

Celebrating
FIVE YEARS
AUGUST 2018 to MAY 2023





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A LETTER FROM

Most Rev. Joseph M. Siegel

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus!

Soon after I arrived in Evansville in December 2017, I had a meeting with Fr. Alex Zenthoefer, who was serving as our diocesan Director of Vocations at that time. In our conversation, he proposed that the diocese establish a discernment house for young adult men considering priesthood. They would reside at the house as they attended college or worked while they participated in a program of spiritual and formation activities to help them learn more about priesthood and ministry.

Within a few months, this idea began to take shape. The former rectory at Sacred Heart Church on Evansville's west side was chosen as the site for this new initiative. The residence is a convenient drive to Evansville's colleges, and it has plenty of space for three to five residents, including a resident priest. The House was named for Fr. Anthony Deydier, a 19th century pioneer priest and missionary who ministered in the Evansville area. Fr. Tyler Tenbarger, the House's Director and Chaplain, began his assignment there in August 2018, when our first three residents moved in.

Over these past five years, the house of discernment has borne fruit in so many ways. Seventeen men have called the Deydier House "home," and many subsequently entered the seminary. I have been inspired to witness the outpouring of support from the clergy and laity of the Diocese for the House and its ministries. From the generosity of many benefactors from all over the diocese for renovation projects and weekly meals, to the consistently large community of Catholics worshipping together at the Monday night vocation Mass, and with the increasing number of seminarians, it is clear the Holy Spirit is moving our local Church to renew and sustain a culture of vocations. The Father Deydier House of Discernment has become a hub for these efforts and a font of many graces.

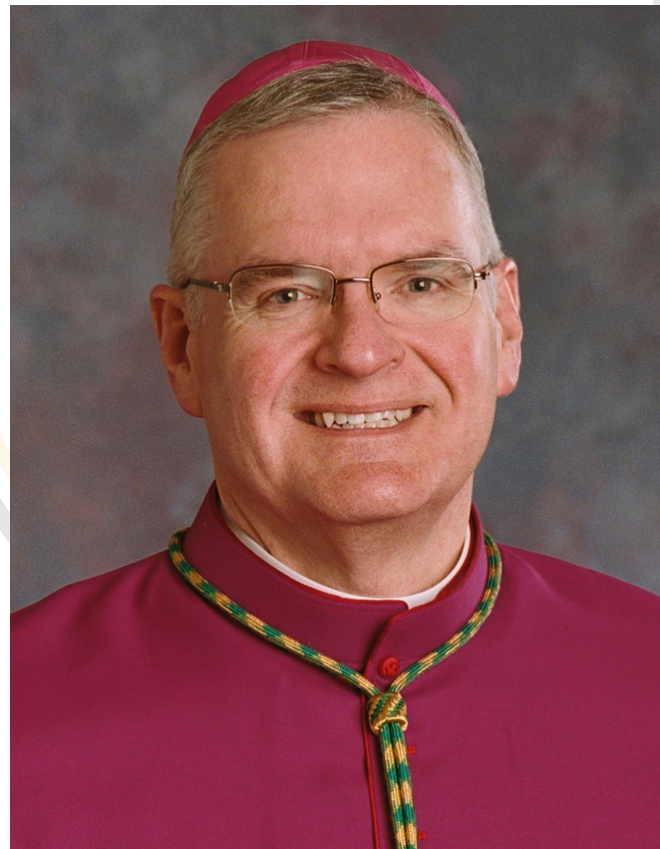
As we mark this fifth anniversary, please know of my gratitude for you and all you have done and continue to do for the House, Fr. Tyler and the residents. Without your efforts, the blessings we have all experienced over these past few years would not have been possible. This fall the House will transition into the home for our new seminarians who will be engaging in a propaedeutic program during their first year of formation. Please continue to pray for and support these men during the coming months of intense discernment, prayer, study and apostolic work.

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, may Our Lord richly pour into your lives blessings in abundance for the abundance you have shown to this ministry in its first five years.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL

Bishop of Evansville



A LETTER FROM

Rev. Tyler R. Tenbarger

Dear Friends of the House of Discernment,

Glory be to God! In five years, you have allowed the Lord Jesus to do so much good at the Father Deydier House of Discernment and through ministries started here. As the first chapter in our history comes to a close, we give thanks to God for the manifold blessings! Those blessings began from the very first days.

