

VOCATION OFFICE UPDATE

The Archdiocese of Chicago welcomes these priests ordained on May 17, 2025 who begin their parish assignments on July 1:

Fr. Cristian García
St. Clare of Assisi Parish,
Mount Prospect and
Rolling Meadows

Fr. Kevin Menard, SJC
St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago

Our next event is Quo Vadis Days at Mundelein Seminary beginning on July 27. This 4-day retreat is open to all young men who have graduated 8th grade, 13–18 years old, who want to learn more about the priesthood. Those attending will have a life changing encounter with Christ while having the time of their life.





Father Tim and the Vocation Office want to share some information on our work to grow the number of future priests:

- I. **Strengths (Good News)**
- a. Quality candidates, stability with numbers of new seminarians over the past seven years, retention is strong

b. Strong number of Latino discerners attending events

c. Projected new seminarians for 2025: Seven

d. Growth in lay supporters

e. One new seminarian from Asian/Pacific Islander community and one new seminarian from the Black Catholic community

f. Over the past 10 years, Vicariate I has given the most seminarians
- II. **Weaknesses (areas for growth)**
- a. Overall number remains low: 31 seminarians

b. No new candidates from Polonia in over 10 years

c. No new Latino candidates since 2022
- III. **Opportunities**
- a. Growth with candidates for college seminary

b. Increased mentoring of the discerners at parish level

c. More consistent promotion vocation at the parish level
- IV. **Threats**
- a. Pace of life for priests and discerners

b. Fear of commitment for candidates

c. Lack of parental support, either for seminary or Totus Tuus

RECENT VOCATION OFFICE NUMBERS

	Participants	
	2023	2024
New Seminarians	5	7
Insearch	5	5
Samuel Group	39	33
Totus Tuus Missionaries	20	16
Quigley Discerners	27	28
Quo Vadis	65	70
Who Will Fill These Shoes?	82	80