

# VIANNEYNEWS

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY  
FALL 2024



## A FUTURE AND A HOPE

FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF HOLY PRIESTS AND FATHERS.



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION | PP. 25-27

# LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

*“For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to give you a future and a hope.”*

– Jeremiah 29:11



On their first day in Rome, our men studying abroad (front cover) are braving the elements in St. Peter’s Square. Few of them ever imagined they would have this opportunity to share life as disciples of Jesus in the heart of the Church, study under some of the best Catholic theologians in the world, and walk in the footsteps of history’s greatest saints.

They are men in the arena who have said “yes” to the adventure of life with God—an adventure that requires trust, surrender, and sacrifice, but always takes us beyond ourselves.

In these pages, you will read about current seminarians and alumni who have given their *Fiat* to that adventure and are living lives of great meaning and purpose: encountering Christ in the poor doing street ministry, serving their peers on campus at St. Thomas, and influencing their communities by living a Eucharistic life.

We exist to accompany young men as they deepen their friendship with Christ, coming to know Him in prayer and liturgy, asking Him what plans He has for their lives, and trusting that what Scripture says is true: God’s plan is always to give His people a future and a hope.

Friendship with Christ **is** the adventure. In John 15, Jesus calls us friends – and He remains with us in the Eucharist because, as Aquinas points out, friendship requires the sharing of life and even “wasting” time together. For that reason, the Eucharist is always at the heart of our mission at SJV. It is the privileged encounter with Jesus where – as our namesake once said – “I look at Him, and He looks at me” which strengthens us for the work He has in store so that we become signs of a future and a hope.

God bless you in your own adventure with Jesus, and thank you for participating in ours.

Coraggio,

*Fr. Jonathan Kelly*

Very Rev. Jonathan Kelly  
Rector

*COVER: Ciao from Rome! A little rain didn't stop this semester's seminarians studying abroad from visiting St. Peter's Square first thing when they arrived.*

*Special gratitude to Dave Hrbacek from The Catholic Spirit for photo contributions throughout this publication.*

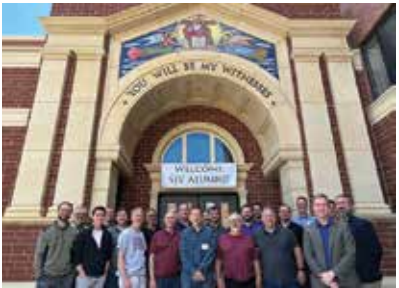
## Over 100 Seminarians for 2024-25

With joyful gratitude for God’s abundance, **108 seminarians** - including **39 new men** - are in formation at SJV this year. We are honored to collaborate with **18 (arch)dioceses** across the nation in forming the next generation of holy priests and fathers.



## First-Ever Lay Alumni Silent Retreat Held in June

**Twenty-four attendees** reported many graces after returning to SJV for our first-ever lay alumni silent retreat. One alumnus shared: “As I walked up to SJV, I felt that same twinge of nervousness and excitement that I remember from my first day at the Seminary some 30 years ago. The memories flooded back. And **the Lord met me again** at SJV. What a place!” We hope this annual event will be a fruitful experience for years to come in the ongoing spiritual formation of our lay alumni. Save the date for next year: **June 12-14, 2025.**



## Summer Experiences

A robust array of summer opportunities allows our seminarians to become familiar with their own diocese and the greater Church. **Noah U’ren ‘25 (New Ulm)** was one of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage’s Perpetual Pilgrims on the Juan Diego Route. He joined more than nine other



SJV seminarians at the Congress in Indianapolis. **Andrew Lehnert ‘25, Matthew Sell ‘24, and Trevor Thorp ‘26 (St. Paul & Minneapolis)** toured in Vienna, Venice, and Rome with the St. Thomas Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Albert Pinsonneault. Pictured on the left, **John Paul Narog ‘25 (Duluth)** and **John Piang ‘25 (Joliet)** served Holy Mass for **Bishop Edward Lohse (Kalamazoo)** at the Steubenville Youth Conference in Ohio.

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# NEWS BITES





**Pro Ecclesia Sancta Sisters Teaching at SJV**

We gratefully welcome the sisters of Pro Ecclesia Sancta to SJV! **Sr. Emy** and **Sr. Fabiola** will be at SJV once a week teaching a religious education practicum to second-year men. Their beautiful witness of consecrated life and their spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has already blessed our seminary community. With appreciation for the presence of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus these past five years, we thank God for continuing to edify us through the gift of consecrated religious in our midst.



Sr. Fabiola and Sr. Emy

**Formation Team Gains Two Alumni**

**Fr. Scott Nolan '09 (Grand Rapids)** brings 11 years of pastoral experience to his new role. **Fr. Clayton Forner '16 (St. Paul & Minneapolis)** returns to SJV with four years of pastoral experience and his STL from the Gregorian. Both priests will serve in the coming year as formation advisors and spiritual directors. **Fr. Colin Jones '14 (St. Paul & Minneapolis)** will serve as formation assistant for our seminarians studying abroad in Rome during his doctoral studies at the Gregorian while **Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan** returns to Rome as an in-house spiritual director for the SJV men.



**New Development Team Members**

**Michael Malkowiak** joined our team in June as the new Development Services Specialist. A finance major and data analytics minor from Saint Louis University, Michael recently moved back to Minnesota with his wife. His presence has already been a great blessing to our mission.



