

Seminarian Collection 2018 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does the money from the 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. Each year, this collection has grown and has helped to create a culture of vocations. The annual budgetary needs continue to increase as the number of seminarians increase. The Seminarian Collection is an opportunity for Catholics to support our future priests.

2. How should we handle gifts placed in the collection basket?

Although this is a direct mail appeal, sometimes responses end up in the collection basket. If any gifts end up in the parish offertory, they can be forwarded to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay, PO Box 23001, Green Bay, WI 54305-3001.

3. 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.

4. Should I request a seminarian speaker?

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 be present to your community.

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

Although this is not an ideal situation, the two events may coincide. If your parish has a visiting Missionary Cooperation Speaker, we would suggest your parish still mention during the announcements that parishioners should expect a letter regarding the Seminarian Collection from Bishop Ricken. Then share with them that more information on the collection will be presented next weekend.

6. Should my parish produce Seminarian Collection envelopes to be inserted with our regular parish collection envelopes?

No. Most people will be receiving a direct mail appeal. Additional materials, including additional pledge envelopes, will also be sent to parishes so they can be made available to visitors and those who are not on the mailing list. Those materials should be visible during the month of August and beyond. Please do not put the envelopes out early since we need to focus on the mailing. Seminarians who are speakers will also carry a few gift envelopes with them.

7. 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. Updates are posted weekly to the Catholic Foundation website.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. What happens to the men who do not complete seminary?

An integral part of seminary includes a discernment process, in which the seminarians reflect on God's call in their lives through formation, prayer, brotherhood and service. Not all who begin seminary will finish as priests. Some determine their vocation is to single or married life, and some ultimately serve in other ministry leadership roles in our Church, such as lay ministers or even deacons. Your contributions help make better disciples no matter the outcome.