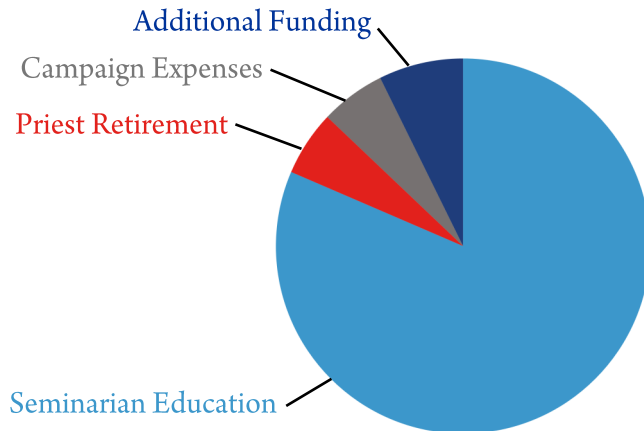




OUR
SHEPHERDS
OUR **FUTURE**
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WEST MICHIGAN

CAMPAIGN UPDATE



TOTAL RAISED: \$36,056,552
as of June 2022

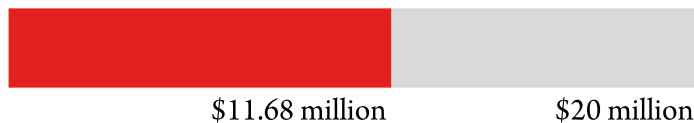
- SEMINARIAN EDUCATION:** \$29 million
- PRIEST RETIREMENT:** \$2 million
- CAMPAIGN EXPENSES:** \$2 million
- ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SEMINARIAN EDUCATION OR CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PRIESTS:** \$3 million*

*Money raised over the \$33 million goal has been designated by Bishop Walkowiak for these initiatives.

SUPPORTING THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF SEMINARIAN EDUCATION

The Our Shepherds — Our Future Fund for Seminarian Education was officially established at the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan in Spring 2021. As pledges are paid off over the next few years the fund will grow to \$20 million. The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan is honored to be a part of ensuring your generosity lives on for generations to come.

Current Endowment Fund Balance



New Named Endowed Funds

In addition to the Our Shepherds — Our Future Fund for Seminarian Education, fifteen donors have chosen to commemorate their campaign contributions by establishing a named endowed fund. Year after year, grants from these funds will provide support for seminarian education and formation for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Thank you for your generous support of the *Our Shepherds – Our Future* Capital Campaign. Because of people like you, we were able to exceed our diocesan goal of \$33M in support of diocesan seminarians and priests! Your generosity ensures the Catholic faith remains alive and well in West Michigan.



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS



WELCOME TO THE PRIESTHOOD!

Ordained June 4, 2022

Father David Sacha - appointed parochial vicar of the Basilica of Saint Adalbert and St. Mary parishes, Grand Rapids, appointed co-chaplain at West Catholic High School

Father Logan Weber - appointed parochial vicar of St. Robert of Newminster, Ada

Father David Jameson - appointed parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Grand Rapids

CONGRATULATIONS DEACONS!

On May 21, **Christopher Epplett** and **Jacob Zemaitis** were ordained to the transitional diaconate. This summer they are completing a chaplaincy internship with St. Ann's Home. In the fall they will begin their final year of seminary studies at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, and God willing, be ordained to the priesthood next June.

"I'm excited to be ordained in the deacon role, which is an office of service to the people of God. The deacon also proclaims God's word, which includes delivering a homily that speaks into the hearts of parishioners. My studies this past semester included coursework on crafting and practicing homilies. I have learned how to pray to receive the message God has for the community to receive at Mass. I now know the time and focus it takes to write, edit, and deliver this message in an engaging way."

— Christopher Epplett



FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRIESTS

The cost to form a priest of the Diocese of Grand Rapids is more than \$450,000 over the entire eight-year program. This cost includes the one-third of annual tuition that each man pays during his undergraduate years.

2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Seven men are expected to apply to join seminary. If all men are accepted, we will begin with 21 seminarians.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids has been blessed to have approximately 20 seminarians for eight consecutive years – *the Holy Spirit at work!*



“I want to personally thank you for your continued support of myself and my brothers as we discern the Lord’s will in our lives. It means a lot to me as I prepare to continue my studies at Mundelein to know that there are so many people back home praying and supporting me. It has been an incredible four years so far and because of your support, I know the next four will be as well. I look forward to the day I can serve you all as a priest for our Lord back home.”

— Logan McGahan, anticipated ordination: 2026



“Thank you to each and every one of you who has contributed to the *Our Shepherds – Our Future* Capital Campaign. Because of your generous support, I have the opportunity to study at Mundelein Seminary and discern my call to the priesthood. I look forward to growing in my understanding of Scripture and learn what it takes to serve God and his people as a priest.”

— Patrick Truskowski, anticipated ordination: 2027

THE VIANNEY VISIT

Father Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations, took fourteen men on a bus trip to St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in November for the annual Vianney Visit. The visit allows men discerning the priesthood to spend a weekend in the life of a seminarian.



“On the 10-plus hour bus drive home, one young man wanted to discuss ‘What now?’ I asked him, ‘How seriously are you considering the seminary?’ His response: ‘Father, I’m in. I want to go. SJV just felt like home.’ These are the moments I feel privileged to witness and be a part of. **These young men are men of prayer. They love Jesus, and they are open to the call to the priesthood.**”

- Father Stephen Durkee

Please pray for our seminarians and for those considering the priesthood.



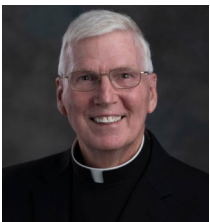
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Father Colin Mulhall has been assigned to **Canon Law studies at the Catholic University of America** commencing this fall toward the attainment of a Licentiate in Canon Law. His term as pastor at Holy Redeemer Parish in Jenison concluded June 30, along with his appointments as the director of continuing formation for priests and co-chaplain of Catholic Central High School.

Canon Law is the legal system of the Catholic Church. The job of a canon lawyer is to see that the carefully devised rules of the Church are properly understood and applied. Disputes can arise in almost any area of Church life, notably in regard to educational policies, admission to sacraments, use of Church property, and liturgical discipline. The opinion of a canonist on a specific question is the opinion of one trained to recognize whether a given action is in accord with the legal expressions of Christ's will for His Church. Canon lawyers serve our diocese in the Tribunal and in positions such as Vicar General.

PRIESTLY RETIREMENTS

Retired priests continue to serve our diocese in multiple ways. They cover Masses at parishes when there is a vacancy and serve on councils for various purposes throughout the diocese. We are grateful for their many years of ministry and for the ways they continue to serve.



Reverend Thomas P. Page, pastor of St. Jude Parish, is granted Senior Priest status, effective June 30. Father Page has been a priest for 43 years including 26 years as Vicar for Priests.



Reverend Stephen S. Dudek, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Wyoming, is granted Senior Priest status, effective July 31, 2022. Father Dudek will continue his work in the diocesan Missions Office as director. Father Dudek has been a priest for 38 years.



Father Dudek (center) was honored as a 2022 Lead. Learn. Proclaim. award recipient at the National Catholic Educational Association's awards dinner on April 18. He was one of thirteen individuals nationwide to receive this award. Fr. Dudek is pictured with San Juan Diego Academy Principal Kristina Martinez-Precious and David Faber, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Report brought to you by:



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
of West Michigan

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