



DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH

SEMINARIANS

FUND



I WILL GIVE YOU
SHEPHERDS
AFTER MY
OWN
HEART

JEREMIAH 3:15

At the end of last year Jacek Kostuch and Colin Groombridge were ordained deacons by Bishop Mark O'Toole at St John's Seminary, Wonersh in Surrey. On 3 July 2015, please God, these two men who have spent six years at seminary, will be ordained to the priesthood in our diocese in the Cathedral. This is great cause for thanksgiving for us all.

We thank God for the gift of our seminarians. As we continue to keep them in our prayer, we pray also that many others will be open to hearing Christ's call in their lives, and especially that they be willing to offer themselves for the priesthood in our diocese.

Bishop Mark O'Toole

In the words from the prophet Jeremiah, God promises his people that he will never leave them without shepherds to gather them together and guide them: I will set shepherds over them (my sheep) who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed (Jer. 23.4). Pastores dabo Vobis I

We have been greatly blessed and encouraged in recent years by those men who have heard and responded with great generosity to the call of Jesus to discern a priestly vocation. Last summer, Fr Ralph Candy, now working in Poole, was ordained Priest after a four year course at the Beda College, situated just across the road from the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls, in Rome.

Also, for the first time for many years, we have three young men, James Barber, Michael vian Clark and Albert Lawes in seminary formation at the Venerable English College in Rome, where many of our priests have trained. One of the men is coming to the end of his third year and two to the end of their second year.

At present there are also three young men seriously discerning the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood and, hopefully, one of those men will begin seminary formation this autumn. They provide a beacon of hope for the future.

It is sometimes said that the clergy are the diocese's greatest "asset". Within the Body of the Church, the priest "represents Christ the Head, Shepherd, and Spouse of

the Church". It is essential that we keep before young men both the importance and the joy of this call and that we have the necessary resources to provide for their discernment and formation.

Seminary formation takes between four and seven years and, since the publication of Pastores Dabo Vobis by St John Paul II in 1992, is built on the four pillars of formation in human, spiritual, pastoral and academic development. Often a student will spend an extended period working in a parish in the diocese relating what he is studying in seminary to the everyday life of the Church.

As a diocese, we always respond generously to the needs of our priests and to those discerning vocations.

At present the Seminarians Fund is raising around £71,000 per year. It costs around £30,000 per year to fund a student (seminary fees alone cost over £24,000) so there's an obvious problem!

At present we have five men in seminary formation, so that's £150,000 per year and a consequent shortfall of **£79,000**.

Even today the Lord is going up into the hills and calling those he desires. The seminary is these hills of Jesus. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

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MAKING A DONATION

Priests are called to prolong the presence of Christ, the one high priest, embodying his way of life and making him visible in the midst of the flock entrusted to their care... In the Church and on behalf of the Church, priests are a sacramental representation of Jesus Christ – the Head and Shepherd. *Pastores Dabo Vobis 15*

This form has three parts that you can use separately or together. (1) You can use it to set up a banker's order which will make a regular payment to the Fund from your bank account. (2) You can use it to Gift Aid your donation(s). (3) You can use it to make a single donation.

Our three seminarians studying at the Venerable English College in Rome; from left to right; Michael vian Clark, James Barber and Albert Lawes. Michael and Albert are currently in their second year of studies and James is in his third year. Please keep them all in your prayers.



HOW TO DONATE REGULARLY BY BANKER'S ORDER

Please complete the Banker's Order below and send it (along with your Gift Aid Declaration if you have made one) to:

Diocese of Plymouth, St Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 7JL

Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk *

*Bank account number

*Bank sort code

*Account Title

*Bank name

*Bank Address

Please make the payments detailed below and debit my account with the sum of

*Amount in words

*Amount in figures

£

*Date of first payment

*and thereafter (choose one from the following list and delete the others)

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

until further notice. This order replaces any existing instruction in favour of the payee

*Signature

*Date

Payee's Bank Details

National Westminster Bank plc

Sort code 56-00-63

Account number 37030094

Account title

PRCDTR Fund for Seminarians

Address of branch

Plymouth City Centre, 14 Old Town Street, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1DG

Thank you for choosing to give a donation to the [Diocese of Plymouth's Seminarians Fund](#).

HOW TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION

If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your donation can increase by 25% under the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to you. To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity and any other charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCS) you donate to will reclaim on your donations for that tax year. (You can cancel your declaration at any time by telling us. Please tell us too if you change your name or address).

DECLARATION

Yes I am a UK taxpayer and I agree to Plymouth Diocesan Trust (registered charity number 213227) claiming tax on all my donations since 6 April 2014 and all future donations I make to the charity. Please treat my donations as Gift Aid donations. I confirm that I have paid, or will pay, an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the total tax that the charity and any other charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCS) I donate to will reclaim on my donations for that tax year (6th April one year to 5th April the next year). I understand that other taxes, such as Council Tax and VAT, do not qualify and that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that I give.

Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk *

We will use this information for the purposes of our fund-raising and to reclaim tax.

March 2015

*Signature

*Date

Signing indicates that you have read and agree to making the declaration above

*Title (Mr, Mrs, etc.)

*Forename

*Surname

*Address

*Postcode

Email address

Telephone

Thank you for choosing to give a donation to the Diocese of Plymouth's Seminarians Fund.

WAYS TO MAKE A SINGLE DONATION

AT YOUR CHURCH (with appeal envelope)

You can use the white Seminarians Fund appeal envelopes at your church; complete the Gift Aid declaration if you can and hand in the sealed envelope during Mass.

AT YOUR CHURCH (no appeal envelope)

If you do not have an appeal envelope but still want to give at your church, use a plain envelope. Tell us the amount you are giving by completing the section below. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, complete the Gift Aid section overleaf. Place your donation and this page in a plain envelope and hand in the sealed envelope during Mass.

BY POST

You can send a donation directly to the Diocese of Plymouth. Tell us the amount you are sending by completing the section below. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, complete the Gift Aid section overleaf and then send this together with your donation to:

Diocese of Plymouth, St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7JL.

We do not recommend sending cash by post.

You do not have to give your name below (e.g. you may wish to donate anonymously or you may be completing the Gift Aid Declaration overleaf) but it helps us to know the amount and method of giving.

I am donating to Plymouth Diocesan Trust (Charity Number 213227) (for the Seminarians Fund) the sum of:

Amount in figures £	Method (cash/cheque/both)
Title (Mr, Mrs, etc)	
Forename	
Surname	

Indeed, concern for vocations is a connatural and essential dimension of the Church's pastoral work. The reason for this is that vocation, in a certain sense, defines the very being of the Church, even before her activity. In the Church's very name, *ecclesia*, we find its deep vocational aspect, for the Church is a "convocation", an assembly of those who have been called: "All those who in faith look toward Jesus, the author of salvation and the principle of unity and peace, God has gathered together and established as the Church, that she may be for each and everyone the visible sacrament of this saving unity. Pastores Dabo Vobis 34

In its deepest identity the seminary is called to be, in its own way, a continuation in the Church of the apostolic community gathered about Jesus, listening to his word, proceeding toward the Easter experience, awaiting the gift of the Spirit for the mission. Pastores Dabo Vobis 60



Pictured above is Fr Ralph Candy, enjoying ministry in his first parish, St Joseph's Poole.

Can You help us?

- If you have given in the past to this fund and for some reason stopped giving, would you consider starting again?
- If you give to this fund already, thank you. Would you consider increasing your donations?
- If you have not given in the past, would you think about it now please?
- If you pay tax and do not Gift Aid your donations, would you please consider it? It will mean a 25p increase for every £1 you give.

Details of how you can donate to the fund can be found on the back of this sheet.

Thank you

After six years of formation I will be ordained priest for the Diocese of Plymouth on July 3rd at Plymouth Cathedral. I look forward to many years serving you as a priest. My formation has required trust and encouragement from all involved in my selection and formation – the staff at St John's Seminary and people and clergy of our diocese – for this I will be eternally grateful. Without continuous encouragement and prayer from many people this journey would have been much more difficult to make. Lastly, my formation was a big financial commitment – for you the people of the diocese – predominantly required to cover seminary fees that are well in excess of £100,000 per student. Thank you to all who have made the sacrifice to contribute to cover this cost through the Seminarians Fund and in other ways. I hope you will continue to support the men who are in formation and those accepted in future for formation for priesthood. 'The harvest is rich and workers are few...'

Jacek Kostuch

Inasmuch as it is an educating community, the seminary and its entire life – in all its different expressions – is committed to formation, the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation of future priests. Although this formation has many aspects in common with the human and Christian formation of all the members of the Church, it has, nevertheless, contents, modalities and characteristics which relate specifically to the aim of preparation for the priesthood.

Pastores dabō vobis 61

How to donate

There are various ways to donate to the Seminarians Fund:

- You can donate by Banker's Order – useful if you want to donate regularly* – complete the form inside this leaflet and post it to us.

- You can post a single* donation by cheque to us – see the single donation form inside this leaflet.

- You can give a single* donation by appeal envelope available in your parish – useful if you are donating cash.

- You can give a single* donation by cheque or cash through your parish even if you do not have an appeal envelope – see the single donation form inside this leaflet and follow the instructions for donating.

Remember to Gift Aid your donation if you can – see inside this leaflet for details.

*It is cheaper to administer a regular donation than a single one. If you provide an email address we can contact you by email instead of by letter and so reduce costs further. We ask that you please tell us if you are cancelling a standing order by contacting us by email or telephone (see above right) giving your name, amount of donation, and the regular payment period (e.g. monthly); we can then update our records. Thank you.

How to contact us about your donations

Email: giving@prcdtr.org.uk

Telephone: 01364 645460

PLYMOUTH DIOCESAN TRUST
Registered charity number 213227

St Boniface House
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March 2015



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