**Jack Kelly** joined the SJV team as a Development Officer in November. He brings with him more than 20 years of experience advancing the mission of non-profits. Jack studied economics at Moorhead State University, University of Minnesota, and Oxford University. He and his wife have two adult children and are passionate about their family, faith, and travel.

**Our Lady of Fatima Visits SJV**

SJV was blessed by a visit in September from the International Traveling Fatima Statue. The seminarians had Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Thursday evening to Friday's Holy Mass at 3:00 PM in the presence of the statue.



**Relevant Radio's Family Rosary Across America Broadcast Live from SJV's Chapel**

We were honored to host **Fr. Francis Hoffman 'Fr. Rocky'** at our first Virtuous Business Leadership event of the year. Our seminary community was blessed to join more than 100,000 people who tune in to Relevant Radio each night to pray the Rosary during Fr. Rocky's Family Rosary Across America live broadcast.



**Full Fall Vianney Visit**

Thirteen of our 18 sending diocese were represented at our fall Vianney Visit. We thank the Lord for the blessing of 110 visitors who participated in this come-and-see discernment experience of seminary life.



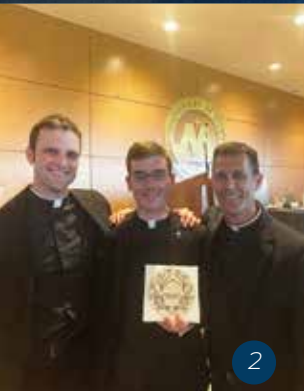
**NEWS BITES**







1 - Seven newly-ordained priests (St. Paul & Minneapolis) receive loaves and fishes palls from Fr. Jonathan Kelly.  
 2 - Fr. Eric Artz (Bismarck) joined in celebration by Fr. Colin Jones and Fr. Jonathan Kelly.  
 3 - Newly-ordained Fr. Zachary Galante (Milwaukee) with Fr. Colin Jones.  
 4 - Fr. Nicholas Baker (Grand Rapids) congratulated by Fr. Jonathan Kelly.  
 5 - Fr. Matthew Pohlman (Omaha) shares a joyful moment with Fr. Paul Gitter.  
 6 - Fr. Jim Olofson presents a loaves and fishes pall to Fr. Joshua Fons (Lansing).



## PRIESTS FOREVER: CLASS OF 2024 ORDINATIONS

**13 SJV Alumni** were ordained to the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus this year! We praise God for the blessing of each one who will pour out his life in service to Holy Mother Church as an *Alter Christus* and pray for many graces throughout their priestly ministries.

**Rev. Eric Artz**  
**Diocese of Bismarck** Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace & Religion Instructor, Bishop Ryan Catholic School (Minot, ND)  
*"Through formation, spiritual direction, and my many brothers, SJV helped my heart to be still and tell God everything that was on my heart."*

**Rev. Nicholas Baker**  
**Diocese of Grand Rapids** Parochial Vicar, Holy Spirit (Grand Rapids, MI)  
*"SJV taught me how to pray well. For this gift, I am forever grateful."*

**Rev. Zachary Eischeid**  
**Archdiocese of Omaha** Associate Pastor, St. Cecilia & St. Margaret Mary (Omaha, NE)

**Rev. Francis Floeder**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis** Parochial Vicar, Sts. Joachim & Anne (Shakopee, MN)  
*"SJV helped prepare me for the priesthood by stressing the importance of having deep, genuine friendships with the men in my archdiocese."*

**Rev. Joshua Fons**  
**Diocese of Lansing** Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick (Brighton, MI)  
*"SJV taught me how to pray, be a good brother, and lead other men."*

**Rev. Zachary Galante**  
**Archdiocese of Milwaukee**, Continuing studies in Rome

**Rev. Michael Maloney**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis**, Continuing studies in Rome

**Rev. Sean Mulcare**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis** Parochial Vicar, St. Ambrose (Woodbury, MN)

**Rev. Matthew Pohlman**  
**Archdiocese of Omaha** Associate Pastor, St. Stephen the Martyr (Omaha, NE)  
*"The morning, communal Holy Hour at SJV instilled in me the habit of spending a significant amount of time with Christ every day."*

**Rev. Alexander Rasset**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis** Parochial Vicar, St. Michael (St. Michael, MN)  
*"SJV really helped me receive the Lord's love and know who I am in His eyes."*

**Rev. Ryan Sustacek**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis** Parochial Vicar, St. John Neumann (Eagan, MN) & Chaplain, Totus Tuus Catechetical Program  
*"We all have areas that aren't heaven-ready, and SJV played a huge role in my life in bringing the areas of woundedness to the Divine Physician."*

**Rev. Joseph Wappes**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis**, Continuing studies in Rome  
*"My time at SJV introduced me to my identity as a son of the Father, which I know will be what sustains me in priestly ministry."*

**Rev. Christopher Yanta**  
**Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis** Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus (Medina, MN)





MEET THE MEN

Our **39 new men** have already made a big mark on SJV as the largest class in 10 years. These 29 freshmen and 10 transfer students hail from 13 dioceses across the country. Three join their biological brothers already in formation at SJV. And all have a uniquely unfolding vocation story, as these brief introductions will demonstrate.



