



PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

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Yoopers for Seminarians

SUMMER 2020

Greetings FROM HOUGHTON

It is a great joy for our diocese to have received the precious gift of two new priests (Fr. Romeo & Fr. Tom) and a new transitional deacon (Dcn. Ben). Even as recent months have been full of uncertainty, these good men begin their service to our diocese and this is a great blessing in which we take hope. Thank you for supporting them!

Inside you'll find an article on discernment, the most essential category of priestly formation, as well as a pictorial guide to the glorious ordination liturgy. I hope you enjoy those stories!

We are already looking forward to the next year of formation for our seminarians! In the face of economic challenges, we need the Faith and our Church more than ever. Help me continue investing in the future of the Catholic faith in the Upper Peninsula!

There has been a tremendous response to the Yoopers for Seminarians initiative in recent months, and we have already raised 34% of our goal this year. Please prayerfully consider helping us get all the way to \$100,000 to support vocations this year!



Fr. Ben Hasse
Vocations
Director



YFS 2020 Here's How You Can Help

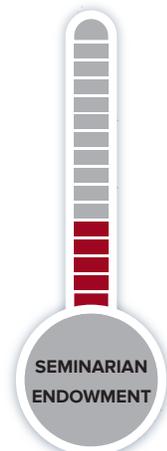
Three ordinations is a huge accomplishment for our small diocese! God-willing, we hope for three more next spring!

There has been an amazing response to the Challenge Gift for YFS 2020. We appreciate everyone who has given! Funding our vocations program is hard work and we need your help. Fr. Joe Gouin has offered a challenge gift: for every \$1,000 given to Yoopers for Seminarians this year, \$250 will be donated to the Seminarian Endowment (a fund of the U.P. Catholic Foundation), up to a total of \$25,000!

To earn this match, then, we need to raise \$100,000 during 2020! This is a REALLY impactful gift, because it strengthens our ability to pay for vocations promotion and seminarian education right now (the \$100,000 goal) as well as build up the Seminarian Endowment to provide sustainable funding into the future (the \$25,000 challenge gift).

To date, because of your generosity, we have already raised \$37,165.87 toward the \$100,000 goal. Your gift benefits future priests both now and over the long haul.

Consider making a bold gift to YFS this year to take advantage of this generous matching challenge! Your gift will help us to build a culture of vocations as well as to educate our seminarians now and in the future.



\$37,165.87

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOOPERS FOR SEMINARIANS 2020. LEARN MORE.
YOOPERSFORSEMINARIANS.ORG

Have you considered making a planned gift to the Seminarian Endowment?
Find out more at dioceseofmarquette.planmygift.org

A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE

The Ordination Liturgy is one of the most beautiful in the life of the Church and has a number of rituals which are unique. Walk with us through some of the most significant moments! The Ordination Mass proceeds as usual until just before the homily.



The Election. Before the homily, the candidates are called forward by the deacon and presented to the Bishop by the Vocations Director. The Bishop formally chooses them, and they are affirmed by the assembly's applause. This is followed by the Bishop's homily delivered from in front of the altar where he sits on the faldstool.

The Promises of the Elect. After the homily, the men come forward and they make a series of promises to the Bishop in preparation for ordination, including the promise of obedience, celibacy, and to pray daily for the Church.

Litany of the Saints and Prostration. This is followed by one of the most evocative and moving moments of the ordination when the men to be ordained prostrate themselves face down on the floor of the church before the bishop while all present chant the Litany of the Saints imploring their intercession.



The Vesting. The newly ordained man is vested with the vestments proper to his order. A deacon will receive a deacon stole and dalmatic; in the case of a priest, the stole and chasuble. The man chooses one or two clerics to vest him who have been mentors to him.



Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination. Once these two things have been completed, even if there were to be a fire, the man would be validly ordained! This ritual action, the Laying on of Hands, is attested to frequently in the scriptures. The rites that follow illustrate and unpack the gift of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



Handing on of the Book of the Gospels. After being vested as a newly ordained deacon, he receives the Book of the Gospels. The Bishop admonishes the deacon with a beautiful prayer "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Ordination Liturgy



Anointing of Hands and Handing Over of the Bread and Wine. The Bishop anoints the newly ordained priest's hands with Sacred Chrism to consecrate them to the celebration of the Mass. The new priest receives from the Bishop the chalice and paten containing the bread and wine.



The Kiss of Peace. The newly ordained deacons and/or priests are welcomed by the Bishop and the deacons and priests with the sign of peace.



Liturgy of the Eucharist. This proceeds with great solemnity and the newly ordained begin to exercise their ministry. After communion it is common for the men's assignments to be announced. Oftentimes the bishop will ask the newly ordained priests for their first blessing.

Solemn Procession. After a solemn procession, the feasts of celebration begin!

Discernment is the way every baptized Christian should make serious decisions in the context of God's plan. It is rooted in a posture of openness to God's will. For a man discerning priesthood, his journey may begin in many ways. The possibility may present itself to him through prayer, his own questions, or someone talking to him about the priesthood. Eventually, he must arrive at the core question, **"God, what is your plan for my life?"**

It is difficult to relinquish control of one's own life. There is often the temptation to captain one's own ship. In the country song, "Jesus take the wheel," I've always imagined Jesus might want to steer for us even before we are in a tailspin! God is always willing to help us when we're in trouble. But what would happen if we allowed Him to guide us and direct us in ALL things?

A man discerning the priesthood may seek counsel from his pastor or confessor, and enter discussion with the vocations director. He may also read books including "To Save a Thousand Souls." He may visit the seminary or join the Diocese of Marquette's annual seminarian retreat to learn more. These experiences give the discerner raw data to bring to his prayers. He may notice a movement in his heart. Is he being drawn toward the priesthood? Does the call to priesthood deepen and grow? Every man discerning priesthood must confront the question of celibacy. By his human nature, a man has a healthy and natural desire for marriage. A call to the priesthood is not the lack of a desire for the great natural good of marriage and family. A man does not enter the priesthood because he doesn't like marriage but because the Lord has another plan to grow and fulfill his heart.

Where there is support from the vocations director, the next step is to apply to become a seminarian. This is a shared discernment between the man and the diocese. A man's desire to become a priest must be confirmed by the bishop's invitation to become a seminarian. Entering seminary is a step into more serious and sustained discernment. Many resources are placed at the man's disposal including daily Mass, a discipline of prayer, spiritual direction, instruction in the Church's tradition, and experiences of pastoral ministry. Taken together these resources give the man a way to refine and purify a sense of God's call in his life. Please pray for hearts open to the priesthood.



— FR. BEN HASSE, VOCATIONS DIRECTOR



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Each of the newly ordained with their families. **FR. ROMEO'S** family came from the Detroit area. **FR. TOM** is ready to begin serving immediately. **DCN. BEN** is the oldest of 10 and was joined by his entire family!



FR. ROMEO CAPPELLA



FR. TOM MERKEL



DCN. BEN RIVARD