When the House opened back in the summer of 2018, the Holy Spirit was moving. I had arrived back from studies in Rome to a rectory already undergoing renovation. The late Fr. Phil Kreilein and the people of Resurrection Parish welcomed me back into their family as the renovations wrapped up. From the seed of their kindness, so many others from the West Side of Evansville began chipping in, and then friends from the East Side, Gibson County and further out pitched in to build, paint, furnish and even to simply fill the refrigerator of this old, beautiful home for its first residents. When one of the first residents moved in August, he was struck with gratitude and asked, "Is all of this just for us?" Yes, I told him. The people of this diocese want all of this for you. They still do, and here are just some of those blessings.

Seventeen men from fourteen different parishes have called this House their home. More than half of them have gone to the seminary or the monastery after living here. The Attic, Library, Basement, and new Priest Suite were all added since our doors opened in 2018. Our Monday Night "Holy Hour & Mass for Vocations" continues to draw hundreds of Catholics to pray and gather for fellowship, and many of them are in their teenage or young adult years. The Savio brotherhood has summoned more than 200 teenage guys from more than half of the parishes of our diocese for fraternity and faith formation. Several of them are intending on following a priestly call. We have hosted Discernment Retreat Weekends, MC Training Camps, Father-Son Retreats, Hot Wings Nights for priestly fraternity, and Christmas parties for college men. Six Eagle Scout Projects have

been completed to improve the House so far, and the Church at Sacred Heart has also benefited from a new sound system and a new confessional, both from the generosity of those who love this ministry and this campus. A new endowment has also been established for the long-term good of this ministry.

And these are just some of the blessings we can recount. The House has become a diocesan hub for vocations, and the ministry here has launched so many opportunities for creating and sustaining a "culture of vocations" in our church beyond the Sacred Heart campus. **Glory be to God!**

The Providence of God the Father, the clear guidance of the Son, and the fire of the Holy Spirit has made possible all of this and more, and the Holy Trinity chose to use the men and women of this diocese to make it all happen. **Thank You** for being the hands and feet of Christ. Let us all give Glory to God for calling us to be a part of this work!

Peace!

Rev. Tyler R. Tenbarger

Diocesan Director of Vocations and Director of the Propaedeutic Program at the Father Deydier House of Discernment



House Residents



2018 – 2019

Isaac Memmer, St. James Parish
Michael Mosbey, Good Shepherd Parish
Ethan Dale, Resurrection Parish
Clint Johnson, Holy Cross Parish



2019 – 2020

Craig Wilmes, Holy Redeemer Parish
Michael Mosbey, Good Shepherd Parish
Chase Riecker, St. Isidore the Farmer Parish



2020 – 2021

Jacob Schneider, Corpus Christi Parish
Jacob Greulich, Corpus Christi Parish
Nicholas Folz, Good Shepherd Parish
Kienan Corcoran, Little Flower Parish (Indianapolis)
Bradley Gehlhausen, St. Mary Parish (Ireland)



2021 – 2022

James Wassmer, Resurrection Parish
Keith Hart, St. Peter Parish (Montgomery)
Blaise Kelley, St. Wendel Parish
Chuy Lara, St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Jacob Greulich, Corpus Christi Parish



2022 – 2023

Landon Wagner, All Saints Parish (Evansville)
James Wassmer, Resurrection Parish
Landon Mayer, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish (Haubstadt)

THE FATHER DEYDIER

House of Discernment

An extensive renovation preceded the opening of the House at Sacred Heart. Contractors, designers, painters, and volunteers made it possible for a tired house to become a warm home. The number of volunteer hours offered in the summer of 2018 cannot be counted. Women and men from many parishes showed up with supplies and eager hearts to get the first and second floors of

the House ready for its first residents. Donations of furniture, lighting, dishes, and furnishing for the House's chapel were also gratefully accepted that summer.

