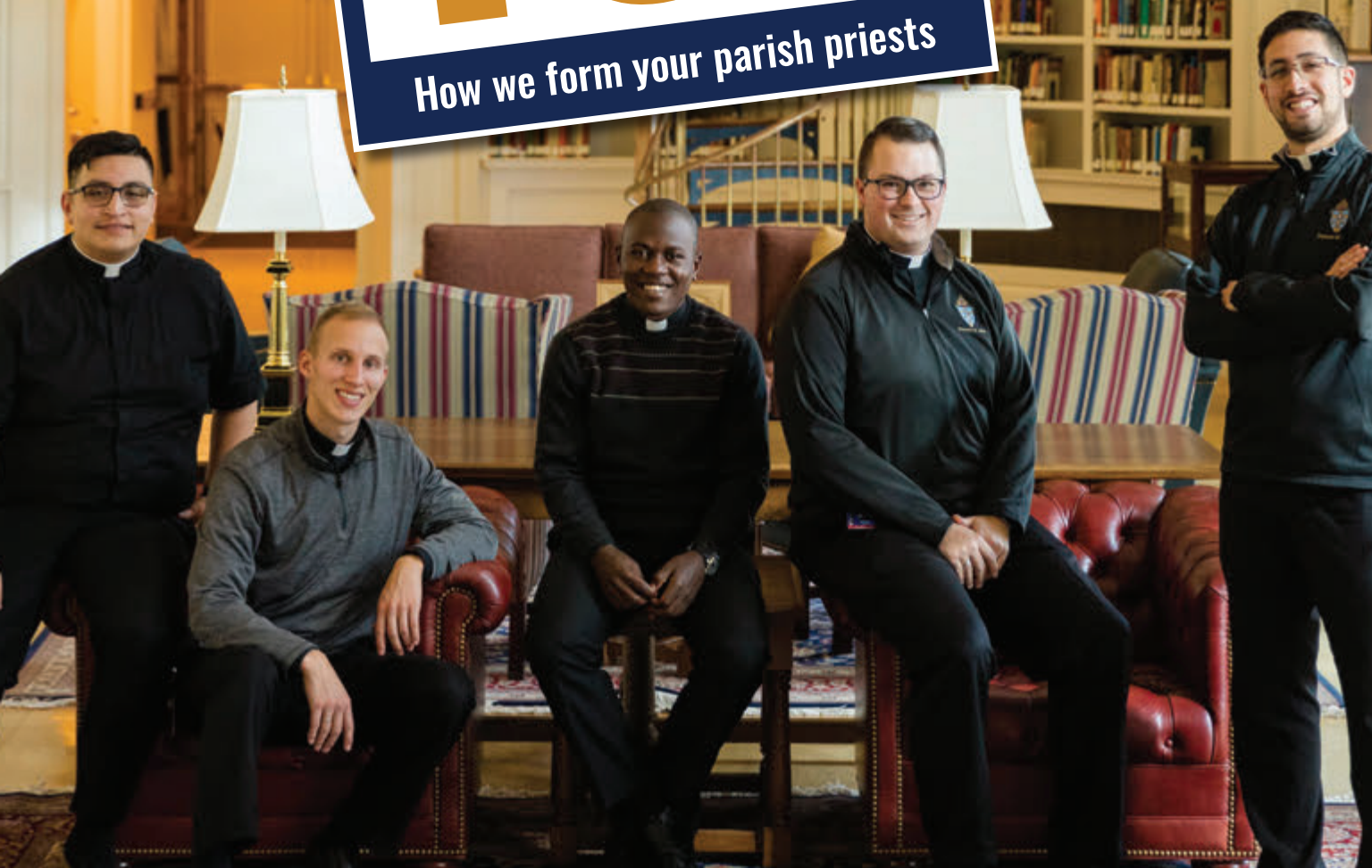


# SEMINARY 101

How we form your parish priests



MUNDELEIN  
SEMINARY

# SEMINARY 101

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MUNDELEIN  
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## FORMING YOUR FUTURE PARISH PRIESTS

### GREETINGS FROM MUNDELEIN SEMINARY!

Signs of hope for the future of the Catholic Church can be found in seminaries across the country and around the world, where seminarians continue to respond to God’s call for their lives—even when an increasingly secularized society claims that such a choice is nearly unthinkable. Called by the Holy Spirit, they are inspired to use their gifts and talents in the service of God’s people. Here at Mundelein Seminary, we have nearly 200 seminarians from more than 30 dioceses who are answering that call to priestly ordination.

