

# SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area. Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards.

**Let's take a closer look at Father Chuck Dornquist's vocation journey...**

"I had a tremendous desire as a kid, a tremendous encounter with Jesus Christ, with His Church and this instilled in me the hope that one day I, a kid from a broken family, could somehow be a priest of Jesus Christ. I joined the seminary at age 17, and during my formation at St. John Vianney Seminary I picked up the Spanish language. I learned Spanish because there are people who come to this diocese who need to hear about hope and the love of Jesus Christ just like everyone else.

I began to see while in seminary and in different opportunities of ministry that the Lord was using me...my gifts, my talents, He was using my heart, and the further I got into the seminary experience I realized that by being present, visiting hospital rooms, nursing homes, even teaching Haitian women English...there was hope.

**The hope that I received as a kid, the hope that I might one day bring the love of Jesus Christ to others...that hope was bearing fruit in the lives of others.**

Hope is not a future thing, hope is a conviction. It is the firm conviction that Christ who has already gained victory and is present to us in our lives will also be present tomorrow. For me, to have the virtue of hope is to have the conviction that Christ who has already been with me will continue to be with me.

In this day and time, in such uncertainty, where is the hope? In a priest's daily life they can go through so many experiences in a single day and face so many realities in other people's lives in a single day, this is possible because of the conviction that Christ abides. With faith as a firm foundation and with conviction we can move forward and make the Kingdom of God a reality for those we interact with.

I remember going through the seminary process I often thought and prayed about what the daily life of a priest would be. Now 27, I am now in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of priesthood at St. Lawrence parish and I have to say, it far exceeds what I intended or planned on."

*The preparation, formation and education of our seminarians, and the care and benefits of our priest personnel are provided in part through donations to the Annual Pastoral Appeal. For more information on vocations and vocation awareness programs, please visit: <http://www.dosp.org/vocations/>.*



**Inspire hope-make your gift today!**

This information has been provided by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development. To learn more about ministries, services and programs funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit [dosp.org](http://dosp.org).

