

Seminarian Collection 2013

FAQs All Household Mailing

1. What does the money from the Annual Seminarian Collection support?

The annual collection assists our seminarians with tuition, room and board, books, health care, travel, summer assignments and other related expenses, including the work of the Vocations Office.

2. Why did the annual collection change to an all-household mailing?

Each year, this collection has yielded a great harvest and has also helped to create a culture of vocations. The annual budgetary needs continue to increase, and so it seems the time is right to make this collection available to a broader audience. The new format will also alleviate some of the scheduling difficulties in our parishes during the month of August. A household mailing will be more convenient.

3. Will there still be a collection envelope?

There will not be a collection envelope. Gifts will be made by responding to the materials received in the mail.

4. What if a visitor wants to make a gift?

Additional materials, including a pledge card, will be sent to parishes so they will be available to both parishioners and visitors during the month of August and beyond. If any gifts end up in the parish offertory, they can be forwarded to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay.

5. Why is this still called a “collection” if a basket is not passed around?

We would like to keep this collection distinct from the Bishop’s Appeal and therefore have not named it an appeal. The word “collection” still captures what the seminarians are doing. They are like the early disciples, going from town to town in order to share the good news and asking for support.

6. Are the dates of the Seminarian Collection flexible?

The dates are not flexible because of the complexity of the all-household mailing. There will be a timeline published that will help keep the focus of the Collection centered on the arrival of the mailing and, if applicable, the speech given by a seminarian.

7. Should I still request a seminarian?

Fr. Schuster, the Vocation Director, highly encourages you to request a seminarian. This practice really inspires people to have hope for the future, to get to know their future priests, and to allow the seminarians to have an impact on this collection. It also provides a wonderful learning experience for our seminarians to present to your community.

8. What if my parish has a missionary appeal taking place during the kickoff weekend?

If your parish has a visiting Missionary Cooperation Priest, we would suggest your parish simply mention during the announcements that parishioners will be receiving a letter from Bishop Ricken requesting their support of our Seminarians and next weekend, you will hear more details about this important collection.

9. Will my parish get regular updates on how much has been collected?

The Catholic Foundation will send regular updates to parishes letting them know how the collection is going.

10. Is there a goal for my parish?

No. There is no set goal for any parish. As the number of seminarians generally increases each year, we hope each parish will increase its total giving over the previous year's total.

11. Is there a way to make a gift online?

Yes. Please go to: www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give Then, follow the website's easy and helpful prompts.

12. What are the biggest changes to the Seminarian Collection?

Some of the biggest changes are that it is a direct mail letter from Bishop Ricken to every diocesan household with the kickoff weekend on August 3-4. All gifts should be mailed to the Catholic Foundation to be thanked and receipted. It is expected that each parish should actively promote the campaign over a four-week period during August.