



PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 SEMINARIANS RECEIVE MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE

ROME, 3 March 2025

On March 2, 2025, His Eminence, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization conferred the Ministry of Acolyte in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, on the following seminarians:

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| 1. John Paul Anderson | of the Archdiocese of Baltimore |
| 2. Victor Luis Baez Rodriguez | of the Diocese of Tyler |
| 3. Charles Anthony Berner | of the Archdiocese of Denver |
| 4. Bruce James Cargill | of the Diocese of Metuchen |
| 5. Nicholas Donald Chapman | of the Archdiocese of Hartford |
| 6. Thomas Patrick Crowley | of the Diocese of Lansing |
| 7. Joseph Graham Fassero | of the Diocese of Richmond |
| 8. Brendan Patrick Finnegan | of the Archdiocese of Hartford |
| 9. Zavior John Franck | of the Diocese of Duluth |
| 10. Brian David James | of the Diocese of Worcester |
| 11. Dillon Michael Johnson | of the Diocese of Rapid City |
| 12. Matthew David Kehoe | of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee |
| 13. Jack E. Kristensen | of the Archdiocese of New York |
| 14. Connor Joseph Lynch | of the Diocese of Des Moines |
| 15. Coulter Jerome McIntyre | of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon |
| 16. Joel Benjamin McMichael | of the Diocese of Tyler |
| 17. Wyatt Luke Parlow | of the Diocese of Austin |
| 18. Jakob Stuart Pohlman | of the Diocese of Worcester |
| 19. Joseph Thaddeus Richter | of the Diocese of Bismarck |
| 20. Brett Robert Rotz | of the Diocese of Helena |
| 21. Ryan Allen Saltness | of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester |
| 22. Justin Matthew Seidleck | of the Archdiocese of Washington |
| 23. Christopher Michael Tillotson | of the Diocese of Worcester |
| 24. Nicholas David VandeHey | of the Diocese of Green Bay |

In his homily the on the Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time when the Installation of Ministry Acolytes would take place, His Eminence, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle preached on the Gospel passage of Luke 6:39-45, “a tree is known by its fruit.” His Eminence, Cardinal Tagle directly addressed those who would be receiving the Ministry of Acolyte and encouraged them to live out the gospel by evangelizing through the example of their lives. He said to them, “First take out the lumber from your eye, before you try to remove the splinter from their brother’s eye.” Cardinal Tagle went on to exhort those who were to be

installed as Acolytes to “live lives of integrity through the bearing forth of the good fruits of humility, kindness and authenticity.”

In the rite of the Institution of Acolyte, His Eminence, Cardinal Tagle placed the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate. He then said, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.”

The seminarians, currently in their second year of formation at the College, have two additional years of theological studies before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the College has formed over 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students a first-hand encounter of the Church’s rich religious and cultural heritage.

A gallery of photos from the Mass may be viewed [at PNAC Photo Service - Lector Installation 2025](#). News organizations may contact pnacdc@pnac.org for photo permissions.

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