



PRESS RELEASE

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Catholic Diocese of Charleston accepts ten new seminarians

CHARLESTON, SC - The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone is pleased to announce that ten men have been accepted as seminarians for the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, bringing the total to 23 seminarians in South Carolina. Beginning this fall, these men will spend the next 6 – 8 years at various seminaries across the country studying and preparing for the priesthood.

The new seminarians have an average age of 26 and come from cities across the state. They include:

- Colin Doering, 18 years old, St. Gregory the Great Church in Bluffton
- Alex Foley, 22 years old, St. Mary Church in Greenville
- Michael Kane, 22 years old, St. Gregory the Great Church in Bluffton
- Paul Lacombe, 27 years old, St. Peter Church in Beaufort
- Chris Loester, 37 years old, St. John the Beloved Church in Summerville
- Mauricio Moreno, 27 years old, St. Gregory the Great Church in Bluffton
- Trenton Redmond, 27 years old, St. Andrew Church in Myrtle Beach
- Blake Schuman, 18 years old, Divine Redeemer Church in Hanahan
- Paul Sizemore, 29 years old, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston
- Michael Tracy, 34 years old, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston

The process of being accepted as a seminarian is a rigorous one. First, those interested in being a priest must discern his calling for a year. During the application process, he must obtain 15 letters of recommendation, go through a criminal background check, attend safe environment training, submit to a physical and psychological evaluation, and make a full financial disclosure. He is then interviewed by a diocesan review board. “These men are the future leaders of the Church in South Carolina. We put them through such a stringent process because we want to make sure they are spiritually and mentally ready to serve and care for the spiritual needs of the faithful,” said Father Matthew Gray, diocesan vicar for vocations.

Bishop Guglielmone will ordain two men to the priesthood next month. Michael Cellars from Charleston and Will Frei from Aiken will take be ordained on Friday, July 10 at 5:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church on Johns Island.

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