

FISHERS *of* MEN

“Follow me, and I will make you...” Matthew 4:19

Volume 1 & Issue 4

Archbishop Plans Retreat with Seminarians

With 32 seminarians studying in seven seminaries, every opportunity for these men to gather is an very important moment in developing the fraternal bonds that are meant to deepen and grow after ordination.

For many years, our future priests have enjoyed the annual Seminarian Day at the conclusion of the summer assignments. After Mass in a parish, the Serrans provide a great lunch for the archbishop, the seminarians and their family and friends.

This year's Seminarian Day was immediately followed by a softball game and the Seminarian Retreat in Schuyler. By the end of August, the men returned to school. They will not reunite until the Christmas party at the conclusion of their semester, when all gather once again for Evening Prayer with the archbishop.

These fraternal and family gatherings are good for the life and identity of the seminarian. Moreover, when the archbishop is present, the seminarians become profoundly aware of their vital relationship with him.

For this reason, the men are particularly blessed to have a new and privileged opportunity to spend time with their spiritual



father after Christmas. On December 29-30, the seminarians will have an overnight retreat with Archbishop George Lucas at the Archdiocesan Retreat and Conference Center.

Archbishop Lucas requested these days for the purpose of coming to know the men who are being formed for priesthood in this archdiocese. Likewise, the seminarians will come to know their Successor to the Apostles as one whom they can respect, obey and trust in all the ways our Lord intends. ☺

Ten New Men Begin Studies for the Priesthood

With thanks and praise to Almighty God and Mary's powerful intercession, we welcome ten new men into the rank of seminarians.

Our three pre-theologians, five college transfers, and two beginning collegians give us a wide spectrum of men who are beginning their studies. One is a computer

programmer; another is a lawyer. The rest include an engineer, a diesel mechanic, musicians, aspiring teachers and aspiring medical professionals. Among them, there is a whole host of healthy hobbies.

We welcome each of them and pray for them daily. God be praised for their generosity and courage. ☺

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Seminary Collection

January 9th

National Vocation Awareness Week throughout the archdiocese

January 9th-15th

FOCUS Convention; Denver, Colorado

January 14th-16th

March for Life; Washington D.C.

January 19th-23rd

St. John Vianney Seminary visit for prospects

February 10th-12th

Conception Seminary visit for prospects

March 26th-28th

Meet the New Men!

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News from the Office of Vocations

Father Paul C. Hoelsing—Director of Vocations

Meet the New Men!



Nathan Hall

Pre-Theology I
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
Birthday: June 3rd 1983
Home Town: Omaha, NE
Parish: St. Peter
njhall@archomaha.org



Marcus Knecht

Pre-Theology I
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Birthday: September 20th 1981
Home Town: Omaha, NE
Parish: St. James
meknecht@archomaha.org



Patrick Nields

Pre-Theology I
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Birthday: November 6th 1971
Home Town: Omaha, NE
Parish: St. Philip Neri
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Taylor Leffler

College II
St. John Vianney Seminary
Birthday: April 5th 1991
Home Town: West Point, NE
Parish: St. Mary
tjleffler@archomaha.org



Dan Maguire

College II
Conception Seminary
Birthday: April 30th 1990
Home Town: Omaha, NE
Parish: St. Vincent de Paul
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Nicholas Mishek

College II
St. John Vianney Seminary
Birthday: May 14th 1991
Home Town: Omaha, NE
Parish: St. Elizabeth Ann
namishek@archomaha.org



Grady Ramold

College II
Conception Seminary
Birthday: January 31st 1990
Home Town: Neligh, NE
Parish: St. Francis of Assisi
ggramold@archomaha.org



Scott Schilmoeller

College II
St. John Vianney Seminary
Birthday: December 16th 1987
Home Town: Ralston, NE
Parish: St. Gerald
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Christopher Demers

College I
Conception Seminary
Birthday: December 27th 1989
Home Town: Columbus, NE
Home Parish: St. Isidore
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Thomas Schumacher

College I
St. John Vianney Seminary
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Home Town: Hartington, NE
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Office of Vocations Fall/Winter Calendar

Cedar Catholic High School Visit
October 19th

Seminarian Parent's Night
October 19th

**6th Grade Vocation Awareness Day,
Skutt High School**
October 22nd

St. Mary High School Visit—Morning
Pope John XXIII High School Visit—Afternoon
October 26th

Kenrick Seminary Visit
October 29th

Priesthood Sunday—Celebrate Your Pastor
October 31st

Archbishop's Open House for Vocations
October 31st

Archbishop Bergan High School Visit
November 2nd

Lindsay/Humphrey High School Visit
November 2nd

West Point Central High School Visit
November 4th

Roncalli High School Visit
November 9th

Conception Seminary Visit for Prospects
November 13th–15th

St. John Vianney Seminary Visit for Prospects
November 18th–20th

Archbishop & Seminarian Christmas Gathering
December 22nd

Archbishop & Seminarian Retreat
December 29th–30th



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The Seminarian's Corner

Taylor Leffler—College II

The First Year Experience

Seeing the Welcome to Minnesota sign on my drive up from Nebraska to St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul really made me wonder, “Am I going to like it here? Am I going to have fun anymore? Am I ready for the seminary?”

