



**Good Shepherd Sunday
Special Collection
Seminarian Education Fund
April 21, 2024**

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

The Diocese of Fort Worth is blessed to have 29 seminarians in various stages of the thorough discernment and formation journey. In imitation of Jesus Christ, they will teach and grow the faith. With your support, the Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to paying for all of the costs associated with their formation and education. Consequently, our seminarians can commit to prayer and studies during their education and formation. This period can span

seven to nine years and cost up to \$53,000 annually for each of the men. In 2023, more than \$323,865 was collected on Good Shepherd Sunday, enough for 6 of our 29 seminarians. Please respond in love for their years of generous service by donating to the Seminarian Education Fund. commitment

Most funds raised during the ***Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Special Collection*** remain in the Diocese of Fort Worth and are used for our seminarians. Another portion of the collection in parishes pastored by religious order priests is sent to support formation programs of their religious orders. Please prayerfully promote this special collection. Even more so, please include these men in your prayers and to encourage other young people to consider the reality that Christ is calling them to follow Him as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious. Just as our seminarians have responded to God’s call to discernment, we too can respond in prayer and generosity.

Checklist for Parishes:

Several Weeks Before the Collection

- Promotional posters and bulletin inserts/flyers will be shipped directly to you. Please hang these posters in highly visible areas throughout your parish immediately upon arrival. These may remain hanging in your parish as long as you desire because the QR code printed on the poster directs donors to an online giving portal that accepts donations year-round.
- Set up your parish online giving portal to accept collections for Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Education Special Collection.

April 13-14 Weekend Before the Collection

- Use the copy below in your bulletin and/or your website.
- Read the letter from Bishop Olson during all weekend Masses.
- Promote the collection on parish social media using the social media suggestions below or follow the Advancement Foundation and the Diocese of Fort Worth on Facebook and share their posts.

April 20-21 Collection Weekend

- Insert double sided flyers in bulletins
- Use copy below in all parish communications.
- Include World Day of Prayer for Vocations in the General Intercessions.
- Encourage all priests to share their vocations story during homilies this weekend.
- Take up the collection.
- Continue social media promotion on parish social media.

April 27-28 Weekend After the Collection

- Use the copy below in your parish communications.
- Thank donors on social media with a “thank you” post.

General Information for Parishes:

Collection Date	April 20-21, 2024
Date Funds Due to Diocese	May 13, 2024
Intacct Account Number	214000
Intacct Fund Number	28013
Online Donation Link	https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections

Remittance Instructions for Parishes with Religious Order Priests

Submit all funds received for this collection to the Central Office in the same way you process all special collections. The diocesan accounting staff will forward one half of all monies collected in your parish to the vocations office of the religious order of the priests in your parish and the other half to the Diocese of Fort Worth Seminarian Education Fund.

Helpful Online Resources:

- Vocations in the Diocese of Fort Worth: <https://bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarians>
- St. John Paul II Shepherd’s Guild: <https://bit.ly/StJPIIShepherds>
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-prayer-vocations>

Suggested promotional copy is as follows:

ENGLISH

Bulletin and Website Announcements

Week Before the Collection (April 13-14)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21. Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of a vocation.

On Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21, we take up a special collection for the Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund. Currently, the Diocese is supporting 29 seminarians on their discernment journey by providing funds to cover their education and formation costs and necessities of living. You can participate in this pastoral work and help them on their journey by generously supporting the ***Good Shepherd Sunday Collection***.

Week of the Collection (April 20-21) *USE bulletin insert/flyer*

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we are called to reflect not only on the compassionate leadership of Christ but also on our role in nurturing future shepherds who will guide and care for His flock. In the Gospel reading for this day, Jesus speaks of His other sheep that do not yet belong to the fold. He assures us that He will lead them, and they will hear His voice, emphasizing the unity of all believers under one Shepherd. As we ponder these words, we are reminded of the importance of preparing new shepherds to tend to God's people. Through your generous support of the Good Shepherd Sunday special collection, we have the opportunity to invest in the education and formation of seminarians who will answer the call to shepherd Christ's flock. By providing financial assistance for their theological studies, pastoral training, and spiritual development, we help ensure that they are equipped to hear His voice and lead with love, compassion, and wisdom. Please take this opportunity to help them on their discernment journey by praying for them and by giving generously to this collection. Make your gift today during Mass, with the QR code or online at bit.ly/FWSeminarian (case sensitive).

Week After the Collection (May 27-28)

Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their discernment journey! Your generosity of prayers and financial support during Good Shepherd Sunday will be a help to our seminarians as they continue to study and discern God's call for their vocation. There's still time to give by visiting bit.ly/FWSeminarian. For a deeper connection with seminarians consider learning more about the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild at bit.ly/StJPIIShepherds.

General Intercessions

For young men and women; That God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; And for the gift of courage to follow His call. We pray to the Lord. . . .

For young people; That they may know the personal love of the Lord for them, and respond with open and generous hearts. We pray to the Lord. . . .

Sample Social Media Announcements

Posts Before the Collection

- The **Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Education Collection** supports vocations by funding the education and formation of our seminarians. You can participate in forming men for future service in our Diocese by making a gift on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21. Please be generous.
- You are invited to participate in the pastoral work of supporting and fostering vocations in the Diocese of Fort Worth by donating to the Seminarian Education Fund Special Collection. Please be generous during the special collection at all Masses on April 21 during Good Shepherd Sunday. You can also online at bit.ly/FWSeminarian – thank you!
- Did you know that the Diocese of Fort Worth has 29 men in seminary formation? These men, God willing, will be priests of Jesus Christ one day. We have an opportunity to support them on their discernment journey by giving to the **Seminarian Education Special Collection** on April 20-21 during Good Shepherd Sunday. To learn more about vocations in our Diocese, visit bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarians.
- A seminarian’s journey to ordination can be between seven and nine years and cost more than \$53,000 annually. The Diocese of Fort Worth fully funds their education so that they can focus on prayer and study. Your gift on April 21 during Good Shepherd Sunday will be a help to our seminarians as they pray and discern God’s call for their lives. Giving is easy, participate during the special collection in your parish or give online at bit.ly/FWSeminarian
- World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 21, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord’s call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website.

Post After the Collection

Thank you for your support of the **Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Education Special Collection!** Your donations will build the culture of vocations in the Diocese of Fort Worth and provide for our

seminarians. If you missed the collection, there is still time to give by making an online donation at bit.ly/FWSeminarian. Thank you!

If you have any questions about this special collection, please contact Rachel Martinez, CFRE, Director of Annual Giving and Grants of the Advancement Foundation, at 817-382-4939 or rmartinez@adv-fdn.org

SPANISH

Anuncios en boletines y sitios web

Semana Antes de la Colecta (13 y 14 Abril)

El Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones se celebra el Domingo del Buen Pastor, 21 de abril. Roguemos a Nuestro Señor por sacerdotes, diáconos y hombres y mujeres consagrados más dedicados y santos. Que sean inspirados por Jesucristo, apoyados por nuestra comunidad de fe, y respondan generosamente al don de la vocación que proviene de Dios.

El Domingo del Buen Pastor, 21 de abril, realizamos una colecta especial para el Fondo Diocesano de Educación para Seminaristas. Actualmente, la Diócesis está apoyando a 29 seminaristas en su viaje de discernimiento al proporcionar fondos para cubrir sus costos de educación y formación y sus necesidades cotidianas. Puede participar en este trabajo pastoral y ayudarlos en su camino apoyando generosamente la Colecta de Seminaristas.

Semana de la Colecta (20 y 21 de abril)

En este Domingo del Buen Pastor, estamos llamados a reflexionar no solo sobre el liderazgo compasivo de Cristo, sino también sobre nuestro papel en el cuidado y la formación de futuros pastores que guiarán y cuidarán a su rebaño. En la lectura del Evangelio de este día, Jesús habla de sus otras ovejas que aún no pertenecen al redil. Nos asegura que las guiará, y ellas escucharán su voz, enfatizando la unidad de todos los creyentes bajo un solo Pastor. Al meditar sobre estas palabras, se nos recuerda la importancia de preparar nuevos pastores para atender al pueblo de Dios. A través de su generoso apoyo a la colecta especial del Domingo del Buen Pastor, tenemos la oportunidad de invertir en la educación y formación de seminaristas que responderán al llamado de pastorear el rebaño de Cristo. Al proporcionar asistencia financiera para sus estudios teológicos, formación pastoral y desarrollo espiritual, ayudamos a asegurar que estén equipados para escuchar su voz y liderar con amor, compasión y sabiduría. Por favor, aproveche esta oportunidad para ayudarles en su proceso de

discernimiento orando por ellos y dando generosamente a esta colecta. Haga su donación hoy durante la Misa, con el código QR o en línea en bit.ly/FWSeminarian (sensible a mayúsculas)

