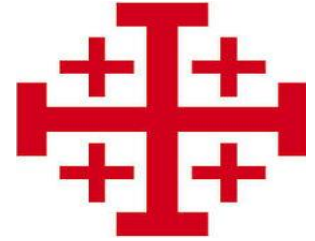


PASTOR'S CORNER



CHRISTMAS CALL TO SHARING- 2016

What a blessing to have 53 seminarians studying for the Diocese of Wichita including Holy Name's very own Chauncey Toon! With this tremendous blessing comes the most important responsibility of providing the education and formation of these young men. Our diocese gives full scholarships to our seminarians. These scholarships include full tuition, room, and board. This is done for two reasons: it gives young men the freedom to try the seminary without creating huge personal debt and it helps the seminarian to realize from the beginning that a priestly vocation is for the sake of others and flows from the generosity of others.

I encourage all of us to participate in this year's special diocesan Christmas collection that is not only for our seminarians, but also for the retired priests of our diocese. This is the eleventh year the collection has been known as the, "Christmas Call to Sharing: A gift of gratitude to support retired priests and the education of seminarians." The collection's complete name (which is a mouthful) accurately reflects what the diocese is asking each of us to do in our need to share God's blessings with others, as well as the proper motivation of gratitude.

The purpose of the Christmas Call to Sharing, as mentioned above, is not only for the education of our seminarians, but also for the retirement and health care needs of our retired priests and care for infirm priests, including those who are still in active ministry (you can see I have a future stake in your generosity). At the present time we have 25 retired priests, who have given countless years of ministry to the diocese, many who are still helping out as substitutes in parishes. Of those 25, three have served at Holy Name and St. Mary: Fr. Ivan Eck, Fr. Eugene Grabner, and Fr. Stephen Thapwa. This year's cost of educating our 53 seminarians is nearly \$2 million dollars. This large number of seminarians is a true blessing from God and in no small part a reflection of the prayers that are offered daily in our diocese, especially in Eucharistic Adoration chapels, for an increase of priests.

I would like to thank you for your generosity in the past to this special collection. Last year both Holy Name (\$3,458.00) and St. Mary (\$1,290.00) parishes surpassed the required amount for each parish. I once again appeal to your generous spirit beyond your regular parish tithe. Last year both St. Mary and Holy Name parishes collected more than the required amount, as many other parishes did, allowing the diocese to collect a total just over \$777,000.

During this time of year there are many worthy organizations requesting our contributions. A donation to the Christmas Call to Sharing collection, I believe is one of the best. It would be an excellent way for us to honor the priests who have served us so faithfully in the past, as well as to assist our seminarians preparing for the priesthood who will serve us in the future.

Please use the special envelope that you received in your regular packet that is marked My Christmas Offering or the envelope you received from Bishop Kemme. If you misplaced those envelopes we have extra envelopes on the tables in the back of the church. Please make your checks payable to Holy Name Church or St. Mary Church and indicate Christmas Call to Sharing on the memo line. We will forward one check to the diocese. That enables us to credit your account in the parish and makes record keeping much easier. If you are going to be gone over Christmas you can mail, place in next Sunday's basket, or drop off your envelope to the office so that it will be included. Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, your regular contribution to the parish should go in the regular weekly envelope dated December 25. All contributions must be received by December 31. Thank you in advance for your generosity.