



## CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF NORTHERN UTAH

November 27, 2024  
*Feast of St Laverius*

Your Excellency, Bishop Oscar Solis,

We are grateful for your spiritual leadership of the Salt Lake Diocese. We really enjoyed attending the recent Ordination of Kenneth Parsad at the Cathedral. Thank you for taking a few minutes to talk with our students and letting them take a photo with you (see below). As Utah Catholics, we humbly serve under your guidance to deepen our faith and strengthen the church. We are committed to supporting your vision you shared in “A Springtime of the New Evangelization” and the diocesan pastoral plan.

Your call for renewed faith, evangelization, and justice aligns with our mission to raise up a generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and the truths of the Catholic faith. We are both committed to forming young people who are deeply rooted in their Catholic identity and prepared to bring the Gospel into all facets of their lives. Across the 70 Chesterton Network schools, the entire religious curriculum has received the imprimatur, affirming its alignment with Church teachings.

As you beautifully noted, the New Evangelization calls us to reignite a love for Christ in every Catholic and reach those on the margins. At Chesterton Academy, we strive to fulfill this mission by instilling in our students a deep love for the Sacraments, and the Church's timeless teachings. This is achieved through daily prayer, daily Mass, regular encounters with the Sacraments, a rigorous classical curriculum, and service. As a small classical high school *in the Catholic tradition*, we fully respect your authority and would never present ourselves as a Catholic school without your canonical approval.

Your thoughts on fostering vocations you shared at the Ordination of Deacon Kenneth Parsad deeply resonates with us, as supporting young men and women in discerning God's call is at the heart of our ministry! Chesterton Academies have a proven history of nurturing vocations and serving as effective “feeder systems” for seminaries. For instance, Chesterton Academy of the Twin Cities, our flagship school and longest-established program, regularly sees 8 to 12 percent of its male graduates pursue seminary studies. Archbishop Bernard Hebda can verify this encouraging trend and the positive impact of the ministry. With your blessing, we are confident that similar results can be achieved in Utah. Our long-term goal, both realistic and attainable, is to place four seminarians over the next fifteen years, based upon full enrollment at 60 students. In years sixteen to twenty-six, we expect to place a new seminarian every other year, based on an annual ten percent placement rate.

The Eucharist is at the heart of our ministry, as it is for our faith, and we place great importance on cultivating reverence for the Mass and the Sacraments among our young men and women. Your emphasis on Eucharistic devotion inspires us to continue building a strong Catholic foundation that will prepare students to become active and devoted members of their parishes.



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With humility, we seek a blessing for our ministry. Though we are small —serving 14 students, 13 families, and 7 teachers— our goal is ambitious: to cultivate vocations and strengthen faith formation as described in your vision for our Diocese. With an expected enrollment of around 60 students, we serve as a complement rather than a competitor to diocesan schools. Of our 14 students only one attended a diocesan parochial school. The majority of our students come from homeschool or public school backgrounds. Rest assured, we never present ourselves as a “Catholic school.” Instead, we describe our ministry as a classical high school *in the Catholic tradition*. We are passionate about our classical approach to learning and are witnessing its benefits. Please know, our doors are always open for a visit, and we welcome you anytime.

Once again thank you for your dedication. You are in our daily prayers. We always welcome an opportunity to have a dialogue with you and other offices that share in our ministry. We look forward to seeing you again on January 24th at the Mass for the Unborn, or perhaps even sooner!

With great respect and in the hope of your blessing,

*Hal L. Sanderson*

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[www.ChestertonUtah.com](http://www.ChestertonUtah.com)



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