*The new men (Alpha's) beat the seniors (Omega's) in our annual Labor Day Alpha-Omega game. They showed impressive discipline with the two coaches and the referee while the rest of the team stood behind the line. In the words of beloved UST Head Football Coach Glenn Caruso,*

*"You can't do formation without discipline."*



**AIDAN BELLINGER**  
DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thomas Aquinas  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Shepherd's pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Finding the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration and learning it is through consistent relationship that we find what He asks of us.



**ZANE CHRISTIANSON**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Blessed Carlo Acutis (who I hope to be a Saint very soon!)  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pie (especially at Thanksgiving)  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The slight tug the Lord put in my heart when I was dating, and denying myself and my own desires to follow the Lord's.



**THOMAS CLINTON**  
DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Jude the Apostle  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple crisp  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Eucharistic Adoration and some great priest mentors.



**MATTHEW CRITCHELL**  
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Francis of Assisi  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
How nice everyone was when I came on the Vianney Visit last year.



**JACOB DILLON**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saints:**  
Thomas Aquinas and Francis of Assisi  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Thanksgiving dinner  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
My gifts in teaching others about God and how to live a life more oriented toward Him.



**PETER DOTY**  
DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Maximilian Kolbe  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Cranberry sauce  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Serving my sister with special needs brought out my desire to serve Christ.



**OWEN FLANAGAN**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Maximillian Kolbe  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple crisp  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The call from God and the communal life with 100 brothers praying, studying, and discerning alongside me.



**CHRISTOPHER FOOTE**  
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Albertus Magnus  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
My mother's chili  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Being near God at the altar and participating in the divine liturgy planted the desire for priesthood in my heart.





**CHRISTOPHER GADACZ**  
DIOCESE OF DULUTH

**Favorite Saint:**  
Padre Pio  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Time spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



**DAVID GUYSE**  
DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD

**Favorite Saint:**  
Augustine  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The call of the Lord and the desire to grow closer to Him while discerning the priesthood.



**HENRY HART**  
DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Saint:**  
Wolfgang of Regensburg  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Stuffing  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
An almost overwhelming sense of peace.



**BENJAMIN HEILIG**  
DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thérèse of Lisieux  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin waffles  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
To grow in my relationship with God and discern this potential call to be a priest.

**THOMAS HOVING**  
DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Saint:**  
Maximilian Kolbe  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Homemade apple pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
I started altar serving when I was seven, loved serving the Mass, and thought becoming a priest was the coolest thing I could do.



**BRICE JONES**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

**Favorite Saint:**  
The Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Baked potato soup  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The Lord placed a call on my heart, and I desired to follow that call.



**JESWIN JOSEPH**  
ST. THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

**Favorite Saint:**  
Mark Ji Tianxiang  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Wanting to make Jesus the center of my life while also being able to serve Him. I fell in love with the lifestyle of a priest and seminarian.



**NATHAN KAVANAUGH**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Dominic Savio  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Corn on the cob  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
My mom and her friends began telling 6-year-old me what a great priest I would make someday. Also, the amazing brotherhood at SJV.



**ALEXANDER KENNEDY**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Francis of Assisi  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Chili and cinnamon rolls  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
God's call to go deeper and the feeling He had a bigger plan for me.



**ZACH KLIMEK**  
DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD

**Favorite Saint:**  
John the Baptist  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin muffins  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
God called me to seminary at spiritual conferences and through the people around me.



**JEROME KONOPA**  
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Damien of Molokai  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin rolls  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
I was searching for something more than what the world could offer to me, and God was the only one that could satisfy that desire.



**EZRA KUZNIA**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Mary Magdalene  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Butternut squash soup  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
When I asked the Lord what He wanted, He replied, "All I want is for you to love Me." Like St. Andrew, I dropped everything and followed Him.

**ALEXANDER LARA BECERRA**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
José Sánchez del Río  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pozole verde  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The Lord called me to discern his priesthood, and SJV is the place to do that.



**MICAH LEHNEN**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John Paul II  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Many joyful and holy priests whose examples have inspired me to serve selflessly in whatever way He might be calling me.



**JEREMIAH LEWIS**  
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thomas Aquinas  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The desire to grow in my relationship with God, work for the salvation of souls, and be an *Alter Christus* for Holy Mother Church.



**LUI MATOS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Louis Marie de Montfort  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple crisp  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The phenomenal brotherhood and intentional community. After serving with Net Ministries, I really recognized the importance of community.







**LANDON MCHAFFIE**  
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Maximilian Kolbe  
**Favorite fall food:**  
Hot apple cider  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
A restlessness in my heart placed there by God to pursue a deeper discernment of the priesthood.



**MARK MUSGRAVE III**  
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John Paul II  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Dad's homemade seasoned pumpkin seeds  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Deep down, I just knew coming to Saint John Vianney was something I had to do. Thank you, Jesus! *Sempre Avanti!*



**MATTHEW MUTTONEN**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John Vianney  
**Favorite fall food:**  
Corn pudding  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The example of St. John Vianney, most especially through his role as my confirmation saint.



**JOHN NICKLAUS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John Paul II  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The example of University of Mary Chaplain Fr. Dominic Bouck '12 encouraged me to pray seriously about God's plan which led me here to SJV.

**LUKE NORTON**  
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John Vianney  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
I have always loved to be close to the Eucharist. I desire to share this love with others and, if God wills it, bring the Eucharist to others.

**REILLY O'DONOHUE**  
DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thomas Aquinas  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Falling in love with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As I sat before Him every day, I began to know Him and know what He wanted for me.

