



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Cathedral Square

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Saint Mary Seminary Receives \$8.9 Million Grant for Clergy and Laity Formation through Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative

Cleveland, OH – Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology, Wickliffe, has received a nearly nine-million-dollar matching fund grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to expand pastoral leadership formation for clergy and laity through new classes and programs.

The grant to Saint Mary Seminary is one of forty-five that was approved in a competitive round of funding to support theological schools as they lead large-scale collaborations with other seminaries, colleges and universities, and other church-related organizations across the United States and Canada.

According to Lilly Edowment, “the funding is designed to help theological schools as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.”

Saint Mary Seminary has served the Diocese of Cleveland for more than 175 years as a place of formation for men studying for the ordained Catholic priesthood, and for women and men who are pursuing advanced theological degrees in lay pastoral ministry and the permanent diaconate. With gratitude to those who contributed to the Heart of a Shepherd Campaign, the Seminary has recently made significant physical renovations to its student residence areas, classroom spaces, and chapel. Thanks to support from Lilly Endowment, the Seminary will now renew and expand its spiritual and intellectual programs for clergy, lay women and men, and youth and young adults, especially from underrepresented communities within the Diocese. These programs will operate under the title: Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Institute.

As President-Rector of Saint Mary Seminary, Father Andrew Turner, stated, “The Catholic Church faces an urgent and immediate need for equipping ministerial leaders, especially in minority communities underrepresented by ordained clergy. This grant will enhance the impact of our recently launched leadership institutes in three principal ways: (1) Formation of current and future clergy through collaborative programs with local parishes and neighboring Catholic seminaries such as Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, and Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI; (2) Nurturing lay leadership through a three-year pastoral formation curriculum offered at various parishes around the diocese to improve accessibility for learners; and (3) Inspiring young leaders through summer intellectual and pastoral experiences for college-age and high school-age students.”



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The nine-million-dollar grant totals \$4.5 million for direct programming over five years and \$4.4 million for ongoing endowment support. The Seminary is partnering with the Catholic Community Foundation to raise an additional \$3.3 million in funds to ensure long-term sustainability of the endowment.

Saint Mary Seminary has successfully executed on three previous Lilly Endowment grants over the past five years addressing growing leadership needs while building sustainable pathways of collaboration with other theological schools. The Seminary is committed to removing financial barriers and enhancing intellectual opportunities to develop a pipeline of healthy and holy leaders for the Church.

Lilly Endowment launched the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative in 2021. Since then, it has provided grants totaling more than \$700 million to support 163 theological schools in efforts to strengthen their own educational and financial capacities and to assist 61 schools in developing large-scale collaborative endeavors.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

[Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. A principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of religion and lift up in fair, accurate and balanced ways the roles that people of all faiths and various religious communities play in the United State and around the globe, and their traditions in the United States and across the globe.

About the Diocese of Cleveland

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was founded on April 23, 1847. Under the leadership of the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, Bishop of Cleveland, it is the 23rd largest diocese in the United States and encompasses the counties of Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Wayne, and Ashland. There are approximately 600,000 Catholics in the Diocese, and Catholic Charities-Diocese of Cleveland is one of the largest diocesan systems of social services in the world. There are 184 parishes, 107 Catholic schools, one pastoral center and one mission office within the Diocese. Please go to our website, www.dioceseofcleveland.org for more information about the diocese.



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About Saint Mary Seminary

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology and Borromeo College Seminary serves the Diocese of Cleveland and Diocese of Youngstown in preparing candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood and provides advanced theological education to lay and religious men and woman. Currently there are sixty seminarians who reside at the Seminary, and over one-hundred lay men and women who are pursuing graduate and post-graduate degrees. Please go to our website www.stmarysem.edu, for more information about the mission and ministries of our seminary.