



Pontifical North American College

00120 Vatican City State, Europe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

32 SEMINARIANS RECEIVE MINISTRY OF LECTOR

ROME, 11 January 2026

On 11 January 2026, His Imminence, Cardinal Fabio Baggio, C.S., Undersecretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, conferred the Ministry of Lector, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, on the following students:

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| 1. Carter Thomas Anderson | of the Diocese of Helena |
| 2. Luis Araiza | of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter |
| 3. Shae Scott Bills | of the Diocese of Helena |
| 4. Christopher John Braden | of the Diocese of Orange |
| 5. Elijah Michael Buerkle | of the Diocese of Charlotte |
| 6. Casey Matthew Burgess | of the Diocese of Manchester |
| 7. Thomas Magnus Nelles Cain | of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis |
| 8. Jordan Thomas Damewood | of the Archdiocese of Baltimore |
| 9. Joseph Dominic Derico | of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston |
| 10. Michael Augustine DesOrmeaux | of the Diocese of Lake Charles |
| 11. Gianni Alexander DiTola | of the Diocese of Gary |
| 12. Gabe William Fanning | of the Diocese of Rapid City |
| 13. Dakota Matthew Gates | of the Diocese of St. Petersburg |
| 14. Paul Alexander Guertin | of the Diocese of St. Cloud |
| 15. Nicholas James Hays | of the Archdiocese of Baltimore |
| 16. John Michael Imbimbo | of the Diocese of Bridgeport |
| 17. Andrew Joseph Lehnen | of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis |
| 18. Nathan James Lirette | of the Diocese of Shreveport |
| 19. Joseph Francis Marra | of the Diocese of Providence |
| 20. Max Thomas Megaffin | of the Diocese of Salina |
| 21. Luke Henry Metzger | of the Archdiocese of Denver |
| 22. Anthony Tien-Huy Nguyen | of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon |
| 23. Salvatore Joseph Orosz | of the Diocese of Bridgeport |
| 24. Nicholas Joseph Patin | of the Diocese of St. Augustine |
| 25. Ryan David Pierce | of the Diocese of Gary |
| 26. Ethan Tanner Rice | of the Diocese of Austin |



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27. Michael Edwin Santos	of the Diocese of St. Petersburg
28. Brandon O'Neill Smith	of the Diocese of Beaumont
29. Michael Andrew Snyder	of the Diocese of Austin
30. Daniel John Spears	of the Diocese of Rochester
31. Timothy Michael Spjut	of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
32. Collin Samuel Thielen	of the Diocese of Salina

Addressing the new lectors in his homily, Cardinal Baggio encouraged the seminarians who were to be installed as Lectors them to proclaim the Word of God with faithfulness and joy. He went on to say, “The bishop places the Book of the Gospels in the hands of the newly ordained deacons, by saying, “Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach. So too, those who are installed to the ministry of Lector are to become heralds of God’s Word, believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.” Following the homily Cardinal Baggio placed the Holy Scriptures in the hands of each candidate and said, “Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people.”

The seminarians, currently in their first year of theological formation for the priesthood, will have three additional years of theological, spiritual, and pastoral formation 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, 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 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pnac/albums> in the coming days. News organizations may contact pnacdc@pnac.org for photo permissions.

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