

REGISTRATION FORM

Please reply by Friday, March 23, 2018

I would like to attend the seminar, Sunday, April 1, through Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at Shellbourne Conference Center.

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$550 per priest / \$150 per seminarian). Checks payable to Midwest Theological Forum.

Name _____ Date _____

Parish / Diocese _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP Code _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please detach this Registration Form and mail / fax / e-mail to:

Midwest Theological Forum, Attn. Mrs. Charmaine D. Roth

4340 Cross Street, Suite 1, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Phone: (630) 541-8519 x28 • Fax: (331) 777-5819

E-mail: croth@mwtf.org

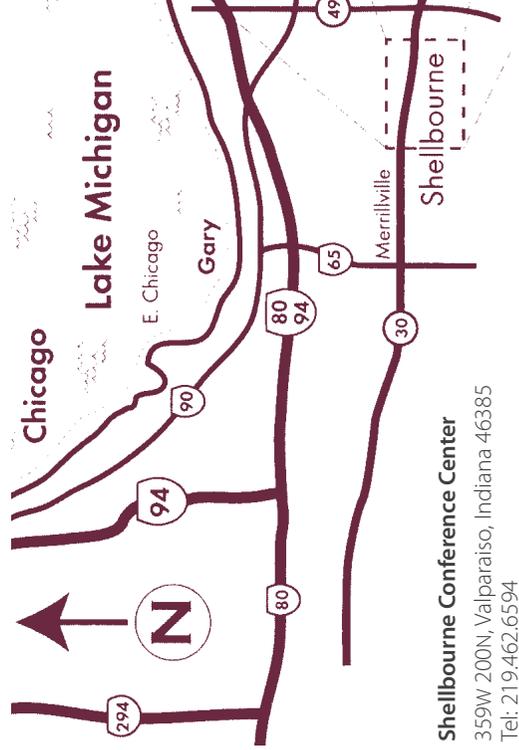
Priests and deacons: Please bring an alb and white stole.

Seminarians: Please bring an alb.



To register and pay online, please visit:

