

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SEMINARIAN JAMES SCHIBI

First I want to thank Father for allowing me to post in the bulletin my gratitude for all of you. For those of you who may not know me my name is James Schibi. I have been a member of this parish my entire life and I consider all of you a part of my spiritual family. This is my fifth year in seminary and God willing I will be ordained a deacon of the Church on May 20th of this year. I could not have gotten this far without all of your prayers and support so I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Again this year, our diocese took up a special collection on Christmas day in support of our retired priests and the education of seminarians like me. It is because of the great generosity and heartfelt prayers from you that I have such freedom in answering God's call to the seminary. So today, I just want to say Thank You!

I ask myself all the time, how can this be? I think this question is one we often ask ourselves... Whether it be another thing added to the list of tasks around the house, or scheduling conflicts, or projects at work. In our distress we ask God how can this be; in our joys, how can this be? This year I ask myself, how can this be that I am in my 10th year of college; or as I say sometimes 23rd grade, or how at 28 years old I am still buying school supplies with my Mom and three little sisters? Why is it that I am here in front of you? When I am up at school asking how it is that I am 1200 miles away from home, I remember things like walking in to Mass and seeing our beautiful church and many great friends and family, reminding myself how abundantly blessed we are to be in a diocese like Wichita, to have great priests or to have outstanding parishes like here at Saint Patrick's.

In the more difficult times we ask ourselves the question "how can this be?" The short answer is sacrifice. It is God's sacrifice of His Son for our sake that instituted the priesthood, it is God's grace in my life that allowed me to say yes to seminary, and it is your sacrifice and generosity that has allowed me and other men like me to freely answer the call. It is your example of prayer—especially in our adoration chapel—that has impacted me and all of the youth at our parish, your witness to a life in Christ, and finally your financial contributions that make it possible for those seminarians who could otherwise not afford seminary to answer God's call. For that, the other seminarians and I thank you.

In this season we see how Mary's yes to uncertainties, her yes to God's call, brought forth new life for all of us at Christmas. Her generosity, perfect obedience and willingness to sacrifice brought about the Christ child. When we get to that moment of asking "how can this be?", how do we respond? How can it be that we have almost 60 seminarians? It is your example of sacrifice and devotion that continues to bless this diocese and those discerning God's will so freely. Again I want to say thank you for your continued example and willingness to say yes to God in your lives, marriages, and work that continues to bless this diocese and its vocations. May all of you and your families continue to have a Blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.... God Bless, James Schibi



PLEASE PRAY FOR: Juanita Wilkerson, Ramona Carnahan, Jim VanLeeuwen, Joe Heppler, Jim and Janie Schibi, R. L. Carter, Howard Westhoff, Diane Blackburn, Adam Avery, Lucas and Jeremiah Kellogg, Jacob and Tiffany Heppler and family, Betty Zimmerman, Aniston Lee Blackburn, Martha (Bass) Cabbage, Gloria Kerr, Norman Ritz, Carolyn Forbes, Jay Schreppel, Janell Houk, Joe Sprague, Nancy Minor, Roger Lavender, Chuck and Betty Westhoff, Brooke Harding, Rod and Julie Blackburn, Charlie Smith, Bill Hood, Harrison Stover, Gary Johnson, Barbara Bartelli, Dave Turk, Nicole Boltz, John Findley, Diana Mosley, Mary Helen Elorza, Jack Blackwell, Aylie Freeman, Kala Weidert, Rita Horton, Sontana Johnson, Regina Auvigne, Mary Elizabeth (Davis) Hyde, Dan Allen, Joe Ponce, Lupe Ponce, Ernesto Mercado, Jay McMillan, Bud Clingan, Heather LaRue, Barbara Westhoff, Grace Cass, Bill Dickerson, Diane Young, Zeta Stewart, Donna Seeley, Phyllis Alquest, Bowen Thiessen, Jerry McKinney, Doris Stice, Jerry Heiskell, Garry Eckert, Spence Allison, Ginger (Perez) Williams, Jeanie Anderson, Jordan Alvarez, Nicholas Crump, Gary McMillan, John Cornella, Twyla Norman, Philomena Blaes, Tim and Chris Hurley, Regina Madl, Sean Westhoff, Mary C. Babcock, Beckie Garretson, Mark Harper, Brandon Knight, Baylea Seibert, Kevin Seibert, Doyle House, Mike Treiber, Jean Lowe, Jason McCalley, Cindy Wilmoth, Wes Herdleim, Emily Gumler, Ingrid Schneickert, Sam Morris, John J. Finnerty, Mary Jean Martin, Wendy Nutt, Eunice Eisenbrandt, Colene Lewis, Lori Garton, Jim Smith, Bill Coomes, Sami Brown, Sam Blubaugh, Gary Schenck, Whitney Bush, Darin Lewis, Juanita Bohr, Robert & Esther Johnsen, Danelle Foerman, Mitch Freeland, Shelley (Sandusky) Pearce, Isabella Gudde, Don Gould, Geronimo Hernandez, Cheesman Family, John Sears, Stephanie Vandervoort, Michele Romine, Tara Fisher, Jennifer Hansen, Ruth Snodgrass, Urb Friess, Don Pound, Mason Nash, Rosemary Crager, Brooklyn Morreno, Nestor Lopez, LaVeta Wass, Adalynn Brunner, Tom Reazin, Glynnis Jackson, Crystal Brunner, Cathy Woolard, Dr. Tony Daiz, Esther Lynch, Stephanie Yockey-Larson, Keenan Moore, Holly Martino, Fred Strathe, Evelyn Bogner, Betty Schettler, Tom Harrell, Todd Geib, Gary Woolard, Drew Schibi, Mary Ann Loadholtz, Paul Habiger, Brad Zimmerman, Betty Bartholomew, Pat McCauley Mann, Joe Temple, Violet Romine, Sheri Cosby, Brenda Hughes, Dr. Steve Miller, Pat Hart, Tracy Lee, Keith Collins, Katlyn Bartlett, Tommie Forbes, Montel White, Lorene Knedgen, Fiona Bartelli, Payton Martinez, Dixie Hayward, Harley Pilkington, Marianna Daskal, Scarlet Lane, Bob Vernon, Joe Carson, Kathy Bercaw, Chase Berthot, James Moses, Ron Bevore, Ethel Ward, Bailey Shaw, Connie Taylor, Chandler Bastian, Ethan Merchant, Patrick Lynch, Byron Carter, Lilian Daiz, Kerri Heiskell, Ally Forbes.