**MAXIMILIAN PETERSON**  
DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

**Favorite Saint:**  
Bl. Chiara 'Luce' Badano  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Butternut squash soup  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
In 4th grade, I met priests who lived prayerful lives of immense joy and peace. I've longed for this priestly life and the next step of seminary.

**MICHAEL REGNIER**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thérèse of Lisieux  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Meatloaf  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
I have a question, and this is the place God can answer it.



**JOHN ROCKERS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

**Favorite Saint:**  
John the Beloved  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple crisp  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
The Lord's love for me. The Cross beckons a response, and mine is to give Him my life.



**MICHAEL ROSSINI**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Joseph  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple crisp  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
I felt God's call after I consecrated myself to Mary in high school.



**PAYTON RUSSMAN**  
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**Favorite Saint:**  
Augustine  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Chicken  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
There is no better way to discern your vocation than to do so with 107 other guys, so I know SJV is the right spot for me.



**ALAN SEBASTIAN**  
ST. THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

**Favorite Saints:**  
John the Beloved, Paul, Athanasius, John of Damascene  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Apple pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
To become a priest and live a life of holiness because God is real.

**EVAN SONDGEROTH**  
DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

**Favorite Saint:**  
Thérèse of Lisieux  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin pie  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Being in Eucharistic Adoration. Whenever I was there, I always knew I was to go to seminary.

**MARK STECK**  
DIOCESE OF GAYLORD

**Favorite Saint:**  
Ignatius of Loyola  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Pumpkin doughnuts  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Reading and participating in the "Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola" and my pastor preaching about vocations often.

**BENJAMIN ULIN**  
DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

**Favorite Saint:**  
John the Beloved  
**Favorite Fall Food:**  
Hot pumpkin spice lattes  
**What drew me to SJV:**  
Falling in love with the beauty of the liturgy through serving frequently at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls.





# MEN IN THE ARENA: APOSTOLIC OUTREACH AT SJV

What does it mean to be a man in the arena? This expression from President Theodore Roosevelt’s “Citizenship in a Republic” speech at the Sorbonne in Paris (April 23, 1910) has woven itself deeply into the culture at SJV:

*“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”*

These words, found on the wall outside our Fr. Balley Classroom, deeply inspire and vivify the work being done in formation at SJV. But they don’t merely resonate with the interior work our men undergo through personal prayer, spiritual direction, human formation, and academic studies. Our seminarians are also trained to live the New Evangelization as “missionary disciples,” powerful witnesses of the Gospel on campus and throughout the community.

We sat down with five of our current seminarians who explained how participation in various apostolic outreaches during each year of formation is helping them grow confident in their calling to live as Men for Others and Men in the Arena.

John Paul Narog '25  
seeking to help those  
he meets feel seen,  
known, and loved.



## John Paul Narog '25 (Duluth), Street Evangelization

### What is the mission of your apostolate?

The purpose of street ministry is not “let’s fix their problems.” There are lots of government organizations doing that, but our purpose is to help them be seen, known, and loved. To give them that experience of the Father’s love we receive at SJV.

### What inspired you?

Coming off the first core group with Christ in the City my new man year, another guy and I brought a lot of things we learned back to SJV. We started this Saturday group, totally voluntary, and the men loved it. We started to do some trainings, scope out good safe spots to send our seminarians out to, and built up a good system. It doesn’t really matter what I feel. There are days I don’t want to do it, but oftentimes that’s when I have a beautiful encounter I never would have expected. Following the promptings of the Holy Spirit is not so much about my will but about God’s will.

## Noah U’Ren '25 (New Ulm), Pro-Life Prayer Ministry

### How did this apostolic outreach begin at SJV?

It started informally when seminarians went to pray outside of Planned Parenthood. Now, all the new men participate – usually on Wednesdays – and many of our men sign up in one-hour shifts every Friday to pray 20 decades (a full Rosary) outside of Planned Parenthood.

### What are your prayer intentions?

We pray in reparation for what is happening in the building but also in reparation for how these women have been abandoned or harmed by the ways in which men have failed to step up in their lives. We try to be a presence of stable, prayerful men who are there for them in their struggles. One of the saddest things is to see someone fall into the lie of, “It would be better if I were not.” It’s good that you are here, and you are loved.



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Kyle Rohan '24 enjoys a conversation with a fellow student after Last Chance Mass.

## Joe Etnier '24 (St. Paul & Minneapolis), Last Chance Mass

### How do the Apostles inspire you to invite other students to SJV's Last Chance Mass?

Sometimes we only want to talk about the Faith with people we know, people we're comfortable with, people we know will receive it, but we can go out of our comfort zones and talk to those people who need to hear it. If we don't, who will? If someone didn't tell me about the Gospel, where would I be? There are many people involved in my own story who reeled me in, and if it weren't for them, would I be here in the seminary? Would I be here following Christ?

### Encouragement for beginners?

If the Apostles thought someone would hurt their feelings or they'd get rejected or judged, would the Gospel have been spread? Jesus said, "Be not afraid." By some counts, the Bible says it 365 times, once for every day. Just because it's scary doesn't mean we get a free pass not to do it. It's an opportunity to be courageous and change somebody's life.

