



DIOCESE OF JOLIET

VOCATIONS OFFICE



This is Part 1 in a 3-part series of columns on the importance of your help in the formation of new priests

Importance of the impact a priest can make

BY FR. STEVEN BORELLO
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DIOCESE OF JOLIET

I invite you to take a moment and think of a priest who has impacted your life. There may be one or many, and these may be good, bad or both. The truth remains that our lives would be forever different had we not encountered or experienced them. A priest who is well formed, holy, and seeking after the heart of Jesus has the power to radically shape and shift the culture of a parish. They, because of the grace given them by God, release into the world his presence, bring healing, and work miracles in the community they are called to serve. These priests who have been well formed, give hope for the future and in the presence bring about stability because they are firmly rooted in the conviction of the call they have received.

This impact, or as I like to call it, the ripple effect of grace, moves from the Eucharist into the community, our homes and then into the world. I've seen this personally through healing miracles, transformed communities,

vocations to marriage, consecrated life, priesthood, and the mixing of generations as the young and older walk together the life of faith. They say a holy priest forms great people and a great priest good people, etc.

Our church, your family, and your community deserve great and holy priests. This is the work of their seminary education, formation, and their shared experiences with you in the parish community. It is a great joy to watch as the young men see the possible impact they can make on the lives of people around them.

I ask that you take a moment to pray for your parish priest that he would be happy, healthy and holy. Please also pray for the young men in your parish that their hearts would be open to a call to priesthood. Lastly, please pray for our seminarians that they will grow in their love of God and love of the future community they will serve.



ABOUT FR. BORELLO

Fr. Steven Borello is a priest of the Diocese of Joliet currently serving as the Director of Vocations.

Fr. Steven grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and is the oldest of 4 children.

He attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where he studied chemistry and chemical engineering.

While there, he received a call to the seminary to discern the priesthood.

He received his Bachelors in Theology and Masters of Divinity from Mundelein Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet in 2011.

He first served as an associate pastor at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills and was then transferred to Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Naperville in June of 2014.

In August of 2015, he began serving at St. John Vianney College Seminary as a spiritual director, director of human formation, and instructor to more than 120 men discerning a priestly vocation.

He returned to the Diocese of Joliet in August 2018 to begin as the Director of Vocations.



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