Dear Friends,

The Program of Priestly Formation Seminarians started the year with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr. Glenn Powers, Director of Pastoral Formation, and I accompanied them on the informative and inspirational tour.

The Holy Land is often referred to as the Fifth Gospel, and I believe that to be true. As we travelled throughout the region, we were able to better understand what we have studied in the Bible. It is one thing to read about certain biblical towns and villages; it is quite another thing to actually walk through them! The experience enhanced our appreciation of Sacred Scripture and deepened our love for Christ.

While in Jerusalem, we prayed the Way of the Cross through the streets of the old city, culminating with Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. I found celebrating Mass in the actual tomb where Jesus was laid after his crucifixion and the place of the resurrection to be one of the most moving experiences of my life.

I remembered the friends and benefactors of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in my Masses and prayers at all of the holy sites throughout the pilgrimage. I continue to pray for all of you today, and I thank you for your wonderful support of the Seminary.

Grace and Peace,

Father John Hemsing, Rector
Four Deacons Anticipate Ordination

Please pray for our four deacons who are counting the days until their ordinations! Three of them anticipate ordination by Archbishop Jerome Listecki for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on Saturday, May 21 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist:

Deacon Patrick J. Behling from Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay
Deacon Andrew Linn from St. Robert Parish, Shorewood,
Deacon Michael Wolfe from St. William Parish, Waukesha and the Community of St. Paul

For the first time in more than two decades, we have a seminarian preparing to be ordained for the Diocese of Green Bay. Deacon Michael Thiel from St. Raphael the Archangel Parish, Oshkosh is looking forward to his ordination by Bishop David Ricken on Saturday, June 25 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

May God bless these men during their final preparations for ordination.

Marking Milestones

Matthew Rappl and Adam Bradley celebrate their declaration of candidacy for the priesthood with Bishop David Ricken and Fr. John Hemsing.

Andrew Infanger, Will Arnold, Luther Diaz, Kyle Laylan, Aaron Laskiewicz, Jose Lopez and Barry Saylor stand with Fr. John and Bishop Richard Skiba after being instituted into the ministry of acolyte.
Unforgettable Memories from the Holy Land

Our seminarians were blessed to spend January 1 – 10 on a pilgrimage in Israel. They toured sacred sites from Bethlehem to Calvary, stopping at dozens of places of biblical and historical significance. They prayed the Angelus at noon at the Church of the Annunciation, and they renewed their baptismal promises at the River Jordan. They celebrated Mass in a different church each day, using the Gospel reading from that setting. All of the experiences deepened their understanding and appreciation for sacred Scripture and drew them closer to God.

For more photographs and information about their trip, go to www.sfs.edu.
The men smile after renewing their baptismal promises at the River Jordan.

Edward and Tony on the Sea of Galilee boat ride.

Praying at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Seminarians explore the magnificent ruins in Masada.

Jordan, Nick, Patrick, Kyle and Adam by the Sea of Galilee.
We celebrated our patron saint with three special events, all held the week of his January 24 feast day. More than 100 alumni gathered on January 20 for vespers and dinner. Awards were given to Fr. Matthew Widder, Gary Pokorny, Deacon David Zimprich and Connie Bach for their work in ministry.

Priests of the archdiocese came home to the Seminary for Mass with Archbishop Listecki and lunch on January 22, and 150 benefactors joined us for Mass and lunch on January 24. It was a delight to welcome so many friends who share our love for Saint Francis de Sales.
Help us increase vocations to the priesthood

Please invite young men who may be called to the priesthood to these events:

- Cor Jesu |Wednesdays | | PII House of Discernment at St. Robert Parish in Shorewood: Young Adult Discernment Dinner; 6 p.m., Adoration and Confession; 7 p.m., Mass; 8 p.m.

- Monthly High School Discernment Group led by Fr. Luke Strand at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary: February 19, March 18, April 15 and May 20 | All meeting dates: 7 p.m.

- Summer camps and retreats for middle school, high school and young adult men. Please check thinkpriest.org/events for future dates.

For more info, contact Fr. Luke Strand, Vocation Director, at lstrand@sfs.edu | 414.747.6437 or visit thinkpriest.org/events.

95 young men, 20 priests and 15 seminarians attended the St. Andrew Dinner in December. The event is for young men who are invited by their parish priest to learn more about priestly vocations.
**Seminary Open House**

The Seminary will open its doors to all on Sunday, April 17, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Join the seminary community for Mass in Christ King Chapel as we pray that more men will answer the call to the priesthood. After Mass, seminarians will offer guided tours of our beautiful, historic campus.

Enjoy this a once-a-year opportunity! Bring your family, friends, confirmation classes and Christian Formation groups. Children are welcome!

- **11 a.m. - Mass**
- **Noon – 2 p.m.**
  Light refreshments and tours
  Saint Francis de Sales Seminary
  3257 South Lake Drive, St. Francis
  Visit sfs.edu for more details.

**Holy Land Photos Inside**

Our seminarians were blessed to spend January 1 – 10 on a pilgrimage in Israel. Story and photos of their journey are inside!

- Matthew, Deacon Mike and Jose with Jerusalem in the background.
- Justin on the Sea of Galilee.
- The seminarians pray the Way of the Cross at 4 a.m. before Jerusalem gets busy.

**de Chantal Gatherings**

Women are invited to pray at the Seminary with the de Chantal Society in May. Co-sponsored by the Nazareth Project, de Chantal is a group of women passionate about praying for vocations and for the Seminary. Sessions include Eucharistic Adoration and spiritual formation, followed by a light reception.

The next gatherings are Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, May 19 at 9 a.m. Join us!