

# *Meménto*

**THE PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER**  
*North American Province*



*Ordinations*

JULY 2025



## Ordinations 2025

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*Meménto is a publication of the North American Province of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP). It is published 10 times a year for the benefit of the supporters of the FSSP.*



The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter  
North American Province  
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*Front Cover: FSSP Priestly Ordinations, May 28th, 2025, Lincoln Nebraska.*

# THE PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

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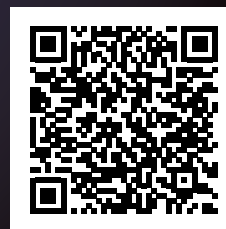
**Y**our gift preserves traditional priestly formation in the heart of the Church. Your gifts have allowed five men to be ordained to the priesthood this year. Your gift saves souls!

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*Laudetur Jesus Christus!*

This issue of the *Meménto* is the first to go to press after the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV. As you may know, the name of our Fraternity was chosen with a view of showing our fidelity to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ upon Earth. Our Lord Jesus Christ founded His Church upon the Apostle Peter: “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven” (Mt. 16:18-19). The crossed keys on the crest of the Fraternity of St. Peter represent these keys as do those on the crest of the Pope.

The two keys represent the fullness of Holy Orders and the fullness of jurisdiction, both of which reside with St. Peter and his successors down through the centuries. Our Lord did not promise that St. Peter and his successors would never make mistakes or never sin. In fact, St. Peter himself proceeded to deny Christ three times after he had been given this office. Our Lord did promise, however, that the powers of hell would never overcome His Church and so it has been.

Pope Francis was the 265<sup>th</sup> successor of St. Peter. He held the highest office on Earth and surely had to bear much of the attacks of hell upon the Church. He granted a special decree to the Fraternity in February of 2022, confirming that our right to offer the Traditional Mass and sacraments, and he asked us to pray for him. We have prayed for him, and we continue to pray for the repose of his soul now that he has passed from this life.

Pope Leo XIV is the 266<sup>th</sup> successor of St. Peter and from the moment of his appearance on the loggia of St. Peter’s, he has emphasized peace. He began his first sermon as Pope with the beautiful words: “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God: the one Savior, who alone reveals the face of the Father.” We have been praying for Pope Leo since his election, and we must continue to do so.

The Holy Father’s choice of the papal name, “Leo,” brings to mind other popes with that name, most especially, Pope Leo XIII who died in 1903. Although Pope Leo XIII is perhaps best known for his Catholic social teaching as presented in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, his other writings are well worth studying as well, especially since they tend to be relatively easy to read and understand and short in length.

Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical *Aeterni Patris* is particularly important since it beautifully promotes the perennial philosophy, especially as taught by St. Thomas Aquinas. In it, he quotes Pope Innocent VI: ‘His [St. Thomas]’ teaching above that of others, the canonical writings alone excepted, enjoys such a precision of language, an order of matters, a truth of conclusions, that those who hold to it are never found swerving from the path of truth, and he who dare assail it will always be suspected of error” (#22). Pope Leo’s encyclical on the study of Sacred Scripture, *Providentissimus Deus*, is one that every Catholic who is serious about understanding the Bible should read. Then there is the encyclical *Arcanum*, clearly setting forth the Church’s teaching on Christian Marriage.

In addition to promoting healthy teaching on philosophy, Scripture, and marriage, Pope Leo condemned certain movements/beliefs which he saw as threats, including Americanism (*Testem Benevolentiae Nostrae*) and freemasonry (*Humanum Genus*). In addition, he promoted devotion to Our Lady and her Rosary by writing twelve encyclicals on the Rosary alone such as *Octobri mense*. He promoted devotion to St. Joseph (*Quamquam pluries*) and St. Michael—asking that the St. Michael prayer be prayed after Mass. In addition, he wrote an encyclical on the Holy Spirit (*Divinum Illud Munus*) and promoted devotion to the Holy Family by instituting the Feast of the Holy Family and personally writing three Latin hymns for the feast.

