

XAVIER † HOUSE

CATHOLIC MEN'S DISCERNMENT

Diocese of Green Bay

Name: The name of the house shall be Xavier House for Catholic Men's Discernment (Xavier House).

Mission:

Xavier House for Catholic Men's Discernment seeks to provide young men experiences of community living to assist in their discernment of a possible call from God to the diocesan priesthood.

Vision:

Xavier House will be a place for young Catholic men to live in Christian community and discern God's call in their lives through prayer, brotherhood and service.

Xavier House will promote community life through daily common prayer and regularly scheduled community nights, including shared meals, fellowship and faith sharing. In addition to scheduled interaction, residents will seek to foster community living, service and fellowship on a regular basis.

Xavier House will be a place of outreach for non-residents seeking Christian fellowship, discipleship and help in vocational discernment. Discernment groups, prayer and study groups, and fellowship will be offered to non-residents, especially those who may be discerning God's call in their lives. Such gatherings are meant to supplement, not replace, campus or parish ministry offerings.

Objectives:

- To provide a positive environment for young Catholic men to live in Christian community.
- To assist men in discerning God's call in their lives, especially as it relates to Christian leadership and diocesan priesthood.
- To encourage faith formation and Catholic Christian discipleship.
- To foster relationships among young adults of faith.
- To provide outreach and hospitality to non-resident young adults who seek spiritual growth.
- To be a witness of dynamic Catholic faith.
- To provide a short-term place to stay for seminarians and other young men and to encourage interaction and fellowship between seminarians and those in earlier stages of discernment.

Residents of Xavier House will normally:

- be age 20 – 45;
- desire to follow the call of God in their lives, and be open to the possibility that God's call is to the diocesan priesthood for the Diocese of Green Bay;
- seek to develop a deeper faith life within the community of the Church;
- have participated in a Priest Perceiver Interview;
- reside at the discernment house for up to one year, with extensions possible at the discretion of the Director of the House.

St. Francis Xavier is the patron of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, and of the parish which provides the building for this House of Discernment. St. Francis Xavier was a companion of St. Ignatius Loyola, and among the initial leaders of the Society of Jesus. He served as a missionary to India, Japan and China, where he died in 1552. Fr. Claude Allouez celebrated the first Catholic Mass in what is now the Diocese of Green Bay on December 3, 1669, on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. The site of the first Mass, Oconto, was established as the first Catholic mission, and named St. Francis Xavier. After several years, this mission was moved to present day De Pere before it was burned in 1687. The city of De Pere is named after these early priest missionaries. The Ignatian sense of mission and spirituality, as exemplified by St. Francis Xavier, provides a good basis for men discerning a call to diocesan priesthood.

April 2007