## Giovanni Gonzalez '26 (Joliet), Christ in the City Poverty Immersion

### Best evangelization advice?

To not be afraid to ask the Holy Spirit to make himself known with the people you are trying to reach. Don't be afraid to ask for miracles, don't be afraid to ask for signs, don't be afraid to allow yourself to be an instrument for Him to make Himself present in crazy ways you would have never even thought possible.

### How can I engage in a meaningful way with someone suffering from homelessness?

Ask their name and repeat it to them, wishing them a nice day. We take people using our names and asking about our day for granted.. For some of them, it's been years without having heard their name or anyone caring in the slightest how their day or week has been going. It can be super impactful and one of the few conversations they have that entire week.



Praying with a new friend on the streets.

## Patrick Storms '27 (St. Paul & Minneapolis), Pro-Life Prayer Ministry

### What fruits have you seen?

I've witnessed lives being saved through prayer in this ministry. When people see us praying outside of Planned Parenthood, they see someone cares about them and loves them. So many women going there for abortions don't know they're loved. They've been in abusive situations. But to see sidewalk counselors who care about them and the life of their child actually lets them know they're loved.

### Is it ever discouraging?

You don't always see the fruits of your labor when you start this ministry, and that's okay. You might not see people turn around the first time you go to Planned Parenthood, or ever, but that doesn't mean what you did didn't make an impact. The prayers and time you offered up to God are not going to go unused.



Covering many hours each Friday with prayer.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR APOSTOLIC OUTREACH AT SJV



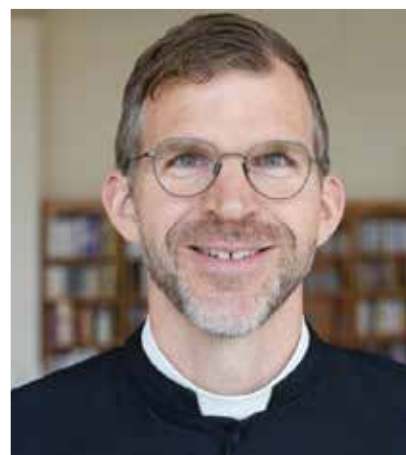
### MISSION TRIPS

Well-established mission trips give seminarians optional opportunities to work with the poor and marginalized in areas of tremendous need throughout the world, including walking in the footsteps of St. Teresa of Calcutta in India.





Fr. Meyer led the subcommittee in charge of the outdoor procession for the Eucharistic Congress.



## YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES: REV. JONATHAN MEYER '99

*SJV was blessed to catch up with Fr. Jonathan Meyer, ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 2003. This marks his tenth year as pastor of four parishes comprising seven churches in Dearborn County, Indiana. He maintains a presence on the internet with weekly homilies and other teachings and began ministering as a National Preacher for the Eucharistic Revival in 2022.*

### What has being a Eucharistic Preacher meant to you?

I graduated from Saint John Vianney in 1999 when then rector Fr. Peter Christensen [now Bishop] had begun 12 hours of Adoration each Thursday, and I had a Eucharistic conversion of sorts when I was there. My entire priesthood has been very rooted in promoting Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic devotion, and reverent celebration of the liturgy. Being a National Eucharistic Preacher is truly a gift and continuation of the graces I received at Saint John Vianney.

### Favorite topics to preach on?

The 14 Stations of the Eucharist, the Eucharist as sacrifice, and Eucharistic Adoration. A talk that went viral with 900,000 views was my explanation of how the Mass is the re-presentation of Calvary.

### Tell us about the Eucharistic Congress.

Every night there was a Eucharistic Holy Hour, and being in Lucas Oil Stadium with 60,000 Catholics on our knees was the Church gathered around the Throne, around the Lamb. It was nothing but the Church doing what she should be doing best which is wasting time with Jesus and realizing that's what Heaven is going to be: just being with Him. It was all a reminder of what God has put on my heart for my 21 years of priesthood: everything should be about Jesus and directed toward Jesus in the Eucharist.

### How can we help those who have fallen away?

Fasting and praying. It's so important to fast and pray for the conversion of those who don't believe. Second, we need to be a witness of joy. They need to be asking the question "Why are they joyful? Why do they live differently?" From that, hopefully we'll be witnesses of Eucharistic charity, mercy, and compassion.

### What do you miss from SJV?

Consistent regular fraternity. Talking to the guy across the hall, going to meals three times a day with brothers, just being with the guys.

### How do you keep from burning out?

Spending a lot of time with Jesus in the Eucharist. I intentionally try to spend more than one hour every day in front of the Blessed Sacrament; if possible, I try to spend two hours. Mother Teresa taught that you should pray more if you're busy, not less. I work a lot, but I pray a lot and try to keep that balance where it should be.

Also, the importance of priestly fraternity. It's a choice we have to make to not live in isolation and to intentionally spend time with brother priests. I have a habit of calling three priests on the phone every day so I never have a day of priesthood where I'm trying to do it by myself.

### Encouragement for your brother alumni?

Every single one of us had a big dream when we were in seminary to do great things for God. And God still wants to honor that desire we had in our hearts, and that's a beautiful thing. Don't forget the dream.



