



FAITH

IN OUR FUTURE

INVESTING IN GROWING THE PRIESTHOOD: SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY

Since 1845, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary has formed the minds, hearts and souls of men discerning their call to priesthood. With Archbishop Timothy Dolan at the lead, and Fr. Donald Hying newly appointed as Rector, the Seminary is drawing on this rich history, while building new vigor with a priestly formation model designed for the 21st century.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The good news is that 34 men have made the life-changing decision this year to discern their call to priesthood at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary — 85 percent more than a decade ago.

The challenge is to keep that number growing, to meet the growing need for priests. In southeastern Wisconsin we have 209 men to serve 700,000 Catholics in 211 parishes. Eighty percent are 54 or older.

Priests are essential to the life of our Church — celebrating Mass, preaching, hearing confessions, presiding at weddings and funerals, visiting the sick, helping prepare our children for the sacraments. To further a healthy, flourishing priesthood in our archdiocese, the *Faith In Our Future* Campaign supports institutions involved in priestly formation.

CELEBRATING A UNIQUE GIFT

Establishing a local seminary was a visionary step back in 1845. Enhancing the quality of formation in our current seminary is equally visionary. Saint Francis de Sales Seminary is reaching out with a new heart and a new spirit, improving priestly formation with a model that is:

Pastoral. From the first day of formation, seminarians spend significant time in parishes, hospitals and prisons, working side-by-side with pastors and lay leaders – gaining vital practical experience.

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More on reverse side.

Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Local. While the Catholic Church is universal, our communities are distinct in culture, dialect and lifestyle. Forming men where they will serve better prepares them for the many roles they will play as pastor.

Individual. Seminarians enjoy a community of support with individual guidance. Small classes promote one-on-one direction, mentoring and dialogue.

Integrative and Collaborative. Saint Francis de Sales Seminary provides four pillars of formation – spiritual, human, pastoral and intellectual.

Spiritual and human formation helps mold men in the image of Jesus, who was celibate, obedient, compassionate, mature and generous. Candidates are formed through:

- Private and communal prayer
- Daily Eucharist
- Liturgy of the Hours, the sacrament of Reconciliation, retreats, days of recollection and rector's conferences
- Regular meetings with a spiritual director and a formation advisor to help you in the discernment and integration process.

Pastoral formation. Priests wear many hats, but every role is informed by the example of Christ the Good Shepherd. At Saint Francis Seminary, seminarians develop pastoral skills through

- Instruction
- Internship in a community parish

- Experience in a hospital, nursing home or jail
- Reflection on pastoral experiences.

Intellectual formation. Seminarians attend classes at a leading Catholic theological institution, Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners.

Seminarians learn how to articulate the Catholic tradition through prayer and worship, spirituality, counseling, Scripture, morality, doctrine and church history by earning a Master of Divinity degree.

Seminarians live in a formational community whose members come from all over Wisconsin, the United States and the world.

MAKING PRIESTLY FORMATION EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

The formation experience for each seminarian costs more than \$40,000 per year for a four- to five-year course of study and growth. Some of our men are formed at national and international seminarians in Rome, Lourain, and Washington D.C.

The \$5 million *Leaders of the Future Endowment Fund* will support the education and formation of men studying for the priesthood to serve in southeastern Wisconsin.

For more information contact Debra Lethlean, Development Director, 414-769-3322.