

# LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

*For Our Children and the Future*

## BISHOP SIMON BRUTÉ COLLEGE SEMINARIANS EXPANDING IN NUMBERS, GROWING IN FAITH

Andy Proctor and Michael Parrett began another year of college in August, just like millions of students everywhere. However, Andy Proctor and Michael Parrett didn't just return for their third year at Marian College. They also returned to an environment of prayer at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, founded in 2004 and supported in part by the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign.

Proctor and Parrett were called as young men to serve God through the priesthood and sought a place to evaluate their futures. Both young men grew up in Greenwood and believe the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary is the perfect place for them at this time.

This college seminary at Marian College is vital to not only the archdiocese but to other dioceses throughout the state. Previously, when young men were interested in discernment, they had to go out of state in order to attend a college seminary.

"Now, young men will be able to stay close to home and become familiar with the local priests and parishes where they will probably one day serve," said Father Robert Robeson (fondly referred to as "Father Bob"), rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary.

Yet, with the 2006–2007 school year welcoming new and returning seminarians, the physical space for the college seminary is at capacity. The seminarians reside on campus in St. Francis Hall, where they have 11 rooms, a recreation area and a chapel, all in one wing of the building. With the number of seminarians doubling within the last two years, Father Robeson and the archdiocese would like to see more physical space for the seminary to grow.

"Of course, not having enough space for the number of young men responding to their calling is a blessing from God," said Father Robeson. "The Holy Spirit is alive in young people calling them to the priesthood and religious life."



*Andy Proctor and Michael Parrett pray during the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary orientation.*

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Seminaries are commonly separate from other living quarters. However, at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, the young men share the building with regular college students and faculty offices. Proctor and Parrett agreed that the space is limited, but they're grateful for the supportive and prayerful environment.

"In this atmosphere, we can grow spiritually, academically and emotionally," Proctor said. "The supportive environment is essential to the discernment process."

For decades, the number of vocations to the priesthood decreased. Now, the number is gradually rising once again,

and the archdiocese is focused on encouraging those vocations. The Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary holds discernment nights for high school and college transfer students. During the summer, Father Bob also leads a summer retreat called Bishop Bruté Days for younger candidates to attend. These events offer opportunities for young men to explore their calling and ask questions. Both Proctor and Parrett attended discernment dinners when they were younger and found the events helped clarify their questions.

The *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign is essential, being the primary funding for the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and the ever-increasing cost of education. "I agree that financial assistance is continually needed for the seminary," Parrett said. "I would like others to realize that we are not just studying for ourselves. The average priest affects 8,000 souls and maybe one of those souls will be yours."

As the rector, Father Robeson believes college seminaries are great options for young men who are ready to begin their vocational discernment. After only two years, he has copied the example of Bishop Simon Bruté, who spent more than 30 years educating seminarians and expanding the number of priests, especially throughout Indiana and eastern Illinois. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein recently initiated his Cause for Sainthood, and his official title is now Bishop Bruté, Servant of God.

*Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese's capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as seminarian education. By contributing to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to future ministry needs and distributed to efforts such as the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary.*