



St. Mark Seminary, Erie, PA

Program of Seminary Studies for the Diocese of Erie

For every seminarian, two of the following paragraphs apply: one from minor (or college) seminary, and one from major seminary.

Minor Seminary (College Seminary)

A. For those entering as college freshmen or sophomores

The majority of seminarians for the Diocese of Erie enter the seminary system right out of high school. These seminarians enjoy their college years attending classes and other activities at Gannon University, where they are immersed daily in the midst of 3,000 of their peers. At the same time, they live at St. Mark Seminary, where they engage in daily Mass, communal and private prayer, spiritual direction, and works of Christian service. When their four years of college are complete they receive a diploma from Gannon University and are ready to be assigned by the Bishop to four years of major seminary (see below).

B. For those entering as college juniors or seniors

These seminarians transfer into the seminary system during the course of their college education and will often require a fifth year of college because of the transfer. Those not already at Gannon must transfer to Gannon. They live at St. Mark Seminary, participating fully in the life of the seminary community (see above), completing their degree requirements and obtaining the necessary seminary pre-requisites so that at the time of their graduation from Gannon, they might be ready to be assigned to four years of major seminary (see below).

C. For those entering after college

Some seminarians have already obtained a bachelor's degree and may even have been employed in the work force for a number of years prior to entering the seminary. These seminarians enroll at Gannon University in order to obtain the seminary pre-requisite courses needed to be assigned to the four years of major seminary. At the same time, they reside at St. Mark Seminary and participate fully in the life of the seminary (see above). Normally, these seminarians require two years of study and formation prior to being assigned to major seminary (see below).

Major Seminary (Graduate School)

After St. Mark's : Major Seminary

Once a seminarian has obtained a bachelor's degree and fulfilled the necessary pre-requisites, he is ready to be assigned to four years of major seminary to complete his seminary training. The Diocese of Erie assumes the full cost of these four years of schooling. The Bishop assigns seminarians to one of the major seminaries used by the Diocese of Erie. These include Christ the King Seminary outside of Buffalo, NY, St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, MD, and the North American College in Rome, Italy. Ordinarily, a seminarian is ordained as a transitional deacon at the end of the third year of studies, and he is ordained a priest at the end of the fourth and final year of major seminary.