Reading some of these encyclicals, all readily available online, is an excellent way for Catholics to grow in their understanding and practice of the Faith. But even if we do not read them, we can pray for our current Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, that he will follow his holy predecessors like Leo XIII in guiding the Church and teaching the Faith: “O God, the Shepherd and Ruler of all Thy faithful people, mercifully look upon Thy servant Leo, whom Thou hast chosen as the chief Shepherd to preside over Thy Church. We beg Thee to help him edify, both by word and example, those over whom he has charge, that he may reach everlasting life together with the flock entrusted to him. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.” ✠

*Fr. William Lawrence, FSSP*

Fr. William Lawrence, FSSP  
North American Provincial

# MUSIC, MISSIONS, AND FINDING JOY IN THE CROSS

Rachel Shrader

## An Interview About Vocations with Deacon David Carter

**A**piano, a family music jam, a trip to Peru...what does all this have to do with a vocation?

Just ask Deacon David Carter, who will be ordained to the priesthood for the Fraternity next summer. Originally hailing from rural Davidson, North Carolina, Deacon Carter sat down with us to talk about his path to the priesthood—which involved the Rosary, a mission trip (or three), a bit of math, a lot of music, and a life-changing discovery about the nature of the Cross.

Deacon Carter grew up as the second-oldest in a family of 11 kids. His parents converted to the Faith in the early 2000s and settled at the diocesan parish of St. Ann in Charlotte, led by the indefatigable Fr. Timothy Reid. His parents were particularly drawn to the Latin Mass offered at St. Ann, which, as he describes, was something they'd never seen before and was very new and exciting.

The young David experienced a happy childhood filled with homeschool days punctuated by excursions in nature, sports with his brothers, theater, dance, and music. Everyone in his family is musical and he himself is a classically trained pianist.

His family also encouraged an appreciation of the folk music they played together regularly.

"We had a book of folk music from around the world, so we were always studying folk music in addition to the classical," Deacon Carter explained.

The Carters saw—and still see—folk music as a great way to bond their family. They continue to host jam sessions to encourage others to appreciate the great treasure we have in traditional music, whether it be bluegrass from America, Celtic from across the pond, or other folk genres.

Sacred music, of course, also played a big role.

"Since there were so many of us, we did a lot of that as well."

All this was bound up with a steady spiritual diet that built a strong interior life in the souls of the young Carters. Recalling the family Rosary as a central feature of their devotions, Deacon Carter also notes the Carmelite method of mental prayer that his mother taught them from a young age.

"My mother had a good grasp on what was important to pass on," he said.



With such a grounding in the good Catholic life in all its varied facets, it's no wonder religious vocations began springing up in his family. He has a sister in Carmel and he himself first felt called to the priesthood about the time of his First Communion at the age of 7. He remembers seeing the priests on the altar and, even without knowing much about the priesthood, viewing their work as something he could see himself doing.

"To a 7-year-old, that was cool," he says, referring to the work of the priests on the altar. "That was the seed that God planted."

That seed continued to grow in his middle and high school years, and he particularly credits his time as an altar server with fostering his budding vocation.

"Being close to the altar, I saw the liturgy, particularly the Traditional Mass, was something beautiful and something I was always drawn towards."

He first encountered the Fraternity through their popular boys' camps, now called Don Bosco Ministries, organized and run primarily by the seminarians. With his attraction to the Latin Mass, David recognized the Fraternity as a place where he could devote himself to it.

He also remembers how—far from being odd characters or people unlike himself—the seminarians were men he could really look up to.

You'd think the story ends about here with an application



to seminary, but Deacon Carter's vocation wasn't a sealed deal. As is normal in high school, he began considering other possibilities for his life, but his vocation remained in the back of his mind through it all—it was always something he could “see himself doing.”

Being a lover of math and science, he decided to go to the University of North Carolina to study engineering. During the summer before his freshman year, he took a mission trip to Peru through the FSSP's Mission Tradition ministry.

This proved a significant stepping stone for his vocation. A priest there told the missionaries:

“Every young person has nothing to lose in pursuing a vocation, because the worst that will happen is God will say no and God won't waste your time.”

David thought it was good advice, so he visited the seminary and ended up putting in an application.

