



OUR  
**SHEPHERDS**  
OUR **FUTURE**  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

DISCERNING YOUR GIFT  
*Bulletin Series: Issue 4*

Good, holy, and compassionate priests are a gift to God's people and the parishes they serve. Our future as a Catholic community will be even more vibrant if we have a flourishing priesthood.

We are grateful that so many young men are now discerning a priestly vocation; 20 men are currently enrolled as seminarians for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. We look forward to their gifts and leadership as a large group of faithful and faith-filled diocesan priests enter their well-deserved retirement. Within the next decade, 28 of them will reach or be over retirement age.

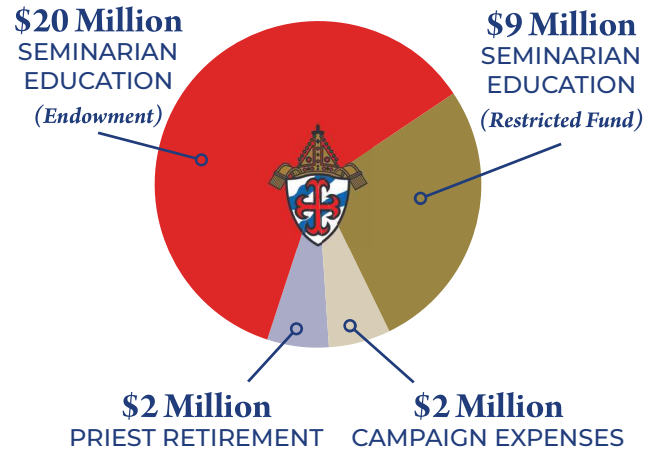
As a diocese, we are committed to ensuring these young men get the best possible formation and education so that they and we will benefit for decades to come from their priestly presence among us. We also wish to show our gratitude to those who have graciously served. It is in support of this commitment that the Diocese of Grand Rapids has launched the *Our Shepherds – Our Future* Capital Campaign, a \$33 million-dollar campaign to support seminarian education and priest retirement.

***We are asking everyone in the diocese to participate. How deeply reassuring would it be if 100% of the families in our diocese stood in solidarity with these men as they have stood with us?***

For us to successfully complete a campaign of this magnitude, we are inviting all parishioners to consider making a sacrificial gift payable over the next three years. Please know that a gift of any amount will be gratefully received and used in accordance with the initiatives of the campaign. Our young men are eager to serve, and our priests have devoted a lifetime to serving. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this campaign in support of them.

We know that you and others have questions. This insert is the fourth in a series of five which will answer some of the most frequently asked questions, see reverse, regarding aspects of this campaign.

**CAMPAIGN GOAL:  
\$33 MILLION**



THE COST TO FORM  
A PRIEST FOR THE  
DIOCESE OVER  
THE ENTIRE EIGHT-  
YEAR PROGRAM  
OF FORMATION IS  
**\$453,636\***  
\*2020-21 RATES





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How is each household being asked to contribute to *Our Shepherds – Our Future*?

Each registered household will receive an invitation from Bishop Walkowiak which includes their appeal letter and the campaign case statement. This letter includes a **suggested** request amount that each household is being asked to consider as a three-year pledge.

Why is each household being asked for a specific amount?

Your suggested request amount provides a place to start your family's discernment. The right amount to give can only be determined through your prayerful discernment. We are hopeful that your contributions to this campaign will be over and above what you already give to parish offertory and the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) so that our critical ministries may continue.

How is my suggested request amount determined?

Individual factors including contributions to parish offertory, historical giving to the diocese and the amount you may have suggested if you participated in the campaign feasibility study were combined with national data to determine suggested request amounts. You know your financial responsibilities and obligations best; this amount should be a guide to begin your discernment.

How am I to discern a gift to this campaign amidst all of my existing financial obligations?

- Pray! Our church – including our diocese, your parish, and our seminarians and priests – needs your prayers.
- Learn about the needs of this campaign. Read the case statement which will be mailed to you and visit [GRdiocese.org/our-shepherds-our-future](http://GRdiocese.org/our-shepherds-our-future) to learn more. Your parish's campaign ambassadors can answer any questions you may have. Your final decision may be different from the amount suggested in your letter; **it is your thoughtful discernment that is most appreciated** and most important to your final decision. You will have three years to pay your pledge. *Every gift counts!*

How do I make my gift?

Each parish household will indicate its decision on a pledge card that will arrive in its appeal packet. You may also make your gift online at [GRdiocese.org](http://GRdiocese.org).



If you have a question that was not answered, please submit it to Annalise Laumeyer, diocesan director of communications: [alaumeyer@grdiocese.org](mailto:alaumeyer@grdiocese.org) or your pastor.