But admittance to seminary does not ensure that a man will become a priest. Mundelein seminarians spend four to six years engaged in the active process of priestly formation. Discerning a call to the priesthood requires an ongoing conversation with spiritual directors, faculty, mentor priests, family members and—most importantly—with our Lord in prayer.

The seminary is neither a “priest factory” nor a monastery, but rather a sacred space where seminarians can concentrate on discerning their vocation by learning more about their faith, growing in self-knowledge and further conforming their heart to the will of Christ. In the following pages, you will learn about the experience of being a seminarian and the process a man follows to become a priest.

Our mission at Mundelein Seminary is to integrate spiritual, academic and pastoral formation to prepare men to serve their dioceses as parish priests. They enhance their interior

lives and adopt habits of daily prayer. They dive into Scripture and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They master and embrace the teachings of the Church so they can effectively evangelize and catechize. They learn the practical matters of priestly ministry and experience the pastoral realities of being a shepherd for God’s people. Ultimately, they bring the presence of Christ to all whom they encounter, particularly those at the margins of society.

The Catholic Church remains a potent force for good in the lives of millions of people across the country and around the world—and Mundelein exists to ensure that there will be holy, joyful priests for generations to come. As you read this booklet, I pray that your own heart will be opened to clearly hear the Holy Spirit’s voice. Please join me in praying for vocations to the priesthood, for the men who are currently studying at Mundelein, and for all those who impact their formation.

Together with you in Christ, we are Mundelein Seminary. We form parish priests.

Yours in the Heart of Christ,

Father John Kartje  
Rector





## About the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary

Mundelein Seminary at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake is one of the largest Catholic seminary programs in the country, with nearly 200 seminarians enrolled from more than 30 dioceses around the world.

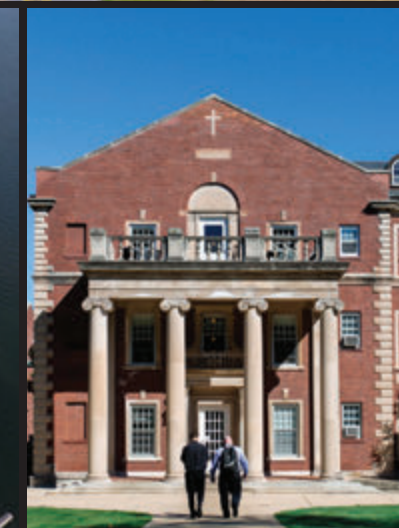
Cardinal George Mundelein opened the seminary in 1921 and commissioned architect Joseph W. McCarthy to use a neo-classical style to design a distinctly American campus. As one of the largest Catholic seminary programs in the country, Mundelein Seminary serves not only the Archdiocese of Chicago, but many additional U.S. and international dioceses, educating thousands of priests for service to the worldwide Church.

Men typically enter seminary after attending a four-year college seminary or after spending years in a different

career and hearing the call of the Holy Spirit to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Every seminarian is required to have a bachelor's degree and study two years of philosophy. After completing the philosophy requirement, seminarians spend four years earning a Master of Divinity before ordination.

The following pages provide a glimpse into each year of the seminarian experience at Mundelein and the path to becoming a parish priest.

The seminary campus is open to visitors every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.usml.edu/visitors](http://www.usml.edu/visitors) for more information.







## FOUR DIMENSIONS OF PRIESTLY FORMATION

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The seminarians' spiritual formation draws them into the priestly path of Jesus so they can configure their hearts to Christ and learn to lead with self-sacrificial love. Seminarians have unceasing opportunities to encounter the Lord through daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and twice-a-month meetings with their spiritual directors. Each year, a group of third-year seminarians make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where the Sacred Scriptures come alive for them. Seminarians attend multiple retreats each year, including an on-campus retreat that begins the school year, a third-year directed retreat, retreats prior to ordination and a cam retreat.



