

Help form the next generation of priests to spread God's light. And please send your intentions so our seminarians can pray for you!



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What does a day in the life of a seminarian look like? And what is your role in their formation?

Mrs. Catherine Sample 123 Any Street Anywhere, US 12345-6789

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"And he said to them,
'Go into all the world and
proclaim the gospel to the
whole creation."!

- *Mark* 16:15

Dear Faithful Friend of Jesus,

I'm writing to you today because I know you care deeply about your faith and the future of the holy Catholic Church.

That future might feel uncertain these days. It feels that way for many faithful Catholics, who have seen the pews become less and less full, and who worry whether their children and grandchildren will know the truth and beauty of the Church.

*Today, I want to give you hope!* I want to introduce you to some of the Church's newest champions: three men recently ordained as Legionary of Christ priests. These priests, and the 77 young men currently preparing for priesthood at our seminary in Cheshire, Connecticut, are why I feel immense hope for the future.

With zeal and joy, our seminarians are training to transform the culture, battling the secular evil that causes so much sorrow, anxiety and distress. Today, I ask you to:

### Help these seminarians answer God's call!



Our Cheshire campus creates an atmosphere of reflection and prayer. Here the seminarians live, worship, study, eat and pray together.

Please, will you use the **enclosed prayer card** to pray for these young men as they courageously follow God's will and undertake this difficult journey? And ...

Will you make a financial offering to support the training and education of our seminarians as they prepare to shine the light of Christ on a dark world?

Any gift of any amount will truly help today. But whether or not you are able to make a gift, please use the back of the form to <u>send your intentions so our seminarians can offer them up</u> to our Lord.

You might be wondering what this calling and ...

Over, please.

rigorously examined, first by attending a "Test Your Call" weekend to experience the life of a seminarian.

The daily schedule of prayer, Mass, classes and community meals is a big adjustment. Next is a "Summer Candidacy," a more extended period of discernment prior to entering the novitiate. As Father Nathan states:

"I reasoned one summer wasn't all that much to 'offer up' to God since I wanted to put him first in my life. The candidacy was a summer that, quite literally, changed my life."

### These are young men who know this is their path.

Once they enter the novitiate, seminarians live on our 114-acre Cheshire campus. Here they immerse themselves in prayer and reflection, and they study liberal arts, philosophy and theology under a faculty of 18 professors and lecturers.

The annual cost for each seminarian is approximately \$33,000.

Compared with a secular university education, it's a bargain — especially because it includes year-round expenses of food, clothing, lodging and health insurance. However, unlike secular education, there are no grants or scholarships. Seminarians depend entirely on individual donations.

Any gift, of any amount, given with a heart full of faith and love is a great help as our seminarians prepare to be evangelizers who go forth as God commanded.

#### "The Goodness of the Lord"

After seminarians complete their two-year novitiate and the first two years of their humanities studies, they depart to continue their studies and formation at our seminary in Rome.

When they are at last ready to go forth, what must this moment feel like for these young priests? At right, I share the reflections of **Father John Studer** on the eve of his ordination.

Over, please.



"On the eve of my ordination, the words of Psalm 34 — 'Taste and see the goodness of the Lord' — take on deeper meaning and synthesize my entire life.

"Those words explain how God has worked in my life over the past 33 years. There have been so many graces and gifts that I cannot ever even begin to tell of them all. Those words are a promise to me of what the future holds.

"There will be challenges and difficulties, but I trust that the Lord's goodness will always be there. God is always faithful. I am sure this is not just true in my life, but in the life of every person.

"I thank you and ask you for your prayers for me that I may be faithful to God's call."

 Father John Studer entered the novitiate in Cheshire in 2003.
 Recently ordained, he serves as a chaplain in Mexico City.

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Legionaries of Christ Formation Letter.indd 1 3/31/20 9:49 A

In this letter, I've introduced you to three priests — Father Jared Loehr, Father Nathan Torrey and Father John Studer — who began their education and formation here in Cheshire. They were ordained along with 34 other Legionaries last May.

Today they are serving the Church with grateful hearts for all those who supported them along the way. Will you <u>help more men like these three answer God's call to spread his light</u> in a too often dark world?

Please, use the enclosed prayer card to support our Legionary seminarians in the formation of their Godly calling through your prayers. And, if you can ...

Please <u>send your gift of whatever you are moved and can afford to give today</u>. Help form the next generation of Legionary priests to spread the Gospel and build the future of our Church.



Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Shawn Aaron, LC

Territory Director, Legionaries of Christ

- P.S. <u>Don't forget to include your intentions</u> for our seminarians. They are eager to pray for you and your needs!
- P.P.S. The formation of fervent new priests is critical today, when more than 1 in 10 American adults identify as "former Catholics." Our Church is losing members faster than any other religion in America. If you can, please <u>send an offering to help prepare our seminarians to champion the Church and its teachings.</u>

journey look like for the novice seminarian. Or even ...

