacons. As the newly ordained parochial vicars enter their first parish assignments, we look forward to hearing of the abundant fruits of their ministry. The Seminary community continues to train and accompany the transitional deacons, as they now prepare for their own priestly ordination in a few months.

In addition to the busy schedule of seminary formation requirements and academic obligations on campus, our seminarians are also engaged in the vibrant life of our local Church through their work with various parish and archdiocesan ministries and apostolates. Rooted in Christ, the

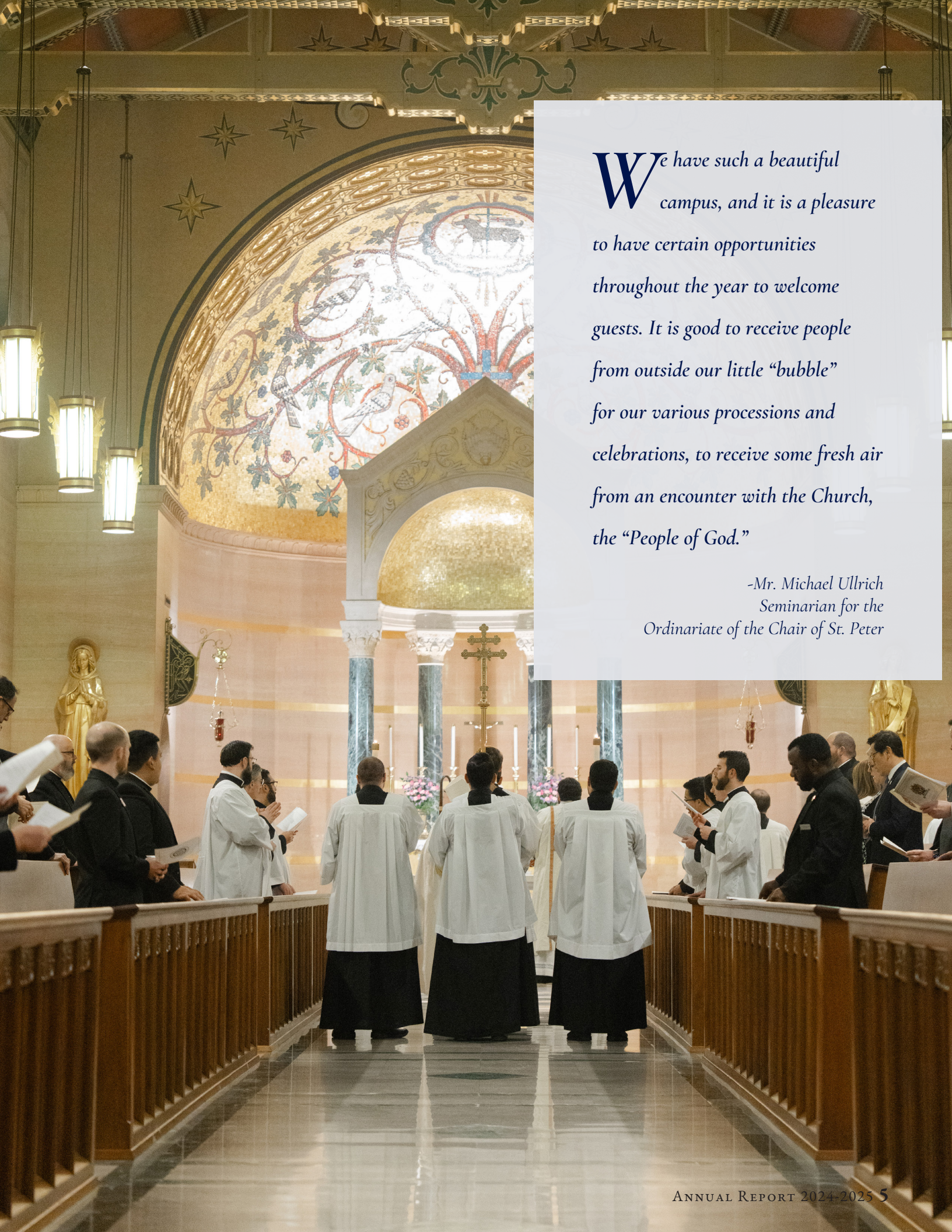
men at St. Mary's follow the call of Pope Leo XIV to be witnesses of hope, "pressing ahead with missionary zeal" to become shepherds after the heart of Christ.

