



# Diocese of Palm Beach

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Office of  
THE BISHOP

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February 28, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual collection in support of education of seminarians and priestly formation takes place next weekend, March 7 and 8.

The Church's critical mission of cultivating and fostering priestly vocations is necessary for the continuance of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. This year's cost of education and formation for just one seminarian per year is 54-thousand dollars including health insurance, stipend, education, and car insurance alone. Currently, in the Diocese of Palm Beach we are very blessed to have 17 seminarians studying at various seminaries around the United States including our own St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary right here in Boynton Beach.

The financial and spiritual commitment you make to our men who are in the discernment process and on the road to priestly ordination is a blessing for the future of the Church! Last year's collection generated \$154,439. These most needed funds collected next weekend will directly contribute to the formation of our future priests who will give their lives in service to the Church. As together we celebrate 25 Years – *A Eucharistic People*, I invite you, during this our jubilee year, to respond wholeheartedly for the building up of the Church and its priesthood.

With gratitude for your dedication and generosity, and with assurance of my prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach

**Note to Pastors:**

**Please publish this letter in the parish bulletin or have it read at all Masses on the weekend of Feb 28/March 1.**