



Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

November 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Jesus began his public ministry, he called twelve Apostles to join him. When his ministry was complete, just before he ascended to heaven, he entrusted the mission to go make disciples to the Apostles while granting them his own power and authority through the gift of the Holy Spirit. While the Apostles were called specifically to the ministerial priesthood, they were not without support in their ministry. Many others, men and women, some who were acknowledged by name, and others who remained anonymous, provided support for them out of their means (cf. Lk. 8:1-3). To this day, our Lord continues to call men to himself for the sake of priestly ministry. Likewise, there remains the need to provide support for these men, especially during the time of a man's formal formation within the seminary.

We are currently blessed with 25 seminarians and there are others already applying for the coming year! Without including the expense of operating the Office of Vocations, the education alone - tuition, room and board - costs around \$270,000 per seminarian over the course of his six years of philosophical and graduate level studies in Theology.

In the Diocese of Peoria, we do not lament the fact that we are burdened with these costs. Rather, we are thankful that Jesus has called so many men who are willing to enter seminary formation in order to be future priests serving your parishes and families. For this reason, we have chosen to focus attention on this Thanksgiving holiday to thank God for our seminarians and to thank God for all who provide for them.

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Address
419 N.E. Madison Avenue,
Peoria, Illinois 61603
Website
cdop.org

I ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial donation towards priestly vocations at mass on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Your gift will directly contribute to the education of our seminarians. Your generous support is much needed and greatly appreciated. Please make your check available to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria Office of Priestly Vocations.

Peace and Prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Tylka", with a stylized flourish at the end.

✙ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

Please read the weekend of November 25-26, 2023, and take up this collection on December 2-3, 2023. Kindly forward the proceeds of this collection to the Diocesan Office of Finance, 419 N.E. Madison Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, as soon as possible after the collection has been taken.