Well, I like it here, I'm having more fun than I've had in years, and yes, I was ready for the seminary!

I come out of every class knowing that

I learned something valuable. The environment is just right for prayer: 24-hour access to the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel, daily Mass and Liturgy of the Hours, and 146 brothers right there with me.

One of the best parts about seminary is the brotherhood. Living in a building with 146 incredible men who know me by name is a wonderful gift. Occasional Nerf gun wars, pizza parties, movie nights, and practical

jokes with my brothers make for a fun and exciting end to a prayerful and studious day.

This first-year experience is perfect for any young man who loves the Lord and wants to follow His will. My time spent in the seminary so far has been full of blessings. I hope many more young men will say yes to the Lord and discern their vocation here. ☩

A Summer with the Institute for Priestly Formation

by Ben Boyd—Theology I

Last summer the diocese graciously permitted me to attend the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) at Creighton University. During this ten-week program, I was exposed to Ignatian spirituality, which has greatly enriched my prayer life and discernment abilities.

The material I learned from the four courses was very interesting and useful. However, the highlight of my IPF experience was the eight-day silent retreat.

The retreat consisted of four hours of daily prayer, along with daily spiritual direction. From this, my relationship with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Mary deepened. Many unknown and forgotten aspects of my life were revealed by them.

I spent the majority of my time in prayer reflecting in the Jesuit garden. There, God and Mary spoke to my heart through scripture, nature, and my experiences. It was there that God affirmed that I was

His beloved son. This has helped me to accept the graces He desires to bless me with, which has therefore allowed me to further commit to the vocation I believe He is calling me.

I highly recommend the IPF program to my brother seminarians, not only because it will advance your prayer life and relationship with God and Mary, but also because it will give you better self-knowledge and unexpected healing to your life. ☩

A Spanish Language Summer

by Greg Carl and James Netusil—Theology III

Our seminarians attend several summer programs to further their education, including a unique opportunity to learn the Spanish language. Here's what Greg Carl and James Netusil, both 3rd year theologians at Kenrick, had to say about their experience:

“We traveled from Omaha to Mexico to study Spanish so that we might be prepared for future ministry if the Archbishop calls us to serve Hispanic Catholics. We studied for 10 weeks in the town of Queretaro, a beautiful city with much history and beautiful architecture.

“The program, organized through Mount St.

Mary Seminary, included 16 seminarians from various dioceses throughout the country, as well as two priests serving as program directors. Classes were held at OLE Language School, and the teachers were fantastic.

“Besides the language, the program also focuses on cultural immersion. We lived with different families during our time, and learned much from them.

“We spent one week in Ciudad General Cepeda, a very poor area of Mexico. We worked through a mission and visited various ranchos twice a day to celebrate Mass and do catechesis.



Greg Carl in Guanajuato Mexico for the Spanish Immersion Program

“We would recommend this program to any seminarian who is willing to prepare for ministry to the Hispanic people of Omaha. You will find the educational aspect to be worth your while, but also experience the rich culture of Mexico in a way many people will never have the opportunity to do.

“Oh, and the food is MUY BUENO!” ☩

Reaching Youth with TOTUS TUUS

by Matt Niggemeyer—College IV

This past summer, Totus Tuus was successfully launched in the Archdiocese of Omaha. I was privileged to lead one of the two teams, having prepared for this by previously leading a team in Wichita.

This summer was amazing because I was serving my home archdiocese and could learn more about it. We visited the Franciscan Sisters in Elgin, got lost in Bow Valley, learned about the Catholic home school organization in Omaha, learned about local schools, met amazing priests, and most importantly, interacted with amazing Catholic families.

As a seminarian, meeting these families who were striving to live an authentic Catholic life

out of love for their Faith was both inspiring and humbling. It was an opportunity to build relationships with the people I might one day be giving my life for as a priest.

I'd definitely like to lead Totus Tuus again, and I want to invite other young men and women to consider it too.

From my perspective, the coolest thing to see was young men who, because of our presence and interaction, took another look at the Faith that they had previously considered "un-cool, dude." To see a young man living his Faith is rare in today's world, making that example, and that of all Totus Tuus teachers, incalculably powerful. 🙏



Seminarian Matt Niggemeyer plays guitar for TOTUS TUUS at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Helena, Nebraska