



BIKE FOR COLLARS

**SERVES:
DIOCESE**

**TIME:
MAR / APR**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

Review and discuss the data from the file:
“1965-2014 USA Catholic Data.pdf”



Did you know:

- There is an extreme shortage of priests in our country.
- In 1967-88, there were 8,000 seminarians studying theology, 13,400 college seminarians, and almost 16,000 high school seminarians. Today, most all of the high school seminaries have closed except 4, with approx. only 488 students. There are no tracked college seminarians, and only 3,631 seminarians.(2014 stats). This is a huge decline, as the population has increased over the past 50 years.
- In 1965 there was 549 US parishes without a full time pastor. Today there are 3,496 parishes without a full time pastor.
- It costs an average of \$32,000 per year to house, feed and educate a full time seminarian? It takes an average of 7 years before they are ordained = approx. \$224,000 total cost for a ordaining a priest. Inflation is rising each year, driving that cost up even more.
- We need priests! How can we support the seminarians that we have? How can we show them how much we appreciate them giving their lives generously for us?

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS?

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's organize a Bike for Collars – Bike-A-Thon to smoke our bike tires to raise awareness and funds for our diocesan seminarians! Let's burn rubber!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p>Reach Out: The first thing to do is to reach out to the diocese and find out how to best support the seminarians. Most of the time, monetary support is most needed. Tell them what you want to do, and ask if some seminarians would be willing to participate.</p> <p>Plan Date: You will need to plan the date and time as well as a safe location.</p>	XXXX
2	<p>Check: Check with the local county to see if you need a permit and police escorts to hold a bike-a-thon on public roads. If public roads become too difficult or dangerous to do, try a local school or park with a large track or field that could be used.</p>	XXXX
3	<p>Flyer: Make a professional flyer, asking for participation and support for the “Bike for Collars” project.</p> <p>Pledge Cards: Make some pledge cards for your team and other participants to obtain donations / pledges per mile.</p>	XXXX
4	<p>Promote: Hang flyers, promote in parish bulletin, social media and to all friends and family members.</p> <p>Plan: Plan logistics such as the route, make a map, mark off mile checkpoints, plan supplies needed such as water stations, start and finish line, specific assignments for each member. Get the dads involved to help along the route to man checkpoints, follow front and behind in vehicles, etc.</p>	XXXX

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
5	<p>Pledges: All of the members should have a specific goal as to the number of pledges they want to obtain. (20 each is reasonable)</p> <p>Corporate sponsors: Get the dads to help with asking some stores/companies to sponsor the event by donating bottled water, snacks or money.</p>	XXXX
6	<p>Pledges: Keep promoting and obtaining pledges. Making calls to aunts, uncles, and other family and friends even if they live far away can be helpful and increase the fundraising substantially.</p> <p>Special Guest: If possible, this would be a good week to ask if a seminarian could come and give his testimony, or invite the parish priest to come and tell his vocation story.</p>	XXXX
7	<p>Parish: Ask the parish priest if you could collect pledges / donations after weekend Masses to support seminarians.</p>	XXXX
8	<p>Bike!: It would be good to do a 5 mile Bike for Collars, where each mile you stop and say a decade of the rosary, refuel with water, and do the next mile. After the event, the boys should make a large card for the seminarians, each sign it and ideally they should personally deliver the funds they raised to the seminary.</p>	<p>Service Project: There is a short Gospel Reflection to help motivate the boys for this apostolic project.</p>

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- Ideally, this project should be at least 5 miles, on safe roads that are less travelled / low traffic. You will need to contact the county and have vehicle escorts.
- A school track or open field, calculate how many times around the track they need to go to fulfill the 5 miles.
- A neighborhood is also a safe possibility, just make sure to check with the homeowners association prior for permission.

PROVISIONS

- Flyers (or posters)
- Pledge cards
- Each member will need a bike and rosary
- Map of route
- Water stations (for each mile)
- Lead and tail vehicles (keep all bikes in center of these during route)
- Safety vests (bright orange) for all riders if on public road route.
- Start and Finish line posters or banners
- Large poster for making card for seminarians

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Flyers or posters (one or two members)
- Pledge Cards (one or two members) These should be very well done.
- Pledge follow up: Each members should be responsible for collecting their pledges in advance or immediately after the event.
- Water stations: Ideally the dads should be present at each mile for a water station and obtaining the supplies.
- Start / finish line: dads should be present at both
- First aid: A mom should be asked to help on site with a small first aid kit in case there is a fall and minor injury.
- Promotion: All members should help promote and gather pledges, ideally after weekend Masses if the parish pastor provides permission and on social media.

CONTACTS

- Diocese: Diocesan seminary or vocation director / office.
- Pastor: To provide permission to take pledges after Masses and promote.
- Parents: Should be asked to help and participate in this project, as each member should be riding in the Bike for Collars project.
- Seminarians: Should be invited to the event, or even to participate and try to obtain their own pledges.
- Benefactors: People who you ask to pledge can be more aware of the needs to support seminarians.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- Seminarians should be asked to participate in the event. They can obtain pledges from people they know as well, and ride their bike in the Bike for Collars.
- Praying for the seminarians is also very important. They boys could have people not only pledge funds to help, but also pledge prayers, rosaries and Masses that they will offer up for the seminarians. This can be presented on the cards along with the funds in the form of a spiritual bouquet of prayers. (For example: 100 Masses offered, 150 rosaries prayed, 390 prayers said, etc.) This helps them see how loved and supported they really are.
- Have the Junior and Father & Son Programs participate in the Bike for Collars as well if possible.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- If a Bike for Collars is too difficult to do, you can simply have the team spend a few weeks obtaining prayer, Mass and rosary pledges for seminarians from people that they know (or even after weekend Masses) to make a nice card to send to the seminary.
- The boys could adopt a seminarian to pray for each week, or to raise funds throughout the year to support him.

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ROLL CALL

ORGANIZING THE TEAM

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
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PROJECT NOTES:

