



## Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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March 6, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of March 13 and 14 our Diocese will take up the annual collection for Diocesan Seminarians and Priestly Formation.

This annual collection is critical in support of the Church's mission of cultivating and fostering priestly vocations for the benefit of the sacramental life of the Church. This year's cost of education and formation for just one seminarian per year is just over fifty-two thousand dollars including health insurance, stipend, education and car insurance alone. Currently, in the Diocese of Palm Beach we are blessed to have seventeen seminarians with the majority studying at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary right here in Boynton Beach and St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami.

The second part of this collection supports the ongoing priestly formation of our active priests scattered throughout the 53 parishes and missions in our five county Diocese. Recently, I implemented a program for our priests called *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds*, a clergy leadership program designed to help priests be better leaders after the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Many of our priests are participating in this program which is being utilized in Dioceses around the United States.

During this *Year for Priests*, as designated by our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, together let us support both, our seminarians on their way to priesthood and our many fine priests who serve us in a variety of ways day in and day out in the name of Jesus Christ.

With gratitude for your generosity and the assurance of my prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach

**Note to Pastors: Please publish in bulletins the weekend of March 6 and 7.**