

2018 Seminarian Collection Audio Script

Hello my brothers and sisters. This is Bishop David Ricken. One of the many joys of being a priest is listening to people share their stories of how Jesus has changed their lives. As we deepen our faith, these stories need to be shared. In a unique way, our priests help us to learn how to share Jesus.

Our seminarians have been praying, studying and preparing to walk with us as Catholic disciples. Through your support of the Seminarian Collection, young men are able to receive the training and the tools to share the Gospel. They learn how to joyfully serve God and lead people to His kingdom. Through the Mass and the sacraments, they invite us to grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord. These men are called to be the face and the hands of Jesus Christ offering hope, prayer and encouragement to all people.

I am pleased to introduce to you Fr. José López, Fr. Greg Parent and Fr. Kyle Sladek who were ordained to the priesthood last month. I am grateful for their commitment to the Lord and I am so thankful to you for your prayers and financial support of them. Now I'd like to introduce you to these fine new priests.

Hello my name is Father Kyle Sladek. What inspired me to the priesthood is been kind of a mixture of few different things. I think prayer, being around Mass, being around Eucharistic Adoration, being around other priests, having good priestly role models and just people's encouragement and prayers and support. And I finally met with a priest about half way through college and I just kind of opened up and shared that I was thinking about priesthood and that was like a huge weight off my shoulders. Thank you so much for all your prayers and financial support of the Seminarian Collection.

Hello my name is Fr. José López. It is my honor to have been ordained a new priest for the Diocese of Green Bay this summer. And I am excited to share my love for Jesus Christ with the people throughout northeastern Wisconsin. I hope that within my priesthood I am able to be that instrument of love and peace and mercy where people are able to come to experience to know the love and the mercy of God. I am so very grateful for the prayers and financial support of the Seminarian Collection – thank you and God bless you!

My name is Father Greg Parent. I'm from New Franken, Wisconsin. I think the best thing about priestly service is first and foremost being able to bring the Sacraments to the people that I serve. It's amazing to be able to share these incredible graces that the church gives us. I feel so blessed to be a priest. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support of the Seminarian Collection.

Thank you Fr. José, Fr. Greg and Fr. Kyle for your witness to our Lord. I am thankful for your dedication to the Church and your desire to serve people in our Diocese. For many years, Fr. Schuster has been accompanying young men like Fr. José and Fr. Greg and Fr. Kyle. He has made a tremendous impact on the formation of our new priests. I would like to thank Fr. Schuster for his many years of devoted service to vocation ministry. Fr. Schuster will be transitioning now from Vocation Director to pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Luxemburg and Holy Trinity Parish in Casco.

Fr. Mark Mleziva, one of the fine young men you supported through prayer and the Seminarian Collection will be our new Vocation Director. Fr. Mark was ordained last year and is really excited to help our youth answer their call to serve our Lord. Please keep Fr. Schuster, Fr. Mark and our newly ordained priests and seminarians in your prayers.

Each year we are blessed to see the culture of vocations growing in our area. With this great news comes the challenge of funding our vocation efforts. It costs nearly \$38,000 per seminarian per year. This helps cover the cost of their tuition, room and board, insurance and other expenses and funding for the Vocation Office. This year our total will be almost \$1 million.

Please join me in supporting priestly vocations with a generous gift to the 2018 Seminarian Collection. If you have given a gift in the past, thank you so much. Maybe this year you will prayerfully consider sharing a little bit more to educate our seminarians. If this will be your first gift to the Seminarian Collection, please consider \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated and needed.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our priestly vocations. Our seminarians are our Hope for the Future and we need to Help Them Today! May God abundantly bless you; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.