But he was really enjoying his studies at college and something in him didn't really want to go to seminary (yet). So he was excited to learn that the FSSP thought he should take another year of college and possibly reapply the following year.

David commenced his second year of school. He participated in the mission trips a total of three years in a row, and as Providence would have it, the next vocational nudge came once again during mission time.

On one of those trips, he came to a crucial realization—one that gave him the interior confirmation he needed to pursue his call to Holy Orders.

He realized that the Cross was something he could find joy in. He saw that, as many crosses as came with the priesthood, he could find joy in accepting those crosses and offering them back to God.

Like all of us, David had seen friends go through difficult struggles and felt that he could help them by sacrificing for them. To him, making this kind of sacrifice was key to understanding the priesthood.

“The priesthood isn't just about the liturgy,” he explained. “Obviously that is the highest thing the priest does, but really at the root of it is the priest conforming himself to Christ on the Cross and offering himself to God as the spouse of the Church for souls.”

Struck by these inspirations, David had an honest conversation with himself.

“What am I doing in my life?” he recalls asking himself. “I

realized that God seemed to be asking me for more and I had to make the decision: will I give him what He's asking for?”

The answer was a resounding yes. He reapplied to seminary and, sure enough, the timing was right. He was accepted into the incoming class of 2019.

The rest is history, but not without one more gift to show that God is never outdone in generosity. Grace builds upon nature, as Thomas Aquinas says, and God always uses our gifts, interests, and experiences in the perfect plan He has for us.

When Deacon Carter went to college, he made a “very hard break” with something that had been a major part of his life—music. He had previously considered going to music school and making music his profession, but the decision to pursue an engineering degree laid those aspirations to rest (or so he thought).

“Then I went to seminary and all I have done in the seminary is music,” he said with a glint of humor. He found himself playing the organ and leading the seminary schola.

“Being able to be part of the music here at the seminary has been a great joy. We have a wonderful music program and a wonderful professor.”

Asked what advice he would give to his past teenage self, he said:

“Trust that God has a plan and knows what He's doing, and don't be afraid if that doesn't work out as you planned. Trust in God's Providence and know that it's not what you may think is best.”

He notes how so many of the critical moments in his vocation story began with things he didn't necessarily want to do—going to camp, going on a mission trip, visiting seminary. He couldn't imagine how it was all working together for his vocation, but every piece of it was part of God's plan.

“If there is anything I've learned in the past year, it's that God is in control, and the more open we are to accepting that, the more joy we have in fulfilling His will. But sometimes it seems like a little bit of a comedy.”

To those discerning their vocations, he offers this wisdom, quoting one of his fellow seminarians: “God never says no. He always says, ‘Not now, or I have something better.’ A young person has nothing to lose in pursuing a vocation, because if we're honest with God, give Him the best of ourselves, He won't let us down.” ✝

# PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

On Wednesday, May 28th, 2025, five OLGS seminarians were ordained to the sacred priesthood by the Most Reverend Robert Reed, auxiliary bishop of Boston, at St. Peter's Church in Lincoln Nebraska. Please pray for the ordinati! ✝