## HUMAN FORMATION

Saint Pope John Paul II wrote, "It is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ." Our goal is to develop the leadership qualities of all candidates for priesthood. Not only is a priest a public leader entrusted to direct and guide a parish, he also is a religious leader who represents the larger Church. Another objective is to shape fraternity among future priests. Priesthood grows when shared and supported. Many efforts are made to find ways to come to know each other well, to trust each other and to live out their priestly service in a united manner.



# PASTORAL FORMATION

Seminarians engage in a range of pastoral experiences to gain exposure to the variety of ministries and work that are common to diocesan priesthood. These include opportunities to minister to the sick, visit the imprisoned, teach RCIA, help the poor, and attend mission trips to Arizona or Peru. All seminarians participate in two immersive pastoral programs: one in a parish of their home diocese and one in a community healthcare setting. They also spend four years serving in one of 80 local parishes through the Augustus Tolton Teaching Parish Program, where they engage in ministry and form authentic relationships with parishioners.

# INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

The program of intellectual formation at Mundelein seeks to build the capacity for deeper self-knowledge through the disciplined use of reason guided by the Rule of Faith. Intellectual formation seeks to help a man deepen his appropriation of the content of the Faith, understand it so as to penetrate its mysteries and prepare to share it with Christ's faithful and the world. The Mundelein faculty is among the largest in the country, with more than 30 lay and religious members, many of whom are recognized leaders in their fields.



# THE PATH TO ORDINATION

While no two paths to the priesthood are identical, this timeline shows the general route a seminarian takes once he has discerned the call to seminary—whether straight out of college, after spending years in a different career, or upon graduation from a college seminary.

## PRE-THEOLOGY I

Seminarians who have not completed a degree in philosophy spend their first two years at Mundelein earning a degree or certificate in the subject.



## PRE-THEOLOGY II

- Receive assignment for **Tolton Teaching Parish Program** and begin spending time at parish
- Spend summer taking classes at **Institute for Priestly Formation** in Omaha, Nebraska



## OPTIONAL COLLEGE SEMINARY

If a seminarian senses his vocation after high school, he can attend a minor seminary to receive an undergraduate degree in philosophy before enrolling at Mundelein for major seminary to earn a theology degree.



## THEOLOGY I

After completing Pre-Theology or attending a college seminary, the seminarians begin their study of Theology.

- Declaration of Candidacy
- Order of Acolyte



## THEOLOGY II

- Order of Lector
- Semester-long **parish internship** in home diocese
- Summer community healthcare or Clinical Pastoral Education experience



## THEOLOGY III

- Nine-Week **Holy Land Scripture Study-Pilgrimage**
- **Diaconate Ordination**
- **Deacon Ministry** over summer at parish in home diocese



## THEOLOGY IV

- **Weekly ministry** at Teaching Parish
- **Sacrament and Mass Practicums**



## PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Upon graduation, seminarians return to their home dioceses for ordination and are assigned to a parish to begin their priestly ministry.







# PRE- THEOLOGY

The Pre-Theology program serves seminarians coming from a different career path who have not completed the requisite two years of philosophy that provide a foundation for the study of theology. Seminarians also spend these years focused on their human formation—maturing in their relationship with the Lord and their decision to follow Him. They are assigned to serve an apostolate in the field of health care or assisted living.

## Pre-Theology I Classes

- ANTHROPOLOGY
- ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
- ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN
- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- EPISTEMOLOGY

## Pre-Theology II Classes

- INTRO TO OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS
- INTRO TO PASTORAL THEOLOGY
- DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN II
- MODERN PHILOSOPHY
- GREEK

“Diving academically into the faith as I’d never done before excited and motivated me. It helped deepen my faith convictions and opened new avenues of thought to share with believers, non-believers and, God willing, future parishioners.

*Matthew Ockinga, Diocese of Yakima*



# THEOLOGY I

As a seminarian begins his theological studies, he is focused on his configuration to Christ—allowing the sentiments and attitudes of Christ to arise in his own heart. In addition to classes and formation sessions, first-year theologians begin spending ample time at their teaching parishes, where they engage with the parishioners and a mentor pastor. They also declare their candidacy for the priesthood and are installed to the order of acolytes, granting them the responsibility of assisting priests and deacons in the Eucharistic celebration.