**Watch one of Fr. Meyer's most viewed videos on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.**



# YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES:



**Corey Manning '14**  
**(Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis)**

**Since SJV:**  
I spent some time with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR's) in the Bronx, New York then spent four years with Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) before coming back to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

**Today:**  
I am married with three kids and serve as Director for the Office of Marriage, Family and Youth at the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

**I miss SJV's:**  
Brotherhood, Holy Hours, and formation.

**On my bookshelf:**  
*From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age* by Msgr. James Shea; *The Religion of the Day* by Msgr. James Shea; *The Impact of God: Soundings from St. John of the Cross* by Fr. Iain Matthew; and *Endgame: The Church's Strategic Move to Save Faith and Family in America* by John Van Epp, Ph.D. & J.P. De Gance.

**How college seminary prepared me:**  
SJV changed my life. All the areas of formation (human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral) helped prepare me for the ministry I do today.

**Best part of fall:**  
Time with my family, watching football, and going hunting.

**David Fischer '01**  
**(Diocese of St. Cloud)**

**Since SJV:**  
I went to St. Thomas School of Law, married my wife, Laura, and we began raising a family. In the early days, I was the Director of Legal Affairs and Gift Planning for the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota.

**Today:**  
We have nine children and are active members of our parish. Laura is a homemaker, and I am the head of business affairs and acquisitions at Angel Studios, the company known for *the chosen* and *sound of freedom*.

**I miss SJV's**  
Brotherhood. There's something extraordinary when you are pursuing your vocation alongside other men who are passionate about their Catholic faith.



**On my bookshelf:**  
*Interior Freedom* by Fr. Jacques Philippe.

**How college seminary prepared me:**  
SJV rooted my identity in relationship to the Father. Whether I am trying to love my wife and children, lead a company that's releasing film and television shows in every country on the planet, or serving in my faith community, my foundation remains the Father. There's no success or failure that changes my sonship.

**Best part of fall:**  
Sweatshirt weather.





# YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES:

**Tom Schulzetenberg '05**  
**(Diocese of St. Cloud)**

**Since SJV:**

I took some further time to discern priesthood before I was certain marriage was my vocation. I met my wife (JoAnn) through a mutual friend, and we have now been married for 15 years with six children (Mathias, Gianna, Therese, Felix, James, and Anton).

**Today:**

I've been in various Catholic higher education positions for the past 12 years, from director of a study abroad program in Rome to development and enrollment. Currently, I work for Saint Mary's University as Director of Strategic Projects.

**I miss SJV's:**

Common identity and purpose of a group of men and the inherent fraternity. That, and Fr. Baer.

**On my bookshelf/currently listening to:**

*What We Hold In Trust* by Drs. Briel, Goodpaster and Naughton; *In Search of the Unity of Knowledge* by Maria Lacalle Noriega; and any number of audiobooks by Patrick Lencioni or presidential biographies while I'm driving or woodworking.

**How college seminary prepared me:**

Catholic Studies gave me a lens for interpreting society and culture, and SJV helped internalize this through character formation and spiritual maturation.

**Best part of fall:**

Fresh starts with a new academic year.



# OUR DEVELOPING STORY

*An Impact for Eternity*

We were blessed to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Vianney Cup Golf Tournament in September. You blink your eyes and realize how blessed we have been over all this time.

When we started this tournament, we told then rector (+) Fr. Bill Baer, "Father, we've got a great idea. We want three big buses to bring every single seminarian out to our golf tournament so that we can introduce them at the end of the evening." When Fr. Baer agreed, he realized (as we have) the power of not just telling you but showing you who these fine young men in formation at our college seminary are.

While the impact of 108 bright-eyed and energetic young men gathered in one room to sing *Salve Regina* and shake your hand can't exactly be replicated in the pages of this magazine, I pray these stories give you a powerful glimpse of the extraordinary work God is doing every day at SJV.

**This doesn't just happen.** The generous financial support and prayers of our benefactors provide the fuel to sustain our program.

**It takes about \$24,000 per seminarian each year** to keep SJV up and running. Our seminarians and their sponsoring dioceses contribute approximately \$12,000 in room, formation, and retreat fees.

Your generous support to offset one year (\$12,000), one month (\$1,000), one week (\$250), or one day (\$33) of formation for a seminarian will **leave an impact for eternity in the life of the Church.**

Please keep an eye on your mailbox for our annual appeal, arriving in a few short weeks, and know of our sincere appreciation for your collaboration in our ongoing mission at SJV.

I leave you with the words of St. Paul: *"I am convinced of this, that he who has begun a good work in you will bring it to perfection until the day of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 1:6).

God bless,

Phil Roeser  
Director of Development



Please scan the QR code for giving options.





DEVELOPMENT CORNER



Twenty Years of the Vianney Cup

An un-fore-gettable celebration! Tony Wolf, Chris Sauer, Tom Gendron, and Jake Gendron claimed the winning foursome title. We offered special tribute to founding members of the Vianney Cup: (+) Fr. Bill Baer, Fr. John Klockeman, Greg & Sandy Mazza, Phil & Ellen Roeser, and Mike & Susan Steadman. Harrison Elhabbal (Omaha) and Joe Etnier (St. Paul & Minneapolis) moved our hearts with their vocation stories. And Archbishop Hebda and Fr. Kelly inspired us with a snapshot of SJV's impact on our local Church.

Thank you for two decades of supporting our mission from the green or through your donations and prayers!