*Rev. Fr. Matthew Jagas*  
Kichener, ON

*Rev. Fr. Ronald McCann*  
Desha, AR

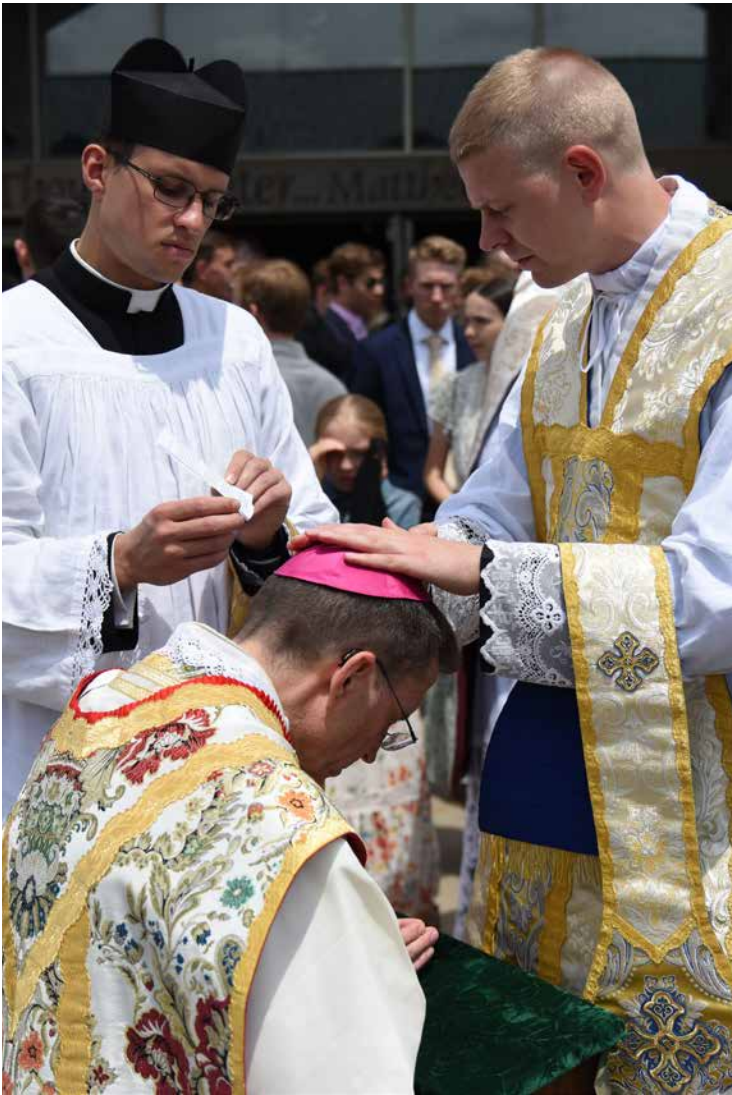
*Rev. Fr. Michael Caughey*  
Muskegon, MI

*Rev. Fr. Steven Kalinowski*  
St. Charles, MO

*Rev. Fr. John-Francis Sulzen*  
West Fork, AR









# CHARITY BUILDS HOPE: FSSP NIGERIA SOARS

Dear FSSP faithful, prepare to be inspired by the incredible work unfolding in Nigeria, where your generous donations are transforming lives through Mission Tradition! In a land where poverty, inflation, and violence cast heavy shadows, Fr. Angelo Van der Putten, FSSP, and his dedicated team are building a convent and girls' school, bringing Christ's light to a struggling community. We are overjoyed to share the progress made possible by your charity and deeply grateful for your support, which is sowing seeds of faith, education, and hope.

For those new to our mission, FSSP Nigeria serves a region where over a third of the population battles extreme hunger and economic turmoil. Since November 2024, this project has transformed an overgrown plot into a hub of promise. Your almsgiving has funded a 30-foot water tower, 7,000 cement blocks, and a solid foundation for a convent to house the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate.



The convent will provide a spiritual home for the Sisters, who will guide girls in a nurturing boarding environment.

By April 2025, local workers were pouring the damp-proof course and installing plumbing and electrical systems, ensuring a safe, modern environment for learning and spiritual growth. Despite cement prices tripling due to Nigeria's economic crisis, your gifts have sustained this sacred work, including the purchase of two and a half acres of land this project is being built on. Clean water from a new borehole protects against typhoid, serving students and locals alike.

The impact is profound. The school, already serving 38 boys and girls, instills “the true, the good, and the beautiful,” with parents marveling at their children's newfound discipline and literacy—some sixth-graders learned to read in just three months!

“We do this for the love of God,” Fr. Van der Putten shares. “Without Mission Tradition donors, we wouldn't survive.” With Sunday collections yielding just \$35 against monthly food costs of \$800–\$1,000, your charity is a lifeline.