Later, in 2019 and 2020, renovations to the basement and attic would be completed by more generous volunteers. In 2023, a library was added on the main floor, and a new priest-suite was made for a second priest to live in the House. †



Life in the House

The House of Discernment was established as a stepping stone for guys discerning priesthood. Often, a young man is unsure whether to enter seminary, and leaving behind one's work life or changing one's school and major can be a big step when uncertain about the authenticity of the perceived vocational call.

At the House, 18–30-year-old men have been given a taste of seminary life while immersed in a faithful brotherhood. Prayer times have been established each day and are tailored each semester to the work or school schedules of all of the men in the House. Concretely, most semesters have held Morning Prayer or an evening Holy Hour daily with a few daily Masses and a formation conference offered each week. The fall and spring semesters each offer opportunities for a retreat weekend with the House director, and a few other formation opportunities are offered: monthly spiritual direction, common reading, devotionals during Lent, and invitations to join Fr. Tyler as he does priestly ministry.



Typically, each man committed to living in the House and giving the Lord a full academic year to make clear each resident's primary question: "Is the Lord calling me to go to seminary or not this coming year?" However, because each resident has been able to remain at his school or in his line of work, a few have found their answers earlier than the full year and have moved on when they felt the time was right.

Another feature of life in the House has been the deep and real sense of community. So many people from the Diocese have made the House of Discernment their first phone call after a reception or meal, offering to bring extra food to our men, and where there is free food, there will be young men! Current and former residents have spent so much time in conversation about life, prayer, discernment, and more around the table. The House has become a home base for so many of them, even when they are no longer living there, and the generosity of spirit of the people of the Diocese has facilitated that. This sense of brotherhood is tangible and life-giving to these men, and this light is on a stand for all to see. †



Meal Train

While the House was still under renovation in the summer of 2018, a local parishioner from Resurrection stopped by one afternoon and asked Father Tyler if he could use any meals for the new residents that fall. That small, simple offer became a five-year-long, unbroken meal train on Monday nights.

Parishioners from more than a dozen parishes have signed up online to prepare and bring a meal to the House residents each Monday evening before the weekly Holy Hour & Mass for Vocations, and the residents have looked forward to that meal every week. The word has gotten out, and many others have dropped by on other weekdays with food from local events and gatherings, asking if the guys would want some good leftovers for later.

It would be impossible to adequately share the simple power of offering a meal to the men who are discerning. "We want to care for you" is what those meals say to our men, and they are learning that if they give themselves to the Lord and His Church, the Church will give itself back to them, too.

The Serra Club in the Diocese has also been a tremendous support to the House. They have stepped forward to donate and volunteer at many of our ministries, from an annual Thanksgiving Dinner with resident families to the end of the year Mass and Open House. †



St. Joseph's Attic

THE STORY OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

In the fall of 2020, diocesan seminarians were informed by their seminary staff that Thanksgiving break would be extended by several months. The ongoing concern caused by the pandemic meant that seminarians would spend more time at home before returning to seminary campuses from holiday breaks. Some of our diocesan seminarians asked to live at the House of Discernment, and since there was not enough room for them, a project was born.

A few key benefactors stepped up without hesitation and with great generosity to launch the project. Even during the pandemic, their hearts were open to Providence, and God certainly used their gifts.

A team of Catholic men from parishes, largely in Gibson and Vanderburgh counties, lead more than 50 Savio guys and other volunteers to tear apart, insulate, stain, plumb, and finish the nearly 1,500 square foot attic. Named "Saint Joseph's Attic", the third story of the House



The rectory attic stayed unfinished and unused for most of its 100-year history. Pictured here is the attic prior to any renovations

is now an eight-bed retreat space for seminarians and other discerners.

Since being blessed by Bishop Joseph Siegel on May 1, 2021, in the Year of St. Joseph, the attic named in the Saint's honor has hosted dozens of young men for prayer, games, Bible studies, spiritual direction meetings, casual fellowship, and formal retreats. †



Volunteers from many parishes spent many hours working together on St. Joseph's Attic. Pictured here, three men from Corpus Christi Parish help project manager Bill Goedde mount a support post to the ceiling.



