

# Diocese of Gary Vocation Office Newsletter

October-December 2012

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## Seminarians Begin a New Year of Seminary Formation

Each year, the seminarians of the Diocese of Gary embark upon a new year of formation. It's called a 'year of formation' and not an 'academic year', because what the seminarians embark upon is more than just studies. Seminarians everywhere engage in what is called priestly formation. This formation program is spoken of as a four-pillared formation including the academic, spiritual, pastoral, and human formation pillars.

In academic/intellectual formation, seminarians are versed in the various areas of Theology (e.g., Sacred Scripture, Morals, Church Doctrine, Worship and more). The goal is to become, as one of my seminary professors put it, "physicians for the soul" with a bag full of spiritual instruments. Spiritual formation involves participation in daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, practicing various devotions, and engaging in spiritual direction. This part of the formation concentrates on helping the man be a better Christian. In pastoral formation, the seminarian learns in both the classroom and in the ministry opportunity about how to best care for the people of God as they journey to Christ. Finally, human formation is concerned with the development of the man into a good person. A priest can't be a good priest until he's first a good Christian, and he can't be a good Christian until he's first a good person.

The real measure of success in formation, however, is the degree to which a man discerning priesthood can integrate all four components of his formation. A healthy, effective priest is a man who can recognize that his relationship with God forms his desire to serve and his practice of ministry, that growing in his understanding of the Lord and His Church motivates him to want to spend more time with the Lord in prayer and in sharing that understanding with others, and that walking with the people of the Church moves him to want to grow in knowledge and to bring their needs before the Lord. Of course, being healthy and effective in ministry is rooted in the man paying attention to how well he is rooting his humanity after the model of Jesus.

Along with discerning God's will for their lives, the seminarians do their best to engage all four pillars of priestly formation. Please pray for them as they continue to learn all they can in preparation for serving God and us, His Church.

### Seminarians of the Diocese of Gary

Front Row (L-R): Jordan Fetcko, Jeff  
Burton, Declan McNicholas, Bob  
Sarwacinski, Nate Edquist

Back Row: Adam Antone, Mark Muzzillo,  
Steve Kolodziej, Chris Stanish, Greg  
Bim-Merle

Not Pictured: Roque Meraz

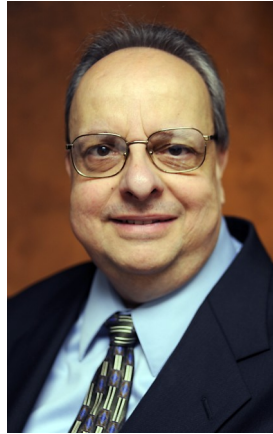
## Two Newest Seminarians

In the last “Vocation Office Newsletter”, it was announced that the Diocese of Gary had accepted two new seminarians, Jeff Burton and Mark Muzzillo. At the time, there were no portraits available of these two men. Their images are below.

If you see these seminarians around the diocese, please greet them. More importantly, please keep them in your prayers as they continue their discernment and enter into formation.



Jeff Burton



Mark Muzzillo

## Support Vocations!

In the Autumn, many things begin in the Church: new school years, parish pastoral councils, and new ministries that help care for the needs of the people in the Church. One such ministry that is new in many parishes is the parish Vocations Ministry.

Several parishes around the diocese have developed ministries to help people discover the different vocations in the Church and how God is calling individuals to the vocation of priest, deacon and religious. These ministries pray for vocations, help educate parishioners, and organize events specifically oriented toward promoting vocations. One such effort is the parish vocation cross, a cross that is taken home from Sunday Mass each week by a family who promises to pray that week for vocations.

If your parish has not yet developed a Vocations Ministry, please ask your pastor how you can take a more active role in your community in promoting vocations.

## Vocations Calendar

5-7 October	Exploring Priesthood Weekend Mundelein Seminary (Mundelein, Illinois)
24 October	High School Discernment Day Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary (Indianapolis)
1-4 November	Discernment Weekend Sacred Heart Major Seminary (Detroit, Michigan)
11-13 January	Exploring Priesthood Weekend Mundelein Seminary (Mundelein, Illinois)
<b>13-19 January</b>	<b>National Vocations Awareness Week</b>
17-20 January	Discernment Weekend Sacred Heart Major Seminary (Detroit, Michigan)
21-24 March	Discernment Weekend Sacred Heart Major Seminary (Detroit, Michigan)
12-14 April	Exploring Priesthood Weekend Mundelein Seminary (Mundelein, Illinois)
TBA	Junior High Day Visit Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary (Indianapolis)