We are thrilled to be on track to complete the convent and girls' school, but we need your continued support. Doors, a roof and windows will be needed next. Your almsgiving is a supernatural act of love, building a legacy for Nigeria's youth. Thank you for carrying Christ's cross with us! Visit [www.missiontradition.us](http://www.missiontradition.us) for updates and to offer a gift. ✝



## Mission Tradition



*To follow and donate*



*Video on the Nigeria mission*



# ALTAR BOY APPRECIATION DINNER AT ST. MICHAEL'S IN SCRANTON

Fr. Matthew Kane,  
FSSP

One of the most surprising aspects of the Latin Mass for many newcomers is not simply the beautiful chants, the Latin prayers, the ornate vestments, but in fact the ordered gestures and movements of both priest and servers. Everyone in the sanctuary has a place, the movements have been rehearsed, and the gestures practiced. In a word, amidst the chaos and disorder of modern life, the gestures of this liturgy show a discipline.

But, as with anything in life, a lot does go into that formation of that discipline among the altar boys. Most of the FSSP parishes having monthly practices with their servers. Some instituting groups and guilds to reward hard work with promotions. Others encouraging the older siblings to help train and teach their younger brothers the responses at Mass. In short, it is hard work to be an altar boy for the Latin Mass.

These various challenges—such as learning Latin responses, training in various positions, and knowing the proper gestures and bell rings—give perspective to the pride that many fathers and grandfathers express to their children about having once been an altar boy. Just recently a parishioner here served Mass on his 90th birthday, and he proudly expressed to me that he had been able to serve Mass since he was 8 years old. He knows the great honor that it is to kneel at the altar, to serve Christ in the Mass, and to help assist at the liturgy where Heaven touches the Earth. The altar boys serving at Mass here on Earth, really get to take on the roles of what the angels do in serving God in Heaven. To realize this as an acolyte, and experience such a grace from a young age: What a blessing! What a gift!

Recently at St. Michael the Archangel parish, we had the enrollment of new members into our Altar Boy guild and followed by an appreciation dinner for the boys, especially those graduating this year. This event was warmly received by all, but possibly the most surprising aspect was when the boys who were graduating got up, one after the other, to say a few parting words. Each expressed, in his own words, how much this ability to serve at the Altar has meant to him. What a grace it has been to stand in the sanctuary. Encouraging the younger boys to persevere in their own endeavors. And, looking back with fondness on the privilege to serve at the Mass. But, looking back on the event—none of their speeches should have come as a surprise. Thinking back on our 90-year-old parishioner, the service at the altar does not easily fade from one's memory. If anything, it stands as one of the greatest joys and privileges of one's life. ✝





## Wigratzbad Diaconal Ordinations Break FSSP Record for New Deacons

On Saturday, May 21st in the parish church of Lindenberg, Germany, the diaconate was conferred on 13 seminarians from our European seminary of Wigratzbad, forming a very international class: three French, two Poles, two Portuguese, one Austrian, one Croatian, one Hungarian, one Italian, one Swede, and one Czech. Together with the 12 deacons ordained earlier this year on April 5th in the United States (covered in the *Meménto* Pentecost issue, June 2025), our community thus reaches a record number of 25 new deacons. We give thanks to God, and we also fervently thank the celebrant, our friend the Most Reverend Wolfgang Haas, Archbishop Emeritus of Vaduz in Liechtenstein, who once again showed his paternal heart. ✝



## PLANNED GIVING SPOTLIGHT



### *July Webinar: the FSSP Legacy Society*

*What's it all about and why should I enroll?*

Many supporters enrolled in our Legacy Society since the launch earlier this year.  
We also received many inquiries and questions—so we're doing a webinar!

**Join us on Thursday, July 17, at 2pm EST for this live and interactive webinar.**  
**We will discuss the features and benefits of the Society and answer your questions as well!**  
*(Please sign up even if you can't join us and you will receive a link to the recording afterward!)*

**To receive more information or sign up via email or phone, contact Joe Gardner at:**  
**legacysociety@fssp.com or (570) 319-5271**