Stay in Touch

Join our mailing list or update your contact information! Please scan the QR code or contact:

Michael Malkowiak  
Development Services Specialist  
mmalkowiak@sjvseminary.org



With Gratitude

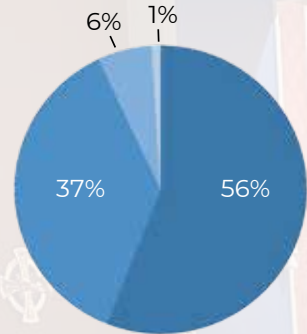
With gratitude for gifts given to SJV in honor of:

James R. Brandt, Patrick Held, Douglas D. Stormo.

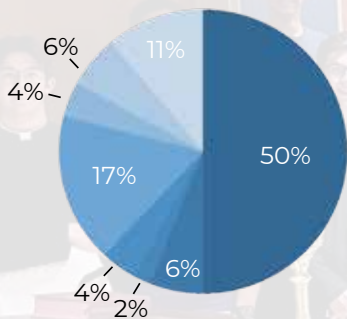
With gratitude for gifts given to SJV in memory of:

David Anderson, Lester R. Boatman, Frances E. Brazil, Doris Fraser, Mary Gionet, R.J. LeSavage, Arlene T. Leyden, Donna Neisen, Lucille Olinger, Kristin Patt, Steve Reiser, Frank & Mary Udron, Steven Untz.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



<u>Operating Revenue</u>	
Room, Formation, Retreat Fees (37%)	\$932,712
Contributions for Operations (56%)	1,399,540
Draw on Endowments and Restricted Funds (6%)	160,836
Interest and Other (1%)	20,265
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,513,353</b>



<u>Operating Expenses</u>	
Compensation and Benefits (50%)	\$1,262,639
Scholarships (6%)	140,099
Other General Expenses (2%)	48,565
Line of Credit Interest & Fees (4%)	99,875
Travel/Food/Mission Trips/Retreats (17%)	418,641
Professional Services (4%)	96,939
Supplies, Postage, Phone (6%)	156,530
Physical Facilities and Insurance (11%)	282,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,506,013</b>

<u>Non-Operating Revenue &amp; Expenses</u>	
Change in Net Assets - Operating	\$7,341
Investment Earnings, Net	221,160
Endowment Distributed to Operations	(47,076)
Contributions for Building and Endowment	1,074,932
Estate Unrestricted Contributions Designated to	
Cash Flow Construction	288,751
Net Additions/Releases for Restricted Funds	3,120
Depreciation Expense	(713,083)
Capital Campaign Expenses	(14,250)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$820,895</b>



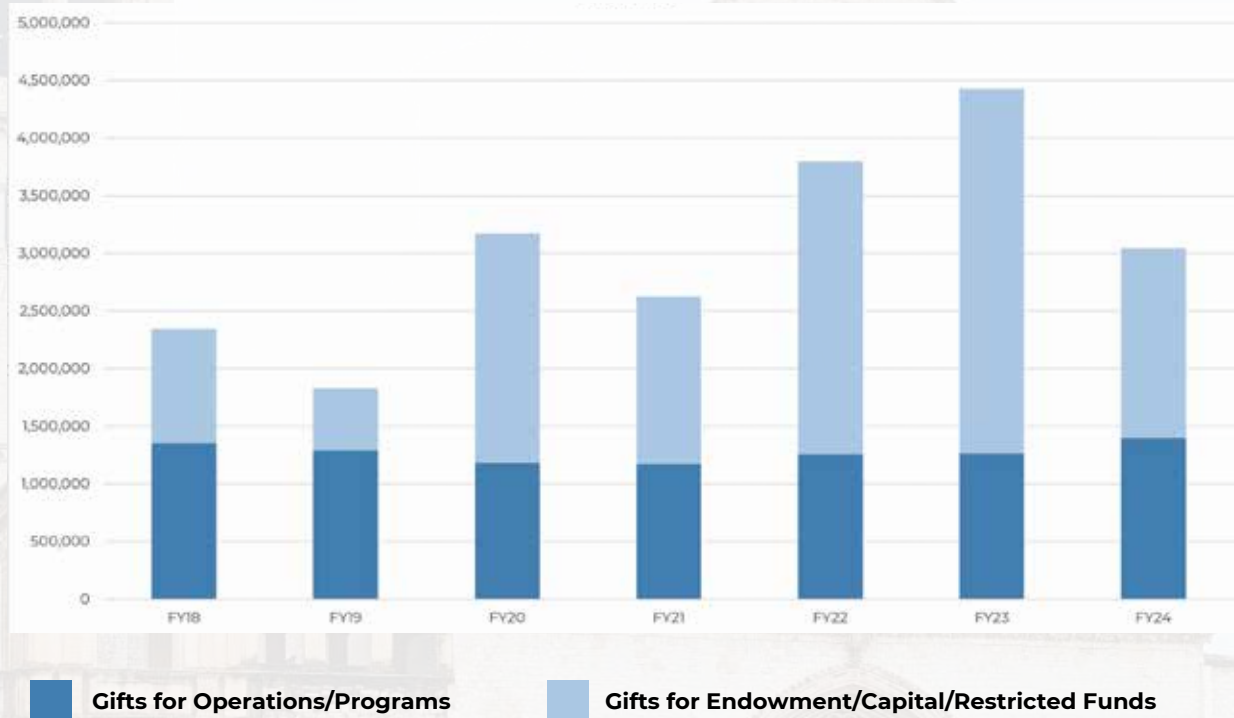
# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2024

<u>Assets</u>	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$453,743	\$836,895
Contributions Receivable and Other	1,085,890	1,249,816
Investments and Beneficial Interest in Trust	2,365,534	1,897,134
Property and Equipment, Net of Depreciation	17,912,016	18,120,124
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$21,817,183</b>	<b>\$22,103,969</b>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$88,571	\$731,116
Line of Credit to Finance Capital Pledges	667,693	1,132,828
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$756,264</b>	<b>\$1,863,944</b>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$17,651,056	\$16,407,738
With Donor Restrictions	3,409,863	3,832,287
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$21,060,919</b>	<b>\$20,240,025</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$21,817,183</b>	<b>\$22,103,969</b>

The 2023-2024 financial information contained on pages 25-27 is unaudited pending the results of Saint John Vianney College Seminary's scheduled annual audit..