We begin this new year of formation with a dormitory full of seminarians and a steady number of discerners enlivening this sense of hope. I ask you to continue to pray in an intentional way for all the men here, that they might seek God's will above all things as they are equipped to serve his holy Church. As we approach our 125th anniversary, know that it is through your support that we can continue the sacred work of priestly formation here at St. Mary's Seminary.

Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Erel Manzano
Rector, St. Mary's Seminary



We have such a beautiful campus, and it is a pleasure to have certain opportunities throughout the year to welcome guests. It is good to receive people from outside our little “bubble” for our various processions and celebrations, to receive some fresh air from an encounter with the Church, the “People of God.”

*-Mr. Michael Ulrich
Seminarist for the
Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter*

2025-2026 SEMINARIANS



REV. MR. ARTURO ESCOBEDO
DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE



REV. MR. CHRISTIAN FRANCKE
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER



REV. MR. ROMEO GARCIA
DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE



REV. MR. CHRIS HABERBERGER
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



REV. MR. CAMERON KOLOGINCZAK
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



REV. MR. BRIAN MCNAUGHTON
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



REV. MR. JAMES SCHNITZLER
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



REV. MR. JOSHUA SVAJDA
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



REV. MR. THOMAS VU
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



REV. MR. ANDREW YAREMKO,
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER



MR. JOSEPH FIORENTINO
DIOCESE OF TYLER



MR. BRIAN WEHRLE
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER



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ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. MARLON BARAO
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. RYAN BERGER
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. THEODORE BIRKOFER
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. LIVINUS IDAG
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



MR. JESUS DANIEL MANI
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



MR. EDWIN MIRELES
DIOCESE OF TYLER



MR. TRIEU NGUYEN
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



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ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



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ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. KEENAN ANNICCHIARICO
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



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DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



MR. NAM NGUYEN
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



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MR. WILLIAM PETTUS
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



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MR. GRIFFIN ALEXANDER
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. ALEX BURNS
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. JEREMY CASAL
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



MR. SEBASTIAN DELGADO
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. JOEL GOTERA
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. BASIL HOUSEWRIGHT
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. ANTHONY HYGINUS
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. RAFAEL LOPEZ JR.
DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE



MR. JOHN PAUL PHILLIPS
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



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DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE



MR. JESSE TREVINO
DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE



MR. MICHAEL ULLRICH
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER



MR. ALEXANDER WOODS
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



MR. JORGE CALOCA
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



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MR. IAN DE KOSTER
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. BRANDON RIOJAS
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MR. PRESTON SHAVER
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER



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MR. MANUEL TREVINO
DIOCESE OF AUSTIN



DCN. CARLIN WALTERS
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



MR. NATHAN HICKMAN
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

The Heart of Christ is compelled by immense compassion. He is the Good Samaritan of all humanity, who tells us: “Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). To us, as to the disciples, he says: “Give them something to eat” (Mk 6:37). In a word, make your entire life a gift of love.

Pope Leo XIV



WELCOMING NEW SEMINARIANS: A FULL HOUSE

Each year, Orientation Week here at St. Mary's helps all of us settle back into the groove of priestly formation. Its familiar rhythms steady the house: the new men signing in and receiving their pins, dinner with faculty and staff on Thursday evening, Café Manzano every morning, a day in Galveston highlighted by a visit to St. Mary Cathedral Basilica.

These touchstones help us prepare for a year of prayer, study, and living together for Christ and His Church, in service to this local archdiocese, our other Texas dioceses, and the Ordinariate. This year, the Signing-in Ceremony took place at 1 Vespers of the Assumption, and watching each New Man step forward to receive his seminary pin made the Lord's call and the Church's welcome tangible, all under the watchful protection of Our Lady.