*For general inquiries not related to Planned Giving, call (570) 842-4000.*



# PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER



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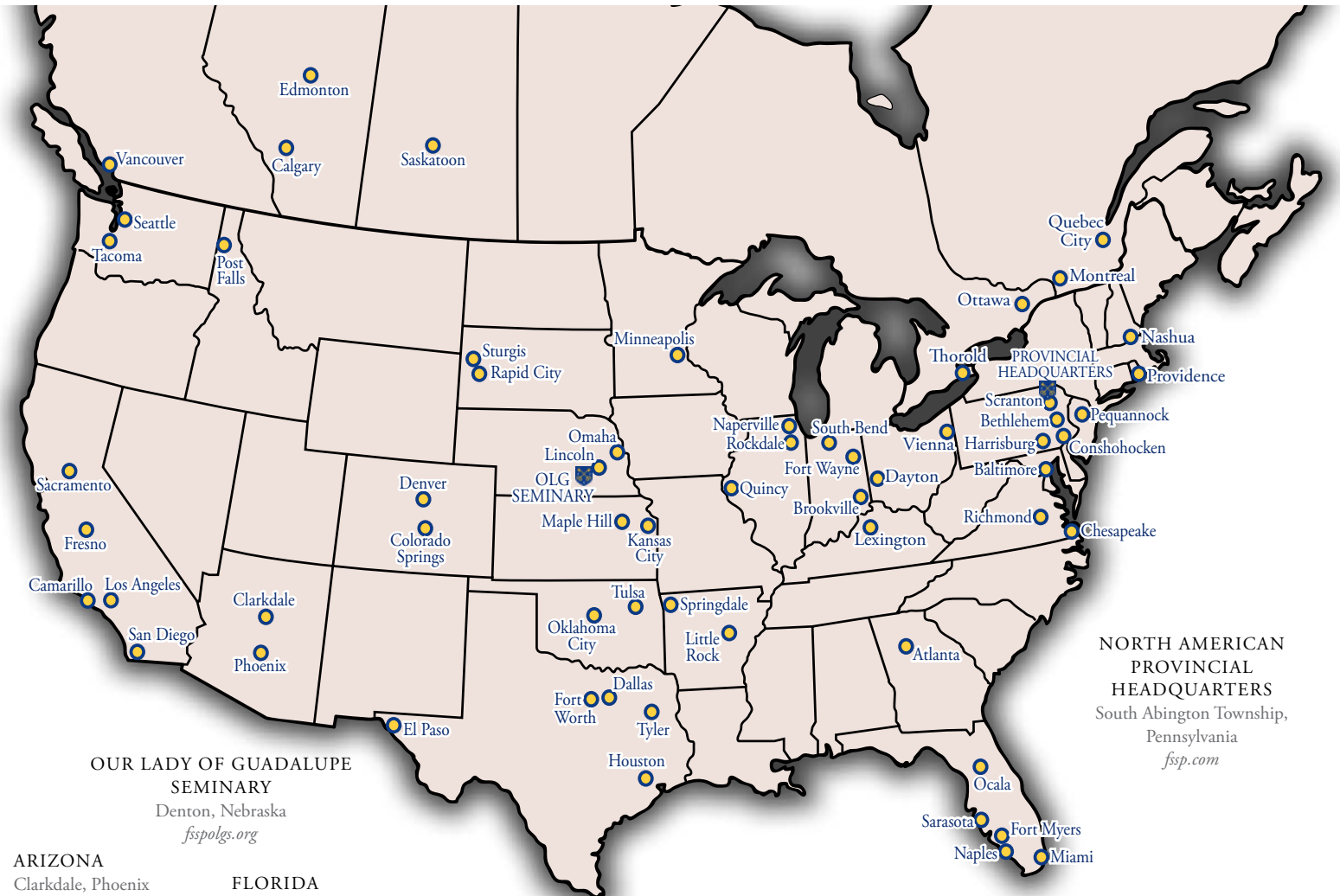
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ad · ordinem ·



accedant · qui ·



· ordinati · sunt



· presbyteratus



As a Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right established by Pope St. John Paul II, our mission is to use the ancient liturgy as a wellspring to form our priests in the traditions of the Church to serve at the altar and in the parish to bring the fullness of Christ into the emptiness of the world.



Over the past 36 years, The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) has ordained over 350 priests to bring the traditional Latin Mass and Sacraments to people around the world. In more than 50 cities across North America, we preach, teach, and sanctify faithful Catholics. And at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, we form over eighty seminarians to become the priests of tomorrow.

