**October 2017**

**TO: All Pastors, Parochial Administrators and Parish Life Collaborators**

**FROM: Mike Murray, Director of Stewardship and Mission Services**

**The 2017 Seminarian Education Fund Collection will take place throughout the Diocese of Covington on the weekend of November 4 and 5, 2017.**

For those answering God’s call to the priesthood, both conversion and patience are an essential element in their response.  These men are developing a heart for God’s people and dedicate their lives to missionary discipleship.  To ensure we are giving these men the foundation necessary to understand and freely embrace their vocation, and to effectively carry out their apostolic ministry, we must invest in their education and formation.  The 2017 Seminarian Education Fund Collection will help supply the resources our seminarians need on their journey toward a priestly vocation.

The enclosed Handbook includes materials to help you promote the 2017 Collection. Also attached is a Campaign Summary Report of the 2016 Collection. Please process The Seminarian Education Fund Collection as you do all other special collections.

Thank you letters from Bishop Foys will be sent to donors of $100 or more who send their gifts directly to the Diocese. If you wish your parishioners who make gifts of $100 or more through your Parish Collection to receive a thank you from Bishop Foys, please send us their names, addresses and gift amounts when you return your parish check and Collection Reporting Form.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. If you have further questions, please contact me by phone at (859) 392-1500 or by email at mmurray@covdio.org.

May God continue to bless you for your ministry!

P.S. The 2017 Seminarian Education Fund Poster will be mailed by the Vocations Office. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Nader at (859) 392-1500.

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**Seminarian Education Fund Collection**

**2017**



***“Called According to His Purpose”***

 ***(Romans 8:28)***

Parish Collection Handbook

November 4 and 5, 2017

Office of Stewardship and Mission Services 1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, Kentucky 41011-3115

(859) 392-1500

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND COLLECTION**

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

**Table of Contents**

Collection Calendar

News Flash

Awareness, Collection and Follow-up Weekends

* Bulletin Inserts
* Pulpit Announcements
* Prayers of the Faithful

Accounting and Reporting Forms

Bishop Foys’ Appeal Letter

Additional Materials

* Printout of 2016 Parish Campaign Report

**HANDBOOK MATERIALS CAN BE FOUND ON**

**THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE:**

[**WWW.COVDIO.ORG**](http://WWW.COVDIO.ORG)

**CLICK ON SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND LINK**

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND COLLECTION**

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

**Collection Calendar**

**PRE-COLLECTION ACTIVITIES**

**Friday, October 6** Collection materials e-mailed to all parishes.

**Friday, October 20** Collection packet including letter from Bishop Foys, brochure, prayer card and Diocesan remittance envelope mailed to all registered households.

**Friday, October 27** Collection information appears in *The* *Messenger*

Parishes display posters in visible locations.

**AWARENESS WEEKEND**

**Saturday/Sunday,** Bulletin Insert, Pulpit Announcement,

**October 28 and 29** Prayers of the Faithful

**COLLECTION WEEKEND**

**Saturday/Sunday,** Bulletin Insert, Pulpit Announcement,

**November 4 and 5** Prayers of the Faithful, Collection taken up in all Parishes

 **FOLLOW-UP AND APPRECIATION WEEKEND**

**Saturday/Sunday,** Bulletin Insert, Pulpit Announcement,

**November 11 and 12** Prayers of the Faithful

**Ongoing** Diocesan envelopes indicating credit card gifts are mailed to the Stewardship Office. See News Flash

**POST COLLECTION ACTIVITIES**

**Friday, December 8** Deadline for returning reporting form and parish check representing collection receipts. Forward names and addresses of donors contributing $100 or more to the Stewardship and Mission Office so these donors will

receive a thank-you note from Bishop Foys.

**January, 2018** Printout of donors who mailed their gifts directly to the Diocesan Stewardship Office will be mailed to parishes.