www.theromeexperience.org/easterseminar

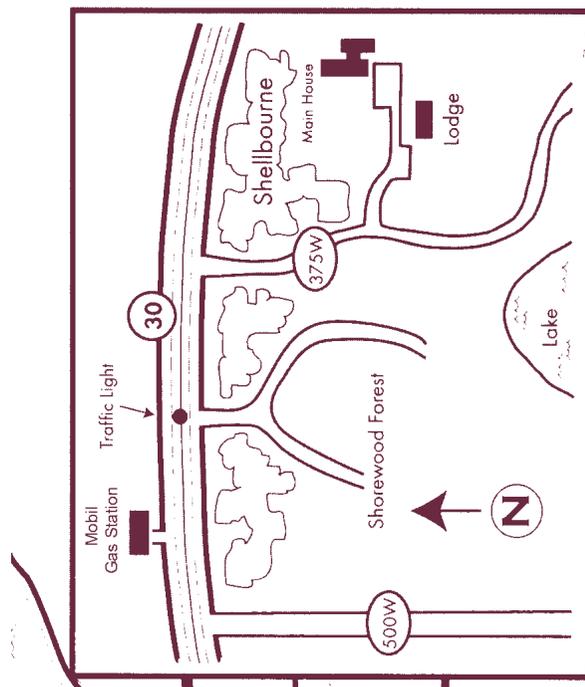


Shellbourne Conference Center

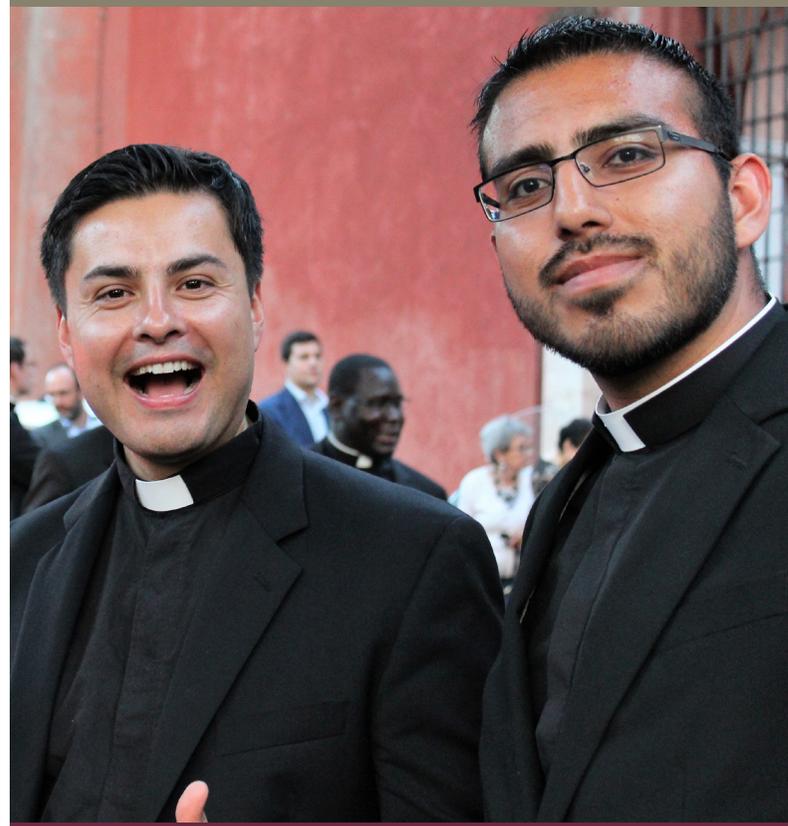
359W 200N, Valparaiso, Indiana 46385

Tel: 219.462.6594

Shellbourne is located at the intersection of Highway 30 and County Road 375W, 9 miles east of Highway I-65 and 4 miles west of Valparaiso, Indiana. County Road 375W is 0.4 miles east of mile marker #20 and 0.6 miles west of mile marker #21.



MIDWEST THEOLOGICAL FORUM



THE JOY of the PRIESTHOOD

Identifying and cultivating candidates for the priesthood

Thirty-fifth Easter Seminar for Priests and Seminarians

Sunday, April 1 to Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Shellbourne Conference Center
Valparaiso, Indiana

Topics and Speakers

Easter Sunday, April 1

7:30 P.M. Arrival and Light Supper

8:00 P.M. Introductory Talk

Monday, April 2

7:45 A.M. Morning Prayer

8:00 A.M. Preached Meditation

8:30 A.M. Eucharistic Concelebration
(Please bring alb and stole)

11:00 A.M. **First Presentation**
The Gift of the Priestly Vocation
(*Congregation of the Clergy, December 8, 2016*)
MOST REV. THOMAS J. PAPROCKI
Bishop of Diocese of Springfield, IL

5:30 P.M. Holy Hour

7:30 P.M. **Second Presentation**
**The Christian Home as Seedbed
for Vocations**
SHEILA LIAUGMINAS
Relevant Radio Talk Show Host & Writer
Mother of a Priest

Tuesday, April 3

7:45 A.M. Morning Prayer

8:00 A.M. Preached Conference

8:30 A.M. Eucharistic Concelebration
(Please bring alb and stole)

11:00 A.M. **Third Presentation**
**Discovering Divine Vocations
for the Priesthood**
REV. BURKE MASTERS
Vocations Director for Diocese of Joliet, IL

5:30 P.M. Holy Hour

7:30 P.M. **Fourth Presentation**
Developing an Effective Priestly Soul
REV. ERIC NIELSEN
Diocese of Madison, WI
Pastor of St. Paul University Parish
(University of Wisconsin)

Wednesday, April 4

7:45 A.M. Morning Prayer

8:00 A.M. Conference

8:30 A.M. Eucharistic Concelebration
(Please bring alb and stole)

10:00 A.M. Departure

IDENTIFYING and NURTURING PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

according to the needs of contemporary culture includes one of the chief concerns of Pope Francis. Today's priest must not only be able to explain the teachings of the Church in a persuasive way but also give a convincing witness of the merciful heart of Jesus Christ.

The recurring message of the Holy Father and his immediate predecessors is that the priest must be an expert in humanity. Under the broad scope of holiness, the priest must be grounded in deep prayer centered on the word of God and the Holy Eucharist.

His pastoral charity expressed in joy, affection and spirit of service must be an overflow of his spiritual life. Pope Francis repeats often in his addresses to priests and seminarians the need to go beyond a strictly academic or functional approach to pastoral ministry and actually move the hearts of his people.

The Holy Father speaks about the evangelization of attraction and accompaniment. This kind of ability certainly requires a strong foundation not only in the spiritual life but priestly virtues that can inspire young men to consider the priesthood.

No priest should feel exempt from this lofty task of both identifying and nurturing priestly vocations.

With these ideas in mind, the seminar will provide guidance and orientation to meet the challenge of cultivating possible candidates to the seminary. The speakers for this seminar have had very positive experiences in both attracting and fostering a priestly vocations. We certainly welcome their insights and recommendations.

"Ecclesial vocations are manifestations of the immeasurable riches of Christ (cf. Eph 3:8). For this reason they are to be held in the highest esteem and cultivated with all diligence and concern, so that they can blossom and mature.

Among the many vocations that the Holy Spirit never ceases to call forth in the People of God, the vocation to the ministerial priesthood calls one to *"participate in the hierarchical priesthood of Christ"* and to be united with Him *"to feed the Church in Christ's name with the word and the grace of God"*.

This vocation arises in various circumstances and at different stages of human life: in adolescence, in adulthood, and, as the constant experience of the Church never fails to show, also in childhood."

**Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis,
"The Gift of the Priestly Vocation", no. 11
(Congregation of the Clergy, December 8, 2016)**