Jude Bender, Karl Rumps and Eliott Church were just three of many Savio guys who also worked several Saturdays installing flooring in the attic.



A LOOK INSIDE

St. Joseph's Attic

Casual Sitting Area



Life-Size Statue of St. Joseph



Heating & Air Conditioning

Snack Bar

Half-Bath

Individual Bed Lights & Outlets

Poker Table

Extra Pull-Out Beds & Several Sleeping Mats

8 Beds

Monday Night

HOLY HOUR & MASS FOR VOCATIONS

In August 2018, just a few weeks after the House of Discernment had opened for its first year, House Director, Fr. Tyler Tenbarge, decided to offer a “Holy Hour & Mass for Vocations” on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart Church next to the House of Discernment. The intention was to provide the House residents an opportunity to serve a liturgy in public and to open a door to our community to come and pray with us and for vocations. The structure was simple: Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for Confession, and Benediction and Reposition before a Monday evening Mass. Within a few months, the regular attendance was more than 100 people, and today, it regularly exceeds twice that number.

Attendees now call the “Holy Hour & Mass for Vocations” evening “Monday Nights.” Since its inception nearly five full years ago, some 250 Masses have been offered at Sacred Heart Church for the intention of increasing and deepening vocations across our diocese. More than 25 different priests from our diocese have presided over one of those Masses. The FOCUS Missionaries at USI have used Monday Nights as a natural gathering place for evangelization and fellowship, including regularly praying Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours with college students after Mass concludes. Many religious sisters have also joined us for Monday Nights and spent time with our community after. †



JOIN US EVERY MONDAY



6:30 P.M. Adoration & Confession

7:30 P.M. Mass for Vocations

Savio

HOLY BROTHERHOOD



In the mid-1800's, Fr. John Bosco realized that the heart of every young man yearns for union with God and fellowship with brothers. The future Saint began gathering boys on Sunday afternoons for games, a meal, faith formation, and prayer in the city of Turin, Italy. Hundreds gathered there to learn, pray, play, and grow as young men.

Nearby in a small town, a teenager named Dominic Savio asked his parents if he could join the brotherhood. Dominic knew God was calling, and Don Bosco's brotherhood of Catholic guys would be the best place he could both grow in his faith and discern his vocation.

More than 150 years later in Evansville, a ministry born out of the House of Discernment aims to do the same thing.

"Savio," a brotherhood for teenage guys, gathers dozens of young men at the House of Discernment under the patronage of Saint Dominic Savio. Begun just one month after Bishop Siegel blessed the House in September 2018, Savio started with 14 teenage guys and their dads gathered in the living room, dining room, and chapel of the House of Discernment at Sacred Heart. Today, the monthly gatherings at both the House in Evansville and in Dubois County gather many more for the same things St. John Bosco offered young Dominic Savio and his friends: games, food, faith formation, and prayer.



In five years, more than 275 guys from at least 25 parishes have become part of the Savio brotherhood. Since its inception, Savio has grown beyond monthly gatherings on Sunday evenings to also include an annual "All Saints Day Photo Contest," an annual pilgrimage to the tomb of Servant of God, Bishop Simon Bruté at Vincennes, Discernment Retreat Weekends at the House of Discernment, an annual Father Son Retreat at Gasper River in Kentucky, and more. †



Savio brothers, Sam Hayden and Caleb Hayden, receive their trophies from the July 2022 "SAVIOlympics" competition.



Father Tyler offers faith formation at a Summer 2022 Savio Night.



Fr. Jeff Read, Fr. Tyler Tenbarger, and Fr. Luke Hassler pose with the "DuCo Savio" crew in front of St. Joseph Church in Jasper. Savio added a Dubois County campus in 2021.



Each November, Savio guys compete in an All Saints Day Photo contest. Jeremiah Steckler is pictured here dressed and posed as St. Dominic Savio.

TURIN23

discipleship & discernment with the Saints

In March 2023, Fr. Tyler Tenbarger invited 21 Savio guys to travel to Italy for a pilgrimage called "TURIN23." On this 10-day pilgrimage, the Savio boys joined Fr. Luke Hassler, three former House residents, and three Savio dads to visit Rome, Assisi, and Florence before spending three days in Turin at the home, school, and burial place of St. Dominic Savio.

