



Catholic Foundation OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

*“You have been told O Man
what is required of you.*

*To do good, to do what is right, to love goodness,
and to walk humbly
with our God.”*

— Rev. Stephen Halabura
quoting the prophet Micah

Support an endowment fund for Seminarian Education

The need for more good priests is greater now than ever. And the cost to educate these men who have answered the call to serve God and the more than 260,000 Catholics living in the Diocese of Allentown has increased dramatically. It costs \$37,000 per year to educate a seminarian. Multiply that number by eight years and you have a total bill of almost \$300,000.

Creating a named endowment fund with the Catholic Foundation at the \$50,000 starting level provides the needed support every year to educate our seminarians. You also may choose to contribute to an existing endowment fund that

supports seminarian education with any size gift. Or perhaps you could pool together with your seminary classmates to start a class fund.

By helping those called to serve today, you will demonstrate your sincere gratitude for the seminarian education you received.

There are many ways to contribute to an existing endowment fund or to start a new fund. These include:

- Cash donations
- Appreciated stock
- IRA transfers
- Insurance policies
- Bequests

Seminarians benefit from Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund



As a former Army chaplain deployed in Afghanistan, Fr. Christopher Butera had to be keenly aware of his surroundings. Although the United States was decreasing its presence, attacks on U.S. forces had increased and there was a bounty on Christian chaplains. In addition to his safety, Fr. Butera was on constant alert monitoring the disposition and spiritual well-being of his soldiers.

These heightened awareness skills have proved beneficial in Butera's role as Director of Seminarian Formation for the Diocese of Allentown. Butera identified a need for Juan Rodriguez, a Third-year Theology seminarian at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and matched it with funding generated by the Reverend Stephen J. Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund managed by the Catholic Foundation.

"We noticed Juan was struggling in the classroom and in his study of English as a second language," Butera said. "We wanted to help him meet the necessary academic and English proficiency required for ordination."

During conversations with Juan, Fr. Butera observed Rodriguez leaning in further than usual



Juan Eduardo Rodriguez (right), a seminarian from Allentown, has benefited from the Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund thanks to the keen observation of Rev. Christopher Butera, Director of Seminarian Formation for the Diocese.

and turning his head whenever someone was speaking to him. "We suspected that Juan may have a hearing issue," he said.

Butera's observation proved correct. Testing revealed that Rodriguez had 85 percent hearing in his left ear and only 48 percent hearing in his right. Factory noise from a previous



job may have contributed to his condition.

With funding from the Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund, Rodriguez was fitted with hearing aids. It changed his world.

"I am now able to better understand when people are talking to me and to learn the correct pronunciations of English words," Rodriguez said. "Having balanced hearing has made a big difference."

Rodriguez was born in the Dominican Republic. His family came to the U.S. in 2007 and settled in St.

The Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund was started three years ago to support the educational needs of seminarians in the Diocese. Fr. Stephen Halabura, who is retired and living in Bethlehem, celebrated his 57th year as a priest last June.

"I feel a true sense of gratitude for the education I received during my formation," Fr. Halabura said. "I started this fund to help our seminarians and their families afford the rising cost of their education."

It costs \$37,000 per year to educate a seminarian. Multiply that number by eight years and families are looking at a total bill of almost \$300,000.

"In addition to prayers for vocations, it also takes our financial support," Halabura said. "I hope my fellow priests consider starting their own endowment fund with the Catholic Foundation or contribute to this one."

Paul's parish in Allentown. With only one Hispanic priest in the Diocese, Rodriguez has a strong desire to give back and serve the growing Hispanic population.

"The gift of hearing will allow me to complete my formation in the Seminary and then serve my Spanish community," Rodriguez said.

Catholic Foundation helps to secure the Church's Mission

The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania shares the belief with its donors that the institutions and ministries that best demonstrate true Catholic faith and service should live forever. The Foundation offers a best-in-class, long-term investment strategy with solid returns. The emphasis on Catholic values and donor intent, coupled with sound fundraising and marketing guidance, sets it apart from private investment firms. As a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization independent from the Diocese, the Catholic Foundation manages assets, generates perpetual income and provides financial stability for Catholic parishes, educational institutions and non-profits.

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If you would like to give a donation to the Reverend Stephen J. Halabura Seminary Endowment Fund, or **for more information** about the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania please contact:

Pete Waldron, Executive Director
petewaldron@catholicfoundationep.org or 610-554-1941

catholicfoundationep.org

