



Dear Friends,

The priesthood is an essential aspect of our Catholic faith, since without priests, there is no Eucharist. I am thankful that Encountering Christ is helping ensure we have happy, healthy and holy men entering the priesthood.

The \$5 million the campaign will add to the seminarian endowment is vital to supporting the men discerning God's call while they undertake years of formation to serve the Lord and us, his flock. Like many dioceses without a seminary, the Diocese of Austin sends its seminarians elsewhere to study. These seminaries and programs of seminary formation are excellent but, like anything worthwhile, they come at a cost — as much as \$45,000 for each seminarian a year. The diocese funds tuition and other expenses, as well as student loan debt for men ordained after financing their own undergraduate education.

Thank you for your gift to Encountering Christ, and for investing in the priesthood and the men being formed to serve as our shepherds.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Jonathan Raia
Vocation Director