



**Good Shepherd Sunday  
Special Collection  
Seminarian Education Fund  
April 24-25, 2021**

***(Previously printed date of May 1-2, 2021 was incorrect.)***

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."

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 lay down their lives for their sheep. For these men, the Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to paying for all of the costs associated with their formation and education. In this way, they can commit to prayer and formation during their time in seminary, a period which can span seven and nine years and cost \$50,000 annually for each of the men.

We are asking you to contribute to the Good Shepherd Sunday special collection for our Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund on April 24-25. Please respond generously through your parish or at <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>.

Funds raised during the ***Good Shepherd Sunday Seminarian Special Collection*** remain in the Diocese of Fort Worth and are used for our seminarians. Additionally, a portion of the collection in parishes pastored by religious order priests is sent to support formation programs of their religious orders.

Please prayerfully consider your gift to next weekend's 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:***

***The 2021 special collections calendar previously distributed incorrectly noted the date of this collection as May 1-2. If your parish distributed envelopes for that date, please use them and submit with any monies received for this special collection.***

**Several Weeks Before the Collection**

Several 2-sided bilingual promotional posters will be shipped directly to you. Please hang these posters in highly visible areas throughout your parish. 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 17-18 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 24-25 Collection Weekend**

- 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.

### **May 1-2 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 24-25, 2021
Date Funds Due to Diocese	May 17, 2021
Intacct Account Number	214000
Intacct Fund Number	28013
Online Donation Link	<a href="https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections">https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections</a>

### **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.

### **COVID-19 Information**

Even though we no longer pass collection baskets, your parishioners may still support this special collection in the following ways:

1. Dropping collections in specially marked baskets or collection boxes in your Narthex clearly marked for parish offertory and/or special collections.
2. Mailing donations to your parish.

3. Using envelopes clearly marked for the special collection.
4. Donating online on your parish giving portal (Faith Direct, OSV, Vanco, ParishSoft, etc.)
5. Using the Diocese of Fort Worth online donation link: <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>

#### **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 17-18)**

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25. 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 25, 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 ***Seminarian Collection***.

#### **Week of the Collection (April 24-25)**

Today we take up the Good Shepherd Sunday special collection for the Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund. Seminarians have responded to God's call and will one day shepherd us on our faith journey. We have an opportunity to be a help to them on their discernment journey by praying for them and by giving generously to this collection. Make your gift today during Mass or online at [bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections](https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections).

#### **Week After the Collection (May 1-2)**

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/DioceseSpecialCollections](https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections). For a deeper connection with seminarians consider learning more about the St. John Paul II Shepherd's Guild at [bit.ly/StJPIIShepherds](https://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 ***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 25. 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 24-25 during Good Shepherd Sunday. You can also online at [bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections) – 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 24-25 during Good Shepherd Sunday. To learn more about vocations in our Diocese, visit [bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarians](http://bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarians).

A seminarian’s journey to ordination can be between seven and nine years and cost more than \$50,000 annually. The Diocese of Fort Worth fully funds their education so that they can focus on prayer and study. Your gift on April 25 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/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections).

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 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/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections). Thank you!

## **SPANISH**

### ***Anuncios en boletines y sitios web***

#### **Semana Antes de la Colecta (17-18 de Abril)**

El Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones se celebra el Domingo del Buen Pastor, 25 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, 25 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 (24-25 de abril)**

Hoy tomamos la colecta especial del Domingo del Buen Pastor para el Fondo Diocesano de Educación para Seminaristas. Los seminaristas han respondido al llamado de Dios y algún día nos guiarán en nuestro camino de fe. Tenemos la oportunidad de ayudarlos en su camino de discernimiento orando por ellos y dando generosamente a esta colecta. Haga su donación hoy durante la misa o en línea en [bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections).

#### **Semana Después de la Colecta (1-2 de mayo)**

¡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](http://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](http://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, 25 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 24 al 25 de abril durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor. También puede hacerlo en línea en [bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections). ¡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 24 al 25 de abril durante el Domingo del Buen Pastor. Para obtener más información sobre las vocaciones en nuestra Diócesis, visite [bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarists](http://bit.ly/FortWorthSeminarists).

El proceso que lleva un seminarista hacia la ordenación puede durar entre siete y nueve años y costar más de \$ 50,000 anualmente. La Diócesis de Fort Worth financia completamente su educación para que puedan concentrarse en la oración y el estudio. Su donación el 25 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/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections).

El Día Mundial de Oración se celebrará el domingo 25 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/DioceseSpecialCollections](http://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections). ¡Gracias!

If you have any questions about this special collection, please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE, Chief Development Officer of the Advancement Foundation, at 817-533-7242 or [runderwood@adv-fdn.org](mailto:runderwood@adv-fdn.org).