



Vox Populi

14 August 2025

The support for this year's Seminarians' Benefit Gala Dinner – Answering the Call: A Celebration of Faith and Hope, has been overwhelming, with people across the Diocese coming together to provide financial support and prayers for both current and future seminarians.

The Diocese currently has six seminarians in various stages of formation, including three who will be ordained as Deacons in the coming weeks. It also has a number of young men discerning God's call to priestly life.

More than 300 people are expected to attend the Benefit Gala Dinner on August 22, and many have very generously pledged additional financial support through donations and sponsorships.

The strong vocational culture within the Diocese has been a credit to its parishioners, who have provided motivation, support and prayer for those already in formation, those discerning and those just beginning their priestly ministry.

"Parishioners, for the priest and the seminarian, are everything," says Shayne D'Cunha, a seminarian for Broken Bay.

"As a priest, your life doesn't make sense without parishioners and the people they're called to serve. You realise your vocation doesn't just happen, it requires the support of the people who are praying for us every day, giving their time, their energy and giving their money, because it's not cheap to form a seminarian.

"It's a real blessing to have the support of the people of our Diocese. I'm very grateful for all those who have been supporting me and my brothers in the seminary."

The number of men being ordained priests for the Diocese of Broken Bay has risen in the past few years and will hopefully continue thanks to the strong vocational culture the Diocese has built through the past few years.

There are still seats and tables available for the Benefit Gala Dinner. For those who cannot attend, please keep our priests, seminarians, and discerners in your prayers.

Book at www.trybooking.com/DDOPW . For more information, please email: events@bbcatholic.org.au