

*The Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), formerly the Archdiocesan Annual Fund Drive, is an annual effort by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to spread the Gospel through informing and engaging the faithful with important regional ministries that benefit thousands of people throughout nineteen counties in western and southwestern Ohio. We invite you to share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to participate in the life of our local church through these ministries.*

## MINISTRY EDUCATION

*Give thanks for God's call of your own calling from God by supporting the education and formation of priests, deacons, and lay pastoral ministers who serve the 218 parishes of the Archdiocese. Your CMA gift also helps promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

This is just one of the ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. To find out more, visit [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info).

**Always  
Everywhere**

**Give Thanks**

# A BLESSING IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.

Father Ryan Ruiz, ordained in 2008 and currently serving as Associate at Incarnation Parish in Centerville, reflects on the important role that Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West played in his own vocation and formation for ministry.

“Urbana is my hometown, and I went to Dennison for college, so I've spent my life in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The pastor of my home parish, who received his own formation at our seminary, was a real inspiration to me growing up. He was a priest who enjoyed being a priest, who lived his vocation with joy—and that was wonderful to see as I came to experience my own call from God.

“I entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West right after college, in 2003. Of course I still had a lot of questions: Am I really cut out for this? Am I up to what the priesthood expects of me? I received so much support at the seminary as I worked through these questions, not only from the faculty, but from the whole community that is The Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary's—my fellow seminarians, those preparing for the diaconate, lay people preparing for pastoral ministry. To be with so many people, all aspiring to live out their call from God, really made a difference.

“And it's not just those of us who studied there who benefit. The Athenaeum and Mount St. Mary's nurture the whole diocese. It's a true blessing to have this institute, this place of higher learning in the Archdiocese—the fruits of our prayer for vocations and a priceless resource for the future of the Church, right in our own backyard!”