

This is the Season for Thanksgiving

*"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." **Matt 9:37***

These words of Jesus are still so relevant today even as hope shines forth in the recent increase in new seminarians. Young people in larger numbers are hearing the Call of the Lord and responding. It is very possible that our number of seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in the next two years will grow from mid 60's to mid 80's. That is good news for the Church in Florida. When we help the seminary we are participating in God's work of planting the seed of Faith for future generations.

I grew up in Chicago where the Church was well established with parishes, grade schools, high schools and Catholic universities all provided by past generations of Catholics. I am clearly aware that it is my responsibility now to join with other Catholics today to provide for the future of the Church. That is the reason I came back to St. Vincent's to serve as a faculty member and spiritual director. I was so thankful for the formation and education I received here over 25 years ago that I felt it was time to pay it forward to a new generation of future priests.

It has been a joy to serve here these past eight years and to see the dedication of these men who want to be good priests. Why do they come? Many cite the example of Pope John Paul II. Others experienced a real awakening to a personal relationship with Jesus especially through the Eucharist and still others were moved by the pain of the sexual abuse crisis in the priesthood and felt inspired and determined to make a better Church.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support. It means a lot!

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