



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



April 14, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Next Sunday, April 21, is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, known also as Good Shepherd Sunday because the readings proclaimed reveal Christ's identity and mission as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. The Church dedicates this Sunday to prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is blessed to have 29 seminarians currently in formation for priestly ministry in our diocese. Next month I will ordain two men into the priesthood for our diocese.

Seminary formation and education is directed towards the development of pastoral charity in a man who is to be configured to Christ the Good Shepherd on the occasion of his priestly ordination. This period of education and formation normally lasts for a period of between seven and nine years of prayer, study, and ministry. For these men, the Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to paying for all the costs associated with their formation and education, \$53,000.00 annually for each of the men.

Besides your intentional and specific prayers for priestly vocations and for the formation of our seminarians, I am asking you to contribute generously to the Good Shepherd Sunday special collection for our Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund. Please respond with a charitable heart through your parish collection or by visiting the Special Collections page of the diocesan website located at: www.fwdioc.org.

Thank you for the prayerful and kind support that you offer our priests and seminarians. May the Lord bless your family with a priestly vocation for your son or brother. May the Lord bless your family with the faithful heart to encourage priestly vocations among your sons and brothers. Let us pray for each other. I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

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