The joy of this year has been magnified by the "full house." Every room in the new dorm is occupied, the chapel is a little louder at Lauds and Vespers, the refectory line takes a bit longer (a happy problem because it means vocations are alive and well), and our common rooms feel a lot more like a family. The Orientation Team worked to set a tone of hospitality and fraternity, and the men have responded with generosity. I find myself grateful and hopeful for the year ahead, growing ever closer to Christ with this community of men, each seeking the Lord wholeheartedly.

*-Rev. Mr. Chris Haberberger
Seminarian for the
Diocese of Austin*



FINANCIALS

THE COST OF FORMING A PRIEST

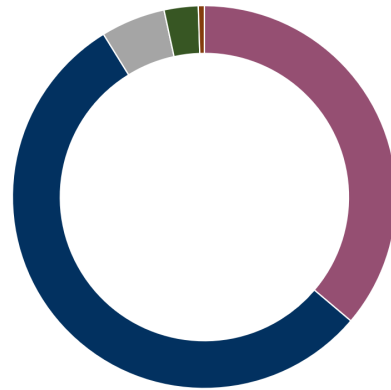
\$65,238.00

The average amount it costs per year per seminarian at St. Mary's Seminary

We are grateful for the generous support of our benefactors, which allows us to focus our time and efforts into discerning God's will for our lives, without concern for our temporal needs.

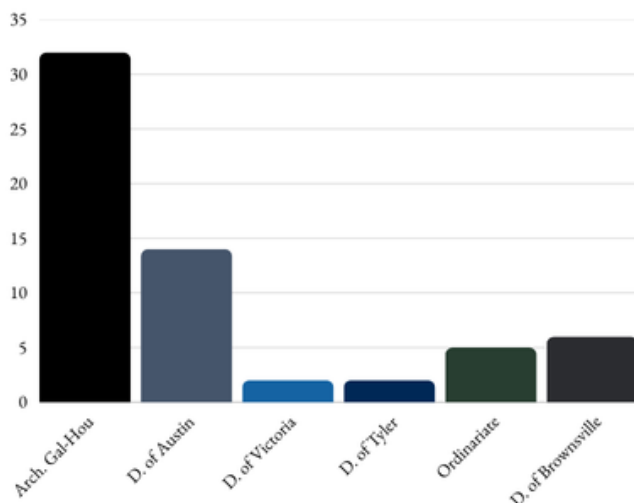
*- Mr. Joseph Fiorentino
Seminarian for the
Diocese of Tyler*

2024-25 REVENUE

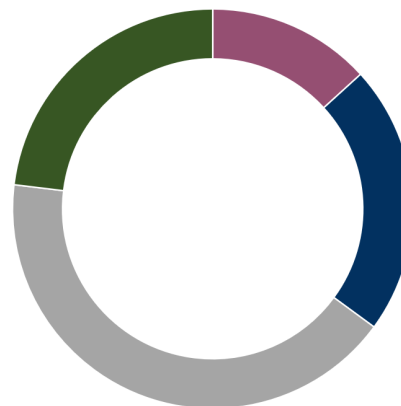


- Seminary Share of Corpus Christi Collection 36%
- Endowments, Grants & Restricted Gifts 55%
- Rector's Dinner & Development Activities 5%
- Room & Board 3%
- Investment Income 1%

SEMINARIANS BY DIOCESE



2024-25 EXPENDITURES



- Administration 13%
- Food Services 22%
- General Plant 42%
- Formation 23%



FORMING MEN OF FORTITUDE

The seminarian must be a man of grit, or to use the language of the Church, a man of **fortitude.**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that fortitude is “a moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good” (no. 1808). If priestly formation can be likened to a journey, then the path the seminarian walks will sometimes be filled with uneven terrain, unexpected turns, and unforeseen obstacles to be overcome.