### Why Legionary Priests Matter, Right Now!

Legionary priests are on the frontlines, fighting for the salvation of souls in our secular world.

They provide pastoral attention to youth and families ... lead catechesis and retreats ... perform evangelization and mission work ... attend to the underprivileged ... and so much more.

You'll find them hearing confession on the subway, counseling the destitute and the desperate in the streets — meeting people wherever they are, whatever their need.

#### Confronting the secular culture has never been so important:

- Just 3 in 10 Catholics believe in transubstantiation.
- The fastest growing "religious denomination" in America is "unaffiliated"!
- Most Catholics who leave the church do so before age 24.



Father Jared Loehr entered our novitiate after graduating from medical school. During his university years, he helped to lead retreats, youth camps and inner-city boys' clubs. Newly ordained, he is again involved with youth ministry in Texas.

That last point is why the energetic and dedicated work of Legionary priests like **Father Jared Loehr** in youth ministry is especially critical today.

Our priests are forming disciples and building God's Kingdom on earth. <u>It is vital work</u>, <u>and it cannot happen without the help of generous hearts like yours</u>.

# You Walk with Our Seminarians on a Long and Challenging Journey

The priesthood is not a vocation for the faint of heart.

Preparing to become a Legionary priest is <u>a lengthy and costly process</u> — one that depends on faithful Catholics like you. The average formation is 12 or 13 years.

Men like **Father Nathan Torrey**, pictured here, do not undertake this path lightly. They are here because they felt <u>a personal call from God</u> to follow him with vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. And their commitment is ...



Father Nathan Torrey, pictured here with Archbishop Carballo.
Father Torrey, current assistant to the novices, helps these eager young men put God first in their lives.

Keep reading!



| Yes! | Father Shawn, I want to support the formation of your seminarians as they grow to | be |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
|      | come holy, zealous priests. In addition to my prayers, here's my offering:        |    |

- \$24.00 to assist with textbooks and supplies
- \$57.00 to assist with food and lodging
- \$86.00 to assist with education
- **□** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other
- ☐ Please remember my personal intentions on the back of this form.

Make checks payable to the Legionaries of Christ or see reverse for credit cards. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Mrs. Catherine Sample 123 Any Street Anytown, US 12345-6789

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Thank you!



## PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD This helps so much! DISCOVER Amount \$ □ one time □ monthly Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ Name as it shows on card: Signature: Phone in case of processing issue: Email: 30 Mansell Court, Suite 103, Roswell, GA 30076, (800) 532-7478 | www.legionariesofchrist.org

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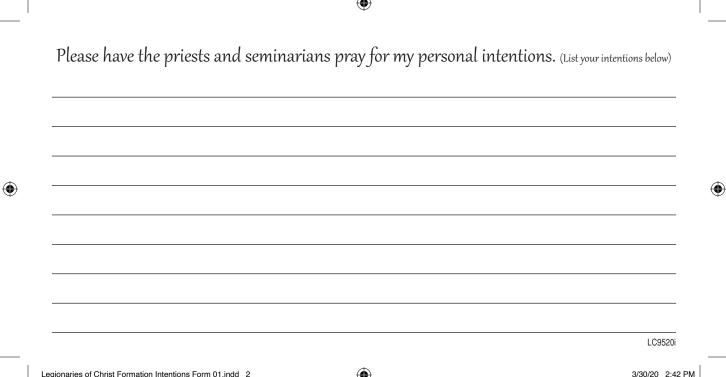
## You will be remembered in our daily prayers....



Please know that in these difficult times you are foremost in our hearts and minds as we pray for your health, safety, comfort and peace. Please know that we are honored to pray for you special intentions. Fill out your special intentions on the back of this slip and send back in the enclosed envelope. We will remember them in our daily prayers, Masses and Novenas.

**Legionaries of Christ Seminarians** 









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**Legionaries of Christ Seminarians** 



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# Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

.Amen



The priests and seminarians of the Legionaries of Christ devote ourselves, with fervor, to the task of the New Evangelization, contributing our charism and spirituality to the mission of the Catholic Church. With the help of God's grace, we aspire always to make Jesus the center, standard, and example of our religious, priestly, and apostolic lives. Extending Christ's Kingdom is the ideal that inspires and nourishes our spiritual and apostolic efforts.

We seek to awaken in Christians an awareness of their calling to holiness, to apostolate, and to being active members in their parishes and in the Church.

Support from friends like you helps our seminarians toward the priesthood, making it possible to bring the salvation of Christ to souls worldwide.



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