Highlights of the pilgrimage included a blessing from Pope Francis at the Angelus in St. Peter's Square, playing frisbee in the same playground St. Dominic Savio would have played in with his friends, and celebrating a Mass in the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales, at the same altar where St. John Bosco celebrated Masses for St. Dominic Savio. †



The 29 men of the TURIN23 pilgrimage pause for a photo in front of the house of St. John Bosco at Valdocco in Turin in March 2023.



Some of the Savio guys paused for a snack and photo in front of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on the TURIN23 pilgrimage.

Discernment Retreats

Since the renovation of the St. Joseph Attic, the House has hosted several “Discernment Retreats” for high school and for college students. On these invitation-only weekends, young men have been blessed to see what it is like to live as a resident discernor: praying throughout the day in the House chapel, cooking and

cleaning up together, reading and hearing talks by the House Director and residents, and spending time in fellowship with one another as they talk about their own callings. It can be difficult for young men to hear the voice of Jesus Christ shepherding them in their vocations, and the retreat time along with the brotherhood really helps. †



Discerners make themselves at home in the St. Joseph Attic on retreat weekends.



Blake Hershberger, Karl Rumps and Christian Durcholz praying the Liturgy of the Hours together in the House Chapel.

Eagle Scout Projects

In these first five years, five Eagle Scout projects have also been completed at the campus by members of Troop 399: a new privacy fence was added along the backyard of the House by Aiden Fehrenbacher; Grant McIntosh later added landscaping to the fence Aiden had built; Jack Martin refreshed the front landscaping at the

House and added a sign; Zack Emge redid the landscaping around the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; a brick patio was added behind the House by Garrett Kuhn. Another Eagle Scout project is being finished in June 2023 by Lucas Church: renovating a room in the basement for additional Savio gathering space. †



Young adults gather frequently after Monday Night Mass on the new patio installed by Eagle Scout Garrett Kuhn.



Father Tyler is pictured with Aiden Fehrenbacher after he completed the privacy fence for his Eagle Scout Project in May of 2021.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Training Camp

In the summer of 2021, the House hosted a “Master of Ceremonies Training Camp.” More than 20 guys from almost as many parishes attended the three-day, overnight camp facilitated by diocesan priests and seminarians. There, each teenage guy learned the basics of how to serve various liturgies in addition to learning more about the history, symbolism, and sacramental reality found in the Mass, the Eucharist, and more. The second camp was hosted in 2022, with even more parishes participating.

At the close of the camps, each trained MC is given a red cassock and white surplice. These match the vestiture of some of the patron Saints of altar servers: St. John Berchmans and St. Dominic Savio being two of them. To date, the more than 45 trained servers from about half of our diocesan parishes have served well in their own parishes at ordinary and at special Masses, helping guide other servers and assisting their pastors to make



Seminarian Caleb Scherzinger explains the vestments of clergy as part of the “MC Training Camp” in 2021.

the liturgy reverent and smooth. They have also begun serving for Bishop Siegel at diocesan events when our seminarians are unavailable. †



Cleric Cup

What can beat seeing priests playing sports against guys half (or more) of their age? The “Cleric Cup” volleyball tournament began in 2021, pitting teams of priests, seminarians, House residents, and Savio guys against one another. Hosted each year in Haubstadt, the July event has drawn more than 250 attendees each year for Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul

Parish before the games and food at the Haubstadt Old Gym. Attendees have remarked that their favorite part of the event is seeing the spectrum of discernment and brotherhood on display at the event. There are seminarians against the House residents, of whom they used to be a part, and teenage guys playing against 50-year-old priests on whose team they may one day belong. †



Siena

HOLY SISTERHOOD

After four successful years of Savio, the young women of the diocese were asking if they could have something for the girls. Five young adult women stepped up to create “Siena,” a sisterhood of faith formation for teenage girls named after St. Catherine of Siena. The community just finished its first full year in May 2023. Their meetings were also on Sunday afternoons each month, gathering at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight for activities, snacks, faith formation, and prayer. In just their first year, the girls had over 100 attendees from at least 16 parishes. †



Siena sisters, Jessie Bacon and Jordan Bacon, pose for a photo during the first combined Savio/Siena group event held at Corpus Christi Church in April 2023.



