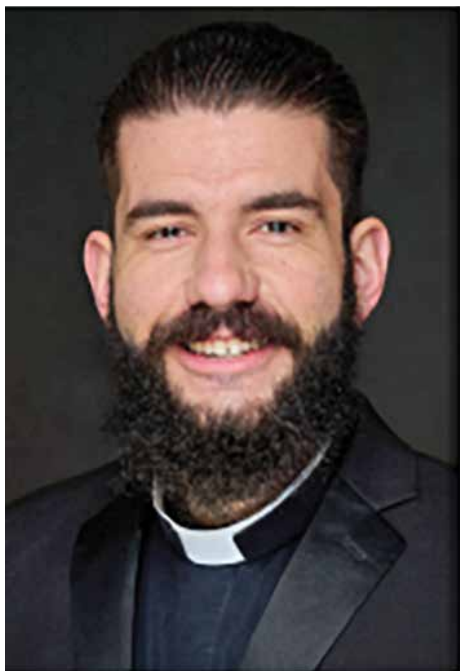




A special grant was created from donations given at the closing Mass of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in 2024 to fund partial scholarships for 16 seminararians selected by their bishops in home mission dioceses and eparchies. Our last four Catholic Home Missions Eucharistic Seminararians are highlighted here in this issue of *Neighbors*.

We pray that all of us may continue to revive our understanding of, reverence for, and appreciation for the Holy Eucharist in our hearts, homes, and parishes and throughout our land.



## Patrick Germann

### Diocese of Stockton

“I was born in Ceres, California, in 1994. I am the eldest of three children. I attended public schools from kindergarten through college, graduating from Stanislaus State University in 2016 magna cum laude with a BA in history and English. I earned my California Single Subject Teaching Credential in 2017 and taught high school history courses until the end of the 2019-2020 school year, at which time I entered St. Patrick’s Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.

“The first person suggesting my vocation to the priesthood was a seminarian during his pastoral internship at my home parish of Sacred Heart. My faithful family and siblings, along with many faithful and joyful priests, helped foster my vocation generally and priesthood specifically. I felt the call to priesthood while working as a teacher and growing in my understanding of the faith. I felt called by the Lord to more than just worldly success, and to find out what I was truly made for: to serve God in this life and to be happy with him in the next. I had the grace to attend the National Eucharistic Congress with my brother seminararians from my diocese and was overwhelmed by the great faith and hope the Congress imparted. In particular, worshipping the Lord in the blessed Sacrament with thousands of other Catholics every night was powerful beyond words. The Congress was a landmark moment for my vocation and my faith, and God willing I can return in 2033 for the next Congress—as a priest for Christ and his Church!”



## Justin Jose

### St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Chicago

“My name is Justin Jose, and I am a seminarian studying for the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago. I grew up in Chantilly, Virginia, in a family of five, with an older brother and a younger sister. I am currently pursuing a degree in philosophy at St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“My discernment to priesthood began during my sophomore year of high school. One day, I joined my parish’s former pastor to visit a family he was close to. After hearing about challenges the family was experiencing, the pastor made it a priority to visit them every Sunday, driving two hours back and forth to be present with them.

“When we arrived at their home, the joy and happiness on their faces when they saw the pastor is something I cannot forget. They greeted him as if he were a member of their own family. It was then that I was deeply attracted by this relationship between priests and families. This encounter was one of the driving forces of my discernment and continues to inspire me on this journey.

“One of the major highlights of the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis was being able to serve in the Holy Qurbana—the Syro-Malabar Eucharistic celebration—and experience the unity of the Church and also a reminder of the universal nature of the Catholic faith.”



A special grant was created from donations given at the closing Mass of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in 2024 to fund partial scholarships for 16 seminarians selected by their bishops in home mission dioceses and eparchies. Our last four Catholic Home Missions Eucharistic Seminarians are highlighted here in this issue of *Neighbors*.

We pray that all of us may continue to revive our understanding of, reverence for, and appreciation for the Holy Eucharist in our hearts, homes, and parishes and throughout our land.



## Dalton Lopez

### Diocese of Spokane

“I am in my first year of seminary after graduating from Catholic high school. I was raised in the small farming town of Walla Walla, Washington. I grew up ‘cradle Catholic’ with my parents and younger sister and became an altar server when I was in middle school. I did not really begin to understand my faith until I was in high school, when my pastor, Fr. Tuckerman, began to invest his time in teaching the other altar servers and me what it meant to serve at Mass. I also got very involved in our parish youth group and even took up some leadership roles. During high school, I began to recognize an invitation to the priesthood. Many people helped me consider being a priest: Fr. Tuckerman, my youth minister, other priests, and seminarians I met at youth conferences.

“I attended the National Eucharistic Congress with my family as part of a group from Walla Walla. I really enjoyed adoration every night of the Congress. Worshipping Jesus in the monstrance with 50,000-plus people helped me realize powerfully how amazing God is in bringing his faithful people together.”



## Mykola Ozarko

### Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford

“My name is Mykola Ozarko, and I am 23 years old. I was born on December 17, 2001, in Chortovets, Ukraine. My father, Ruslan Ozarko, is a priest in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and my mother, Nina Ozarko, is a homemaker. I have a younger sister, Veronika, who currently studies in Ukraine.

“From a young age, I dreamed of becoming a priest. I served as chairman of the student parliament during secondary school in Buchach, Ukraine. In 2018, I entered Lviv Theological Seminary of the Holy Spirit, where I was elected elder and actively participated in the seminary choir and the St. Nicholas Fraternity. In 2021, I transferred to St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, Connecticut, to continue my formation and began pursuing a BA in philosophy at nearby Sacred Heart University, graduating in 2024 with summa cum laude honors. I am in my first year of theological studies at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

“As a dedicated priest, my father was the first to suggest I might have a vocation to the priesthood. My family, spiritual director, and seminary community have supported and guided me as I discern this calling, which I first began to feel during my teenage years.”