The same can be said of the priest. The same can be said of any man or woman in pursuit of goodness, holiness, and their vocation in Christ. One of my hopes for the men in priestly formation at St. Mary’s Seminary is that they cooperate with God’s grace to cultivate within themselves the virtue of fortitude as they engage fully in all dimensions of priestly formation.

*- Rev. Matthew Súniga '18
Vice Rector*

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLECTION FOR ST. MARY'S SEMINARY 2024-2025 YEAR OF FORMATION

St John-Alvin	13,741.76	La Divina Providencia-Houston	1,012.00
St Stanislaus-Anderson	6,620.25	Notre Dame	15,860.00
Holy Trinity -Angleton	11,303.21	Our Lady of Czestochowa	1,670.00
St Martin-Barrett Station	4,013.18	Our Lady of Guadalupe	7,593.58
Our Lady of Guadalupe-Baytown	14,559.00	Our Lady of Lavang	16,524.00
St John-Baytown	7,045.00	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	6,247.00
St Joseph-Baytown	3,287.50	Our Lady of Sorrows	2,181.95
Sts Peter & Paul-Bellville	5,177.20	Our Lady of St John	6,466.00
St Joseph-Brazoria	2,884.00	Our Lady Star of the Sea	9,188.00
St Andrew-Channelview	11,334.94	Our Mother of Mercy	2,639.30
St Jerome-Clute	5,833.73	Prince of Peace	81,087.00
Sacred Heart-Conroe	50,273.32	Queen of Peace	10,274.62
Sacred Heart-Crosby	7,945.51	Regina Caeli	14,036.43
Sts Cyril & Methodius-Damon	1,605.00	Resurrection	8,847.00
St Anthony-Danbury	4,745.00	Co- Cathedral of the Sacred Heart	23,114.98
St Hyacinth-Deer Park	12,314.05	St Albert	9,826.55
Shrine of the True Cross-Dickinson	14,608.16	St Alphonsus	2,860.44
St Mary Star of the Sea-Freeport	3,784.81	St Ambrose	17,156.80
Mary, Queen-Friendswood	38,099.33	St Andrew Kim	5,588.00
St Mary-Frydek	4,115.00	St Anne	51,940.61
St. Faustina	78,164.75	St Augustine	6,364.72
Our Lady of Fatima-Galena Park	7,806.93	St Bernadette	23,848.35
Holy Family-Galveston	18,584.00	St Catherine	57,304.14
St Katharine Drexel-Hempstead	9,478.45	St Cecilia	11,316.10
St Jude-Highlands	3,227.72	St Charles	26,568.21
Our Lady of Lourdes-Hitchcock	14,060.00	St Christopher	6,749.61
Annunciation	8,167.98	St Clare	14,201.35
Ascension Chinese	4,383.00	St Cyril	19,119.96
Assumption	11,436.00	St Dominic	7,224.90
Blessed Sacrament	5,367.85	St Elizabeth Ann Seton	35,925.13
Christ the Incarnate Word	27,885.56	St Frances Cabrini	17,793.00
Christ the King	12,600.00	St Francis de Sales	10,717.21
Christ the Redeemer	67,423.70	St Francis of Assisi	10,346.00
Corpus Christi	13,463.54	St Francis Xavier	13,218.40
Holy Ghost	12,933.12	St Gregory	3,049.00
Holy Name	5,736.00	St Jerome	22,448.00
Holy Rosary	20,724.94	St John Neumann	14,208.69
Immaculate Conception	9,020.50	St John Vianney	90,022.50