At one meeting, the girls were separated into groups to participate in “Virtue Games” to help them work as a team and grow in virtue.



After most meetings, the girls gathered in St. John the Evangelist’s church for time to journal, reflect, and pray.



A New Program

THE HOUSE'S PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE

In 2016, the Vatican's Dicastery for the Clergy released a new "Ratio Fundamentalis," that is, a guiding document casting a renewed vision for priestly formation and accompanying men who are discerning. That decree was studied by each conference of bishops around the world, and our bishops in the United States decided their strategy and received confirmation for implementation in 2022 on their document called the "Program for Priestly Formation, Sixth Edition" (PPF6). On August 4, 2023 – the feast of St. John Vianney, patron of priests – this Program for Priestly Formation will take effect for all American dioceses.

One of the main changes that Catholics will notice in how our men are formed is their initial experience after acceptance as seminarians. Men who are hearing a potential call to priesthood will no longer be sent immediately to seminary campuses for philosophy studies. Rather, the Ratio and PPF6 call dioceses to make plans to form them at home in their first year. This time of initial formation is called a "Propaedeutic Stage," a period of preparatory formation.

Thus, the House will transition this fall. We will host our first-year seminarians during the Propaedeutic Stage. The House Director and Chaplain will become the primary formator for the men, teaching them classes on the Catechism, Sacred Scripture, lives of the Saints, Vatican II, and more. Each man will also have bi-weekly spiritual direction with a priest of our diocese, and about half of the weekends for the men will be spent visiting parishes for weekend Masses. The goal of the Propaedeutic Stage is multifaceted but simple: Young men need time to grow as men and to form a brotherhood. They also need to know who the local Church is, and the Church needs to know who the men are. This period of preparation will offer our seminarians time, relationships, and resources to discover more clearly the voice of Christ in prayer and to encounter the bride He is possibly calling them to serve. Then, after a year of preparation, they may choose even more freely to continue formation at a seminary campus in their next stages. †



Propaedeutic Stage Calendar

AUGUST

Fall Seminarian Gathering

House Move-In

New Man House Retreat

SEPTEMBER

through

APRIL

Human Formation

- Bi-weekly meetings with Director
- Weekly formation conferences on leadership, habits of virtue, and self-awareness

Intellectual Formation

- Weekly courses on the Bible, Catechism, and the Saints

Spiritual Formation

- Bi-weekly Spiritual Direction meetings
- Monthly Days of Reconciliation
- Common Reading

Pastoral Formation

- Bi-weekly Parish Vocations Weekends
- Bible Studies at high schools
- Ministry to the poor

MAY

Final evaluation and discernment decisions

End-of-Year Retreat and Pilgrimage

Graduation Mass and Open-House

JUNE & JULY

Summer Pastoral Internships in local parishes

A Larger Community



WINGS NIGHT

Fr. Andrew Thomas initiated an annual “Wings Night” at the House for priests and discerners, offering a tasting of hot wing sauces to brave and hungry participants.



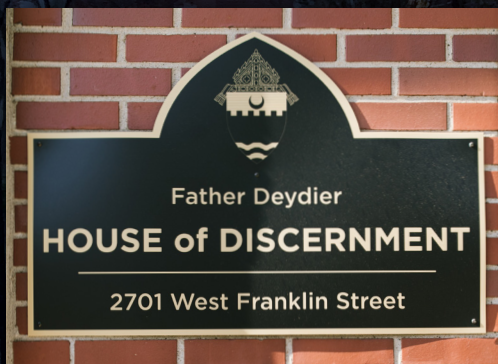
NEW CONFESSIONAL

A generous benefactor approached Fr. Tyler in Fall 2022 with a gift for the ministry of the House. That began the project of adding a replica confessional to Sacred Heart Church to accommodate the long line of penitents on Monday Nights.



