

THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE
LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

Summer 2017

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As an abundance of new life breaks forth around us at this time of the year, I take this opportunity to send my greetings to you and your families and to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your very generous spiritual and financial support over the years of our retired priests and our seminarians in formation.

It has been your generosity and kindness that continues to give new life to those retired priests who have faithfully served our local Church so generously for so many years. It is also in your spiritual and financial support of those studying for the priesthood that we see the seeds of future servants of our diocese sowed and nourished.

Your continued support of those priests who have served for many years, as well as those men seeking to serve the local Church in the future was manifested most clearly in your generosity last year. In 2016, your marvelous response to the *Special Collection for Priest Retirement and Seminarian Education* resulted in the Church collecting a total of **\$169,846** towards funding these two most important needs. God has indeed blessed His local Church with generous hearts!

We expect the tradition of fine men responding to the call of the Lord, to serve the Church, to continue as we prepare for up to **14** men to be in study for the priesthood in the fall of 2017. The education and formation of men for the priesthood involves annual funding at the level of **\$52,296** per year, per seminarian. With so many men studying for or discerning the priesthood in the fall, the total cost to the local Church is projected to be **\$732,150** for the coming school year. The future of the leadership and priestly ministry and service for the Church depends in great part upon your continued generosity, as in years past, to this vital need.

Currently projected financial funding for our retired priests (and for the remainder of us who will retire) for the next ten years is **underfunded** by **\$1.9 million**. For our seminarians, the “financial picture” is even more challenging. Currently projected financial funding for the next ten years is **underfunded** by **\$6.1 million**, leaving the future funding for formation of men for priesthood a **grave** concern here in the Diocese of Yakima.

To ensure transparency, I should like to advise you that the urgency of these needs is in part due to the insufficient funding of the five-year Capital Campaign for Priest’s Retirement and Seminarian Education, launched in 2005. This campaign has collected **\$4,457,023** of the **\$5,250,000** goal set for the Campaign. That goal was based on what the fundraisers suggested we could realistically raise. Despite the generosity of many to this Campaign, we were not able to reach our goal. Fortunately, we continue to receive grants and scholarships, as well as other funds raised in the diocese. That is why this Special Collection is being taken up again this summer, as our once-a-year effort to ensure that the necessary funding for these worthy causes is in place for the coming year.

In closing, while I realize that these are difficult financial times for families and individuals, I ask, on behalf of those who have served you over the decades, as well as for those who will serve you in the future, that you please be as generous as your means allow.

With every best wish and blessing,

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

JJT/ab

[signature electronically applied]



Fr. Bill Shaw
(active pastor)

Fr. Tom Lane
(senior priest)

Fr. John Shaw
(senior priest)



Current
Seminarians