Semana Después de la Colecta (27 y 28 de abril)

¡Gracias por acompañar a nuestros seminaristas en su camino de discernimiento! Su generosidad de oraciones y apoyo financiero durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor será una ayuda para nuestros seminaristas mientras continúan estudiando y discerniendo el llamado de Dios para su vocación. Todavía hay tiempo para donar visitando bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections. Para una conexión más profunda con los seminaristas, considere aprender más sobre el Gremio de Pastores San Juan Pablo II en bit.ly/StJPIIShepherds.

Preces Generales

Por hombres y mujeres jóvenes; Que Dios les dé el don del entendimiento para discernir su servicio en la Iglesia, el sacerdocio, el diaconado o la vida consagrada; Y por el don de valentía para seguir Su llamado. Roguemos al Señor. . . .

Por los jóvenes; Para que conozcan el amor personal del Señor por ellos y respondan con un corazón abierto y generoso. Roguemos al Señor. . . .

Ejemplos de Anuncios en Redes Sociales

Publicaciones Antes de la Colecta

- La Colecta de Educación para Seminaristas apoya las vocaciones al financiar la educación y formación de nuestros seminaristas. Puede participar en la formación de hombres para el servicio futuro en nuestra Diócesis haciendo una donación el Domingo del Buen Pastor, 21 de abril. Por favor, sea generoso.
- Está invitado a participar en el trabajo pastoral de apoyo y fomento de las vocaciones en la Diócesis de Fort Worth mediante una donación a la Colecta Especial del Fondo de Educación para Seminaristas. Por favor sea generoso durante la colecta especial en todas las misas del 20 al 21 de abril durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor. También puede hacerlo en línea en bit.ly/FWSeminarian. ¡Gracias!
- ¿Sabía que la Diócesis de Fort Worth tiene 29 hombres en formación del seminario? Estos hombres, si Dios quiere, serán sacerdotes de Jesucristo algún día. Tenemos la oportunidad de apoyarlos en su viaje de discernimiento dando a la Colecta Especial de Educación para Seminaristas del 20 al 21 de abril durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor. Para obtener más información sobre las vocaciones en nuestra Diócesis, visite bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarists.
- El proceso que lleva un seminarista hacia la ordenación puede durar entre siete y nueve años y costar más de \$53,000 anualmente. La Diócesis de Fort Worth financia completamente su

educación para que puedan concentrarse en la oración y el estudio. Su donación el 21 de abril durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor será una ayuda para nuestros seminaristas mientras oran y disciernen el llamado de Dios para sus vidas. Donar es fácil, participe durante la colecta especial en su parroquia o done en línea en bit.ly/FWSeminarian.

- El Día Mundial de Oración se celebrará el domingo 21 de abril, también conocido como "Domingo del Buen Pastor." El propósito de este día es cumplir públicamente la instrucción del Señor de: "Oren al Señor de la mies que envíe obreros a su mies" (Mt 9:38; Lc 10: 2). Ore para que los hombres y mujeres jóvenes escuchen y respondan generosamente al llamado del Señor al sacerdocio, el diaconado, la vida religiosa, las sociedades de vida apostólica o los institutos seculares. Los recursos para promover las vocaciones se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de la USCCB.

Publicación Después de la Colecta

¡Gracias por su apoyo a ***la Colecta Especial de Educación para Seminaristas del Domingo del Buen Pastor!*** Sus donaciones construirán la cultura de vocaciones en la Diócesis de Fort Worth y proveerán para nuestros seminaristas. Si se perdió la colecta, todavía hay tiempo para donar haciendo una donación en línea en bit.ly/FWSeminarian. ¡Gracias!

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre esta colecta especial, comuníquese con Rachel Martinez, CFRE, Directora de Donaciones Anuales y Subvenciones de la Fundación de Avance, al 817-382-4939 o rmartinez@adv-fdn.org