

## **2019 Seminarian Collection Audio Script**

Hello my brothers and sisters in Christ. This is Bishop David Ricken. How blessed we are in our Diocese to have many men open their hearts to God's call to the priesthood. For Bill Evans God touched his heart when he was around 13 or 14 years old as he sat alone on Christmas Eve watching the televised midnight Mass from St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Bill wasn't even Catholic at the time! God planted the seed of his vocation that Christmas Eve. After many years as a successful surgeon Bill has now answered God's call to the priesthood. For Matthew Faucett the Catholic faith was always a part of his life. Growing up in a military family, he attended Catholic school and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Marinette. He went on to attend seminary college and in 2015 I had the pleasure of sending Matthew to Rome to complete his theological education. God works in mysterious ways in all of our lives.

With your support of the Seminarian Collection you help men just like Bill and Matthew on their faith journey to the priesthood. Our seminarians are good men from many different backgrounds. They have been praying and studying at the seminary and serving at our parishes. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and are excited to share the Good News in our communities. Through your support of the Seminarian Collection, men are able to receive the training and the tools to share the Gospel. They learn how to joyfully serve God and lead more people to discover, follow, worship and share Jesus. Through the Mass and the sacraments, they invite us to grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord.

Recently I had the pleasure of ordaining Fr. Bill Evans and Fr. Matthew Faucett. I am grateful for their commitment to the Lord and I am so thankful to you for your prayers and your financial support of them. Now I'd like to introduce you to these fine new priests.

Hello, my name is Fr. Bill Evans. In priesthood my goal is to serve in such a way that I am always useful in God's hands and that I make a difference. Saint Mother Teresa always said that we're not called to be successful, we're just called to be faithful. I am so very grateful for the prayers and the financial support of the Seminarian Collection. Thank you, thank you, thank you and God bless you.

Hello, my name is Fr. Matthew Faucett. So Jesus says in the Gospels the most of any kind of word or phrase is "peace be with you" right and I hope that in my priestly ministry in the Diocese I bring that message of peace to people. Um because knowing the face of Christ will have a profound change to anybody's life who experiences it. And I think the priest is in a privileged position to bring that peace to the people of God through the sacraments but also through his on ministry. And I think I am blessed to be a priest and to hopefully share that peace of Christ with the people of God. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support of the

Seminarian Collection. May you continue in your awareness of God's love for you and the peace of Christ be with you always.

Thank you Fr. Bill and Fr. Matthew for your witness to our Lord. I am thankful for your dedication to the Church and your desire to serve people in our Diocese. Their faith journey to the priesthood would not have been possible without your support and prayers for the Seminarian Collection.

Each year we are blessed to see more men answer God's call to the priesthood 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 2019 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 very first gift to the Seminarian Collection, please consider \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. Gifts of all sizes are deeply 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 bless you abundantly; the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.