## Theology I Classes

- FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLIC TRADITION
- FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY
- EVANGELIZATION
- MEDIEVAL CHURCH HISTORY
- CHRISTOLOGY
- NARRATIVE PREACHING

“Faculty at Mundelein are patient and very supportive of our formation and are ready to take part in our development. Mundelein provides every possible aid for this great spiritual journey toward being a good and holy pastor.

*Ankit Jose Mathews, Syro-Malabar Catholic Archeparchy of Kottayam*





## THEOLOGY II



## THEOLOGY III

In the second year of theology, seminarians are installed to the order of lectors to proclaim the Word of God. They continue to take classes and engage in youth ministry at their teaching parishes. They spend the second semester on internship at a parish in their home diocese, where they are fully immersed in the life and ministries of the local Church, learning from an experienced mentor pastor.

### Theology II Classes

- DOCTRINE OF GOD
- SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION
- SEXUALITY AND VOCATION
- MEDICAL ETHICS AND SUFFERING
- REFORMATION AND REVOLUTION
- SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

“I have absolutely loved spending time at my teaching parish. It has been a privilege to learn from the incredible pastor and to be welcomed into the lives of the parishioners. They have a direct hand in my formation through these experiences.

*Hank Lyon, Archdiocese of Chicago*

Seminarians spend the third year of theology preparing for their ordination as transitional deacons at the end of the year. This journey culminates with a nine-week study-pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where the Sacred Scriptures come alive for them and they grow in their understanding of what it means to be a priest. Read blog posts from previous pilgrimages at [usml.edu/pilgrimage](http://usml.edu/pilgrimage).

### Theology III Classes

- PROPHETS
- JOHANNINE LITERATURE
- SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH
- PILGRIMAGE INTEGRATION

“Being in the Holy Land for such an extended period of time gave us the opportunity to fully enter into the experience. We were able to pray, have Mass and even attend a retreat at these holy places. After coming back, I have a strong picture in my mind of these important sites from Biblical history and Jesus’ ministry.

*Joseph Sevcik, Archdiocese of Dubuque*





# THEOLOGY IV

The fourth-year seminarian serves as a deacon at his teaching parish, continuing his pastoral formation, celebrating the sacraments of marriage and baptism, proclaiming the Gospel and preaching homilies, and providing liturgical and catechetical assistance to his mentor pastor. Upon completion of their fourth year of theology, these men are called to Ordination as parish priests--ready to serve as a bridge between God and His people.

### Theology IV Classes

- CANON LAW
- AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY
- PSALMS AND WISDOM
- RECONCILIATION
- THE PRIEST AND THE LITURGY
- SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

“My time in seminary was very special for coming to terms with who I am as a human being, recognizing the gifts God has given me and which ones I need to grow in. Mundelein gave me the tools to know what I was doing as a priest—from celebrating Mass to praying with people at the hospital—so I had a great sense of peace when I was in those situations.

*Father Charles Warren, Class of 2019, Diocese of Rockford*

“Graduate seminary is a year longer than law school and about as long as medical school and residency. I don’t want a lawyer or physician who took a ‘short course.’ And we should expect our priests—who are doctors of souls—to be good, holy and competent. I’m proud that Mundelein Seminary is committed to seeing that our graduates are all three.

~ Father Thomas Baima, Provost, Mundelein Seminary”





# HOW TO SUPPORT THE SEMINARY

When we say that “We Are Mundelein,” you are an important part of that “we.” Without your prayers and support, the nearly 200 seminarians being formed here would not be able to pursue their vocations. Your generous support is an investment in the future of the Church and a vital sign of encouragement for the seminarians who are discerning their call to the priesthood.

### Connect with us

Follow us on social media (@MundeleinSem) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

### Pray with us

Visit [usml.edu/prayers](https://usml.edu/prayers) to submit an online prayer intention. A seminarian will pray specifically for your intention. You can also make a tribute gift or receive a Mass card by calling (847) 970-4816.

### Gifts of Support

Your financial contributions are vital to the continued mission of Mundelein Seminary and formation of the next generation of parish priests. You can make a gift online at [usml.edu/give](https://usml.edu/give). We are so grateful for any gift you can make.

### Visit the seminary

You are welcome to visit Mundelein Seminary from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Please check our website for updated hours and scheduled closures. We also invite the public to attend annual events including the Christmas Concert, Rector’s Mass, May Crowning and more.







UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE  
**MUNDELEIN SEMINARY**

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