St. Joseph Parish	16,381.47	Holy Family-McNair	5,049.00
St Justin	14,181.00	Holy Family-Missouri City	15,661.00
St Leo	13,050.00	St Angela Merici -Missouri City	23,372.43
St Luke	16,082.27	St Michael-Needville	4,923.20
St Mark	8,729.00	St John-New Caney	10,545.54
St Mary of the Purification	9,611.60	St Joseph-New Waverly	2,122.00
St Matthew	11,917.50	St Juan Diego-Pasadena	23,573.50
St Maximilian	18,113.33	St Pius V-Pasadena	11,478.60
St Michael	39,909.51	Sacred Heart-Pattison	4,720.80
St Monica	5,854.25	St Helen-Pearland	49,806.96
St Nicholas	2,656.80	St Mary-Plantersville	21,144.25
St Patrick	7,886.93	Sacred Heart-Richmond	31.50
St Paul	16,928.99	St John Fisher-Richmond	6,621.65
St Peter Claver	3,360.36	Holy Rosary-Rosenberg	10,770.00
St Peter the Apostle	4,146.00	Our Lady of Guadalupe-Rosenberg	4,973.55
St Philip Neri	3,739.00	Immaculate Conception-Sealy	8,117.11
St Philip of Jesus	7,122.00	Our Lady of Grace-South Houston	3,511.00
St Raphael	9,142.90	Christ the Good Shepherd-Spring	42,193.77
St Rose of Lima	17,177.93	St Edward-Spring	15,434.00
St. Stephen	1,112.00	St Ignatius-Spring	31,616.25
St Theresa	22,941.00	St James-Spring	17,106.75
St Thomas More	20,839.97	St Joseph-Stoneham	1,862.00
St Vincent de Paul	44,795.71	St Laurence-Sugarland	87,408.19
Vietnamese Martyrs	15,452.50	St Theresa-Sugarland	39,360.07
St Philip-Huffman	10,696.88	St Thomas-Sugarland	12,079.88
St Mary-Humble	23,414.22	Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Sweeny	1,994.00
St Thomas-Huntsville	6,931.92	St Mary-Texas City	16,721.74
Immaculate Conception-Industry	2,072.00	St Anne-Tomball	18,680.25
Epiphany of the Lord-Katy	38,552.87	Guardian Angel-Wallis	4,774.00
St Bartholomew-Katy	7,4381.74	St John-West Columbia	3,208.00
St Edith Stein-Katy	17,882.78	St Anthony-The Woodlands	67,105.95
St Martha-Kingwood	71,132.15	Sts Simon & Jude-The Woodlands	53,584.20
Queen of Peace-La Marque	6,864.08		
St Mary-La Porte	11,465.56		
St Michael-Lake Jackson	1,3741.62		
St Mary-League City	3,3087.65		
St Matthias-Magnolia	21,609.52		
Sacred Heart of Jesus-Manvel	28,508.34		

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$2,549,318.01

ALLOCATION TO ST. MARY'S: \$2,365,255.33

ALLOCATION TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES: \$184,062.68

*Parish totals reflect remittances to the Chancery Office
as of September 8, 2025*

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY PASTORAL MINISTRY

As a new St. Mary's seminarian, I am excited to begin pastoral ministry as a catechist at Our Lady of Fatima in Galena Park. This experience is essential since it lies at the very heart of priestly formation.

St. Mary's Seminary relies upon twenty-seven parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Diocese of Austin, Diocese of Tyler, and the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, along with apostolates, to provide our seminarians with opportunities to work with various ministries. From prison ministry to caring for the dying to forming young people in

their faith, we encounter Christ as we minister to the world in his name.

It is a true privilege to serve the Church while being formed in the art of shepherding with compassion and humility. I truly look forward with joy to offering the faithful of the local Church the fruits of my seminarian formation.

*-Mr. Alexander Woods
Seminarian for the
Diocese of Victoria in Texas*



A great joy is encountered when the formation and training received at seminary culminate in the celebration of a sacrament. I was privileged to introduce individuals into the divine life through the Sacrament of Baptism at my parish assignment in St. Jerome Catholic Church, which moves me to look forward to the day when I will offer the celebration of the Eucharist for the people of God as a priest.

*-Rev. Mr. Arturo Escobedo
Seminarian for the
Diocese of Brownsville*

The opportunity to love alongside the Missionaries of Charity was to let my heart be shaped by tired hands, aching bodies, and radiant smiles. Yes, just as we gave of ourselves to these suffering men, they and the Missionaries taught us to see not men but the suffering Christ Who still says, “I Thirst.” He thirsts in them and in me - for their heart and for my own.