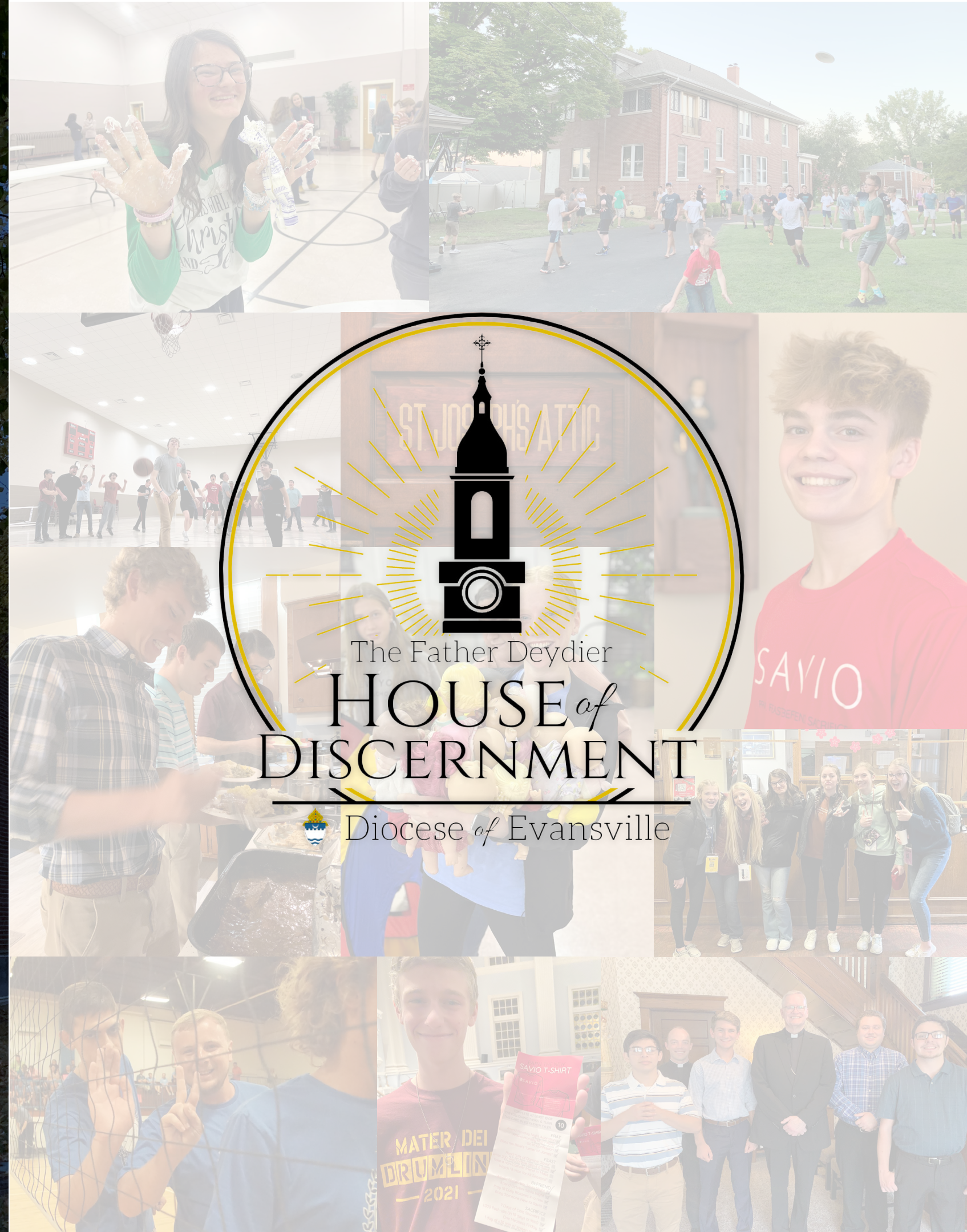
MAN CHRISTMAS

Just before Christmas every December, young adult men are invited to the House for food, fellowship, a gift exchange, and the now-infamous “Left-Right-Center” game.



HOUSE ENDOWMENT

An anonymous benefactor donated a large sum to start an endowment for the future of the House of Discernment and its ministries. If you would like to contribute to sustaining the future of the House, please contact Fr. Tyler.





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