



Diocese of Norwich
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MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

April 19, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Month of May, we remember Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. She is the spiritual mother of all the faithful, and in a special way the mother of priests. In his 1950 apostolic exhortation on the sanctity of priestly life, *Menti Nostrae*, Pope Pius XII writes, "Our Lady loves everyone with a most tender love, but she has a particular predilection for priests who are the living image of Jesus Christ" (No. 142).

We are grateful for our priests here in the Diocese of Norwich. They respond daily to the Lord's call to "Follow me" by serving and accompanying God's people in the day to day circumstances of life.

We are grateful for our seminarians. They are currently finishing up another year of priestly formation at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. In a couple short weeks they will return to the Diocese for their summer assignments. Let's pray for them, for a successful completion of their coursework and a smooth transition home. Please also join me in praying for Deacon Jacob Ramos who will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich. May Mary, Mother of priests, protect and guide Deacon Jacob to a closer union with her Son, the Eternal Priest.

Lastly, and most especially, we are grateful for you. We are grateful for the role you play in supporting our priests and seminarians. A seminarian's journey to priesthood is long and arduous. Preparation typically requires six years of formation beyond college. The average annual cost for tuition, room and board and health insurance per seminarian is approximately \$42,000 per year.

To help offset these expenses, a special collection is taken up each year in support of the Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund. Donations to the Seminarian Education Fund provide tuition, room and board, and health insurance for our seminarians. I ask you to consider making a contribution to this year's Seminarian Education Fund collection. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of the men preparing for the priesthood in our diocese.

As St. John Vianney once said, "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ." I ask you to continue praying for our priests, our future priests, and for an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood. May the Lord Jesus Christ raise up men in our diocese who will follow in His footsteps to serve the Church as priests.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich