



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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January 23, 2018

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, Seminarians and Parishioners,

I am pleased to inform you that almost \$30,000.00 was donated toward my "Running for Priestly Vocations" at the Indianapolis Marathon on November 4, 2017. In addition, I have received a check for \$12,000.00 from a generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, as the first installment on a pledged gift totaling \$72,000.00 towards the endowment in the Seminarian Education Fund of the Foundation for the People of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The donor has asked that I express gratitude for this gift by sending this letter to all of our parishes, informing them that the gift has been made by an anonymous donor in honor, recognition and gratitude of the services provided to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and parishioners by its past and present priests. I gladly do so with my own expression of sincere appreciation for the services provided by our past and present priests. I am also deeply grateful to this devoted and thoughtful donor for helping to provide the resources needed to fund the formation and education of our future priests for years to come.

In this regard, I have asked our Diocesan Office for Development to begin working on a Capital Campaign for Seminarian Education. I am designating the \$72,000 received from the anonymous donor and the \$30,000 from my marathon "Running for Priestly Vocations" to be deposited in our Seminarian Education Fund, which means that we already have over \$100,000 before formally beginning the campaign.

We have been very blessed with a substantial increase in the number of seminarians studying to become priests for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. The proceeds from this Capital Campaign for Seminarian Education will relieve the demands on our diocesan annual operating budget so that we may continue to offer the wide range of pastoral services provided by the staff of our Catholic Pastoral Center.

May God bless our donors for their generous sacrificial giving!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois