Borromeo Seminary, the college seminary in the Diocese of Cleveland, is a community in which men discern the call to and are formed for diocesan priesthood or religious life through the integration of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation.

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology of the Diocese of Cleveland prepares candidates for the Catholic priesthood while also serving as a center for advanced theological education.
Financial Challenges

While attending Borromeo the seminarians currently pay nearly $18,000 for their tuition at John Carroll University and about $6,500 a year for their room and board at the seminary. Many of our seminarians have to take out loans in order to pay for their college education.

Although the Diocese of Cleveland pays the tuition and room and board for our St. Mary theology students, all of them have personal expenses and many of them are strapped with prior college loan payments.

All of our seminarians are responsible for other educational expenses such as textbooks (potentially $1,000 per year), computer hardware and software, personal transportation, etc. In addition, the seminarians also must deal with other types of expenses such as medical and dental expenses, car insurance, maintenance, and repair, gasoline to and from their field education, and clothing and personal recreational needs.

Of course these sorts of expenses are faced by most men their age, but the seminarians have very limited opportunities to earn money and family resources are often stretched.

At times, students incur unexpected expenses. When this happens, the rector at the seminaries is able to provide assistance from the Rector’s Fund to help the seminarians.

Where the Funds Go

At the discretion of the rector, money from the funds is used to assist individual seminarians. Funds are used for needs such as unexpected expenses (e.g. medical, dental or auto), counseling services, outside formation experiences, and interest on prior student loans. Annually, 75%-85% of the funds are utilized in this way.

Additionally, funds are utilized for the benefit of all the seminarians for things that are outside of the ordinary budgets of each seminary such as the March for Life in Washington, D.C. and inter-seminary conferences.

The Rector’s Funds are also used for special projects or needs at the seminaries. Most recently, funds have been used to provide iPads for each new seminarian in order to integrate technology into the curriculum and for fees to attend the Institute for Priestly Formation.

So please make your reservation early to attend the brunch and, even if you can’t attend, make a contribution to the Bishop’s Seminary Fund. Seats are reserved on a first come, first served basis. We expect great interest in this opportunity to meet and hear Bishop Perez.

Note: if you are a guest attending the 2018 Brunch through a table sponsor, you need not respond to this mailing.

St. John Vianney Society

The St. John Vianney Society is named for the patron saint of parish priests. Membership in this society is given to those who support the annual Brunch by contributing funds for specific expenditures related to the event. These include costs related to printing, postage, wine and audio-visual expenses.

Amadeus Society

The Amadeus Society is named for the first Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese and the founder of the seminary which grew to be St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. Membership in this honorary society is given to those who sponsor a table of ten potential donors at the Brunch and contribute an additional $200 over the normal cost for table sponsorship. Recognition of St. John Vianney Society and Amadeus Society members is given at the Brunch.