# GIVING BY YEAR



# ENDOWMENT BALANCE

As of June 30, 2024

	2024	2023
Beginning Balance	\$1,814,788	\$1,606,233
Reclassification of Past Earnings	0	51,266
Contributions	20,000	25,000
Investment Gains (Losses)	220,660	170,028
Distributed to Operations & Scholarships	(47,076)	(37,740)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,008,372</b>	<b>\$1,814,788</b>





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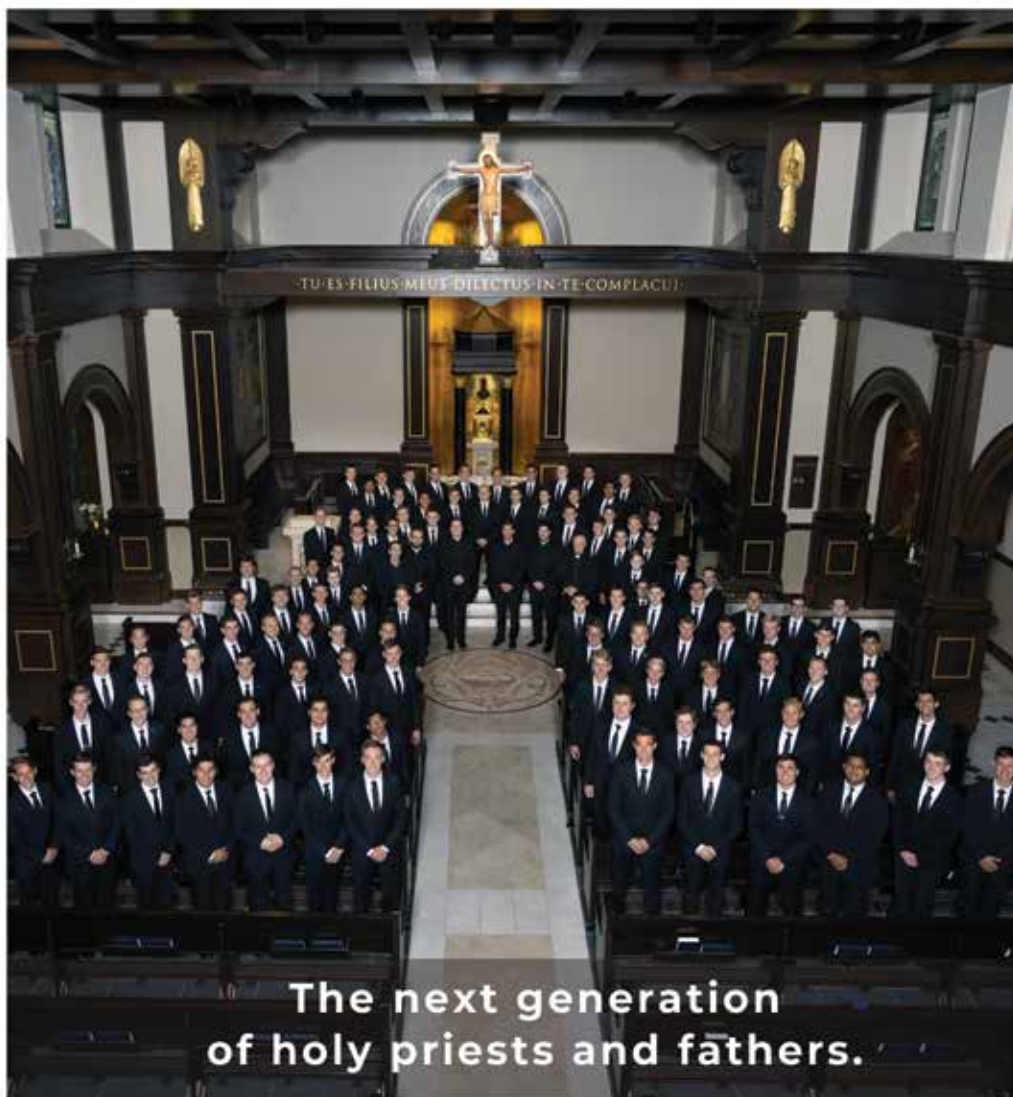
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ST. PAUL, MN 55105-1048

[sjvseminary.org](http://sjvseminary.org)



SAVE THE DATE FOR  
SJV'S CROWNING  
OF MARY AND  
SPRING MASS!

Please join us  
**Sunday, May 4, 2025**  
for Holy Mass, brunch,  
and a program as we  
honor our Queen Mother  
and support the mission  
of SJV College Seminary.



The next generation  
of holy priests and fathers.