***NEWS FLASH***

 **SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND**

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

* **Seminarian Education Fund Parish Handbooks will be e-mailed to all parishes on Friday, October 6.**
* **Diocesan Remittance Envelopes included in the mailing with Bishop Foys’ appeal letter and brochure will give parishioners the opportunity to make a gift or a pledge via credit card to be paid over 10 months starting November 2017 through August 2018. The inclusion of a Diocesan remittance envelope has helped increase gifts significantly at a time when additional funds are vital. (Send credit card gift envelopes to the Diocese)**
* **If Diocesan Remittance Envelopes are dropped into your parish offertory collection, please forward them immediately to the Office of Stewardship and Mission Services so that we can process the credit card gifts.**
* **Please be careful opening Diocesan Remittance Envelopes. Credit Card information is printed on the inside bottom flap of the envelope. Please open Diocesan envelopes from the top to avoid destroying CC info.**

**THANK YOU!**

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND COLLECTION**

**Awareness Weekend**

**October 28 and 29, 2017**

**PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Our Diocese has been blessed with a number of men who have accepted the call to discern and prepare for priesthood. Next weekend you have the opportunity to assist in their formation by giving to the Seminarian Education Fund Collection. We ask that you be generous in your donation and pray for those who are studying to become priests in our diocese. See the bulletin for additional information.

**BULLETIN INSERT**

***“Called According to His Purpose”***

**(Romans 8:28)**

The Seminarians for our Diocese are preparing, through prayer, education and service to others, to become the future priests of our Diocese. They have dedicated themselves to follow the Lord and have the heart of the Good Shepherd. As the Lord has called them, so too are we called to support them on their journey. Please be generous in your gift and in your prayer for them.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

For all parents, that God will inspire them to promote vocations to the priesthood … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For all who have made a commitment to pray intensely for vocations, that their intercessory prayers for an increase in candidates for the priesthood in our Diocese will be fruitful for our local Church and that they will be blessed for their efforts … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND COLLECTION**

**Collection Weekend**

**November 4 & 5, 2017**

**PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Our seminarians have heard God’s call deep in their hearts, and are courageously following where He is leading them. Their response to the Lord has led them to the seminary where they have entered into an extraordinary journey of faith. Please give generously today to the Seminary Education Fund to assist with the cost of tuition, room and board, retreats and health care for our men studying for the priesthood, and please remember them in your prayers.

**BULLETIN INSERT**

***“Called According to His Purpose”***

**(Romans 8:28)**

A vocation to the priesthood is an answer to Jesus’ call to participate in His work. Christ is the One who calls. The Diocese of Covington has been blessed to have a number of men who have responded to Christ’s call. These men will need the love and support of the community to complete their journey. Estimated Diocesan cost for providing our seminarians with tuition, books, room and board, health insurance, living allowances and retreats for the coming year will amount to $50,000 per seminarian. You can help by making an immediate gift to the Seminarian Education Fund. Please pray daily for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

For our seminarians that they may know the support and love of our faith community as they grow in self-awareness and continue to discern God’s call ... *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For our seminarians and priests who inspire and strengthen us by the witness of their commitment … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood, especially within our Diocese … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**DIOCESE OF COVINGTON**

**SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND COLLECTION**

**Follow-up and Appreciation Weekend**

**November 11 and 12, 2017**

**PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT**

On behalf of Bishop Foys, our Diocesan seminarians, thank you to all who invested in our Church, our Diocese, and our seminarians by making a gift to the Seminarian Education Fund. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood. If you have not made your gift to the Seminarian Education Fund, please do so today.

 **BULLETIN INSERT**

***“Called According to His Purpose”***

**(Romans 8:28)**

Thank you to all who contributed to last week’s special Collection for the Seminarian Education Fund. Our parish family generously donated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These gifts will provide funds for tuition, room and board, books, health care and retreats for our seminarians. Your investment in our seminarians is a prayerful commitment to your Church and to your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have not made your gift, please drop your envelope into the offertory basket today or next weekend. Please continue to pray for our seminarians, for members of our clergy, and for vocations to the priesthood.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

For all those asking God to direct them in their choice of a vocation … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For those responsible for guiding the spiritual growth of our seminarian and candidates that they will witness the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in their lives … *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For all those who serve the Church … *Let us pray to the Lord*.

 DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

## Seminarian Education Fund Collection

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

# accounting & reporting procedures

1. Open all Seminarian Fund Collection Envelopes, both parish and Diocesan, which have been dropped into the parish offertory baskets and record each gift.
2. Do not send unopened envelopes to the Diocese.
3. If a donor completes a Diocesan Remittance Envelope and indicates a gift by credit card, send the envelope to the Stewardship Office. SEE INFO SHEET!
4. The Office of Stewardship and Mission Services will send a thank you note from Bishop Foys to all donors of $100 or more who return their envelopes directly to the Diocese and to donors of $100 or more who made their gift directly to the parish if those names, addresses and gift amounts are sent by the parish to the Stewardship Office.
5. Complete the attached Seminarian Education Fund Parish Contributions Reporting Form, and forward it with a parish check representing the amount received in the Collection to the Office of Stewardship and Mission Services by Friday, December 8, 2017. Please make checks payable to: Seminarian Education Fund Collection
6. The Office of Stewardship and Mission Services will send a printout to each parish in January 2018. It will list all gifts sent directly to the Diocese for this Collection.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund envelopes do not replace the parish Seminarian Education Fund envelopes which are part of your envelope order. The Diocese includes a remittance envelope with the Appeal letter as a convenience for members of our Diocesan family. Many Catholics do not attend weekly mass; many others do not use parish envelopes. The inclusion of a Diocesan remittance envelope has helped increase gifts significantly at a time when additional funds are vital. The Diocesan envelope provides donors with an opportunity to make a gift or pledge via credit card to the 2017 Seminarian Education Fund. (Send credit card gift envelopes to the Diocese.)

DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

## Seminarian Education Fund Collection

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS REPORTING FORM

**Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parish: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$** **is our parish financial offering for the 2017 Seminarian Education Fund Collection.**

# PARISH CONTRIBUTION

**A check in the above amount:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Is enclosed**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Other**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Credit Card Gifts, (#) of Diocesan Envelopes enclosed indicating credit card or Pledges**

# MAJOR PARISH DONORS

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Attached is a list of our parish’s donors who contributed $100 or more to the collection. Please send them a thank-you note from Bishop Foys.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Our parish did not have any donors of $100 or more to this collection.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Our parish is not including a list of donors who contributed $100 or more to this collection.**

**Please return the following items by December 8, 2017:**

* Parish Contribution Reporting Form
* List of donors of $100 or more (optional)
* Parish check made payable to: ***2017 Seminarian Education Fund Collection***

**Send to:**

**Diocesan Stewardship & Mission Services Office**

**1125 Madison Avenue**

 **Covington, Kentucky 41011-3115**

October, 2017

***“Called According to His Purpose”* (Romans 8:28)**

My dear friends in Christ,

When God calls a young man to the priesthood, it is a very exciting time for him as his heart swells with love for Christ in preparation for a lifelong and intimate relationship in His service. These men have come to know God through prayer, the Sacraments, and through the living of a Christian life.

There is no single or common path to priesthood. People discover the call to serve at different ages and stages of their lives. Some are very young when they respond, and some are not so young any more. They also come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. Collectively, they bring a depth of experience that is greatly needed within the body of our priests.

Our seminarians will be the next generation of priests for our Diocese. They are a dedicated group of men, committed to knowing Christ and serving God’s people within the Church and in the world. They are resilient in the face of many challenges within our Church and society today. They are courageous in their response to God at this time, but they also need the support and prayers of the people they hope to serve.

I ask you today to please pray for our seminarians who are preparing for priestly service. I also ask you to pray that more men at various ages and stages of life choose to answer the call to follow after the heart of Jesus as our new generation of priests. In addition to your prayers, I ask you to participate in the 2017 Seminarian Education Fund Collection on November 4 and 5. Your donation to this important Collection gives us the opportunity to participate in the work that Jesus has called us to do, in an effective and efficient manner.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and for your generous gifts in support of priestly formation in the Diocese of Covington. I also acknowledge and thank you for your continued prayers directed to those still discerning their call to the priesthood.

Be assured of my prayers as well as those of our seminarians. Please, pray for us.

 Yours devotedly in the Lord,

 

 Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D. D. Bishop of Covington