

2021 Seminarian Collection Audio Script

Hello my brothers and sisters. This is Bishop Ricken, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to speak to you today via this recorded message.

Last December, Pope Francis announced 2021 would be the Year of St. Joseph. Over the years, I've relied heavily on the intercession of St. Joseph, during times of great need. When I was installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, there was an incredible need for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Our prayers in Wyoming were answered by St. Joseph when we were blessed with 16 men who said yes to the priesthood.

Today, we are calling on St. Joseph again, this time to help the Diocese of Green Bay increase vocations over the next several years. Your prayers are needed more than ever as St. Joseph continues to guide young men forward in service to the people of God right here in northeast Wisconsin.

One such young man is Patrick Costello. Patrick's deep prayer life was formed at an early age. He grew up in Neenah, and has vibrant memories of his father kneeling in silent prayer for his family. Patrick also fondly remembers his grandparents devoting their time to teach him to pray the rosary. Both are profound examples of disciples sharing Jesus with those they love. What a tremendous blessing for Patrick to have these witnesses of our faith in his life.

Through your prayers and support of the Seminarian Collection, young men like Patrick receive the education and financial resources needed. Our seminarians are eager to serve God and to bring the Gospel message to the people of northeastern Wisconsin through the Mass and the Sacraments. Your support of the Seminarian Collection makes this possible for our seminarians.

Recently I had the pleasure of ordaining Fr. Patrick Costello. I am truly grateful for his commitment to the Church. I'd now like to introduce you to this fine new priest.

Hello, my name is Fr. Patrick Costello. I originally grew up in Neenah, Wisconsin at St. Margaret Mary Parish. Fr. Michael Parisi from the Naval Academy was the one who really encouraged me to step out in that way. And he said to me, "Patrick there's some things I see in you that would be indicators or signs of a possible priestly call." For the people who have given to the Seminarian Collection, I would just say thank you and just realize that you're part of this really wonderful mission that Christ gave to the Apostles of going to all nations to bring the Gospel. And He does that primarily through the ministry of the Bishops and then to the priests. That would not be possible without your support, so you're a part of this great commission that Christ gave to the Apostles. Thank you.

Thank you Fr. Patrick for your devotion in serving our Lord. Fr. Patrick's faith journey to the priesthood was made possible because of your support of the Seminarian Collection. Please know that funding our yearly vocation efforts cost nearly \$38,000 per seminarian. This helps cover the cost of tuition, room and board, insurance, funding for the Vocation Office, and other expenses. Remember, these men are our *Hope for the Future*, and we need to *Help Them Today*.

I invite you to join me in supporting priestly vocations by making a gift to the 2021 Seminarian Collection. If you have given to this collection in the past, thank you for your generosity. If this will be your first time supporting the Seminarian Collection, please consider a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more. Whatever you're able to give is greatly appreciated and needed.

Certainly an increase in vocations to the priesthood is the GREATEST need of our Diocese. I have been privileged to ordain 27 of our own young men in the last 12 years, but I know that there are more men who are called to say yes to the priesthood, and we need them. By 2025 our goal is to increase the number of seminarians to 30 or more men studying for the Diocese.

You have my deepest gratitude for your prayers to St. Joseph and your support of our priestly vocations through the Seminarian Collection.

May Almighty God bless you and your families abundantly; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.