*-Mr. Ian de Koster
Seminarist for the
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*



This past August, I was honored to get a chance to visit the men of St. Thomas High School at their annual freshman orientation, called Camp Aquinas. As an alumnus of the school (Class of 2016), it was encouraging to see how much the campus ministry program has grown, and to see the next generation of young Catholic men begin their own formation. I got a chance to visit with the guys over paintball, rock wall climbing, and of course, serving at Mass. I wouldn't be surprised if a few of the St. Thomas Eagles that I met that weekend will soon become St. Mary's men!

*-Mr. Theodore Birkfore
Seminarist for the
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

VICTORIA - MAY 31, 2025

Rev. Shane Goertz
Rev. Caleb Krishcke
Rev. Aaron Padilla

GALVESTON-HOUSTON - JUNE 7, 2025

Rev. John B. Clark
Rev. Hai Dao
Rev. Carlos Velero

AUSTIN - JUNE 14, 2025

Rev. Kingsley Ohaeri
Rev. H. Ladd Spears

ORDINATIONS TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE

GALVESTON-HOUSTON - MAY 10, 2025

Rev. Mr. James Schnitzler
Rev. Mr. Joshua Svjada
Rev. Mr. Thomas Vu

AUSTIN - MAY 17, 2025

Rev. Mr. Chris Haberberger
Rev. Mr. Cameron Kologinczak
Rev. Mr. Brian McNaughton

ORDINARIATE - MAY 28, 2025

Rev. Mr. Christian Francke
Rev. Mr. Andrew Yaremko

BROWNSVILLE - MAY 31, 2025

Rev. Mr. Arturo Escobedo









ALUMNI MESSAGE

Entering seminary, I often thought about sacrifice. I thought of the sacrifice God had made for me and my own life as a sacrifice in return. I was just twenty-one, and I only was thinking of the sacrifice of a wife—at that point, I didn't understand what I would give up by not having kids or much money to speak of. Even further, I had no sense of the sacrifices that so many people had already made for me, that I might be able to pursue a life of holiness.

I was deeply ignorant of that great gift so many priests had already made of their lives for me: how they had listened to me, consoled me, said Mass for me, and heard my paltry confessions. I had no idea how much work and resources it took to make a beautiful and thriving parish where I could encounter God week after week. And I certainly did not realize how much it cost to put a seminarian through just one year of formation, let alone seven years.

I can only hope to rectify my ignorance with gratitude now. St. Mary's seminarians have a goal of becoming truly eucharistic men, men of thanksgiving. And it remains a goal for me every day, even having been ordained. So if you will oblige me, I offer a litany of thanks: to the bishops and vocation directors who took a chance on a nerdy kid, to the seminary rectors and formators who worked with me day-by-day, to the professors of the University of St. Thomas who read my loquacious papers, to the kind and diligent staff of St. Mary's who handle so much information with aplomb, to the cooks of SAGE for their delicious and (or) healthy offerings, to the pastors who let me work in their parishes, to the parishioners who received me all over Houston as their own son, to my family who supported me through the years, and of course, to all of the benefactors who made my time at St. Mary's Seminary possible. With your sacrifices, I was able to become a man of true sacrifice, at the altar of God and in my daily work.

With your support, I can now support so many more.

In gratitude,
Rev. John B. Clark, '25

MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

DONATE ONLINE TODAY

It is the most secure, easiest, and fastest way to support St. Mary's Seminary.

VISIT THE GIVING PAGE

www.smseminary.com/give

SELECT YOUR GIFT

Select your gift amount or choose a custom amount, and then choose your number of payments.

SPECIAL NOTE

A recurring gift each month is a convenient way to make a lasting contribution to St. Mary's Seminary and the future of our Church.

DONATE

Enter your billing and credit card information, then click "Process." Once your gift is processed, you will receive an email notification acknowledging your contribution.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!





