

## **#7 – Educating our Priests – St. Augustine’s Seminary**

Maybe you see the lawn signs outside a church or your school. They say ShareLife and sometimes you may wonder what they do. Well it’s simple. They collect money and then they give back to help people who need our assistance. ShareLife gives funding to 34 groups that open their doors to those struggling every day in the Greater Toronto Area. They also help to educate those who lead our family of faith.

Have you heard of St. Augustine’s Seminary, the place where men go to study to become priests and deacons? It’s another ShareLife agency that helps people like Mark. He was a successful baseball player on full scholarship with an eye to playing in the major leagues and a big bucks salary. Yet in his 20’s he started feeling something pulling at him. It was his faith. Maybe God had another plan for him. Even though his friends had a hard time understanding it, he decided to enrol at St. Augustine’s Seminary to become a priest. He remembers feeling a huge weight lifted off his shoulders when he decided to devote his life to God. Now he is a pastor at a parish in Toronto. Can you think of a time when a priest helped you out? Maybe he was there for your first communion, at the wedding of a relative or even the funeral of someone close to us who has passed away. Priests are there to help us grow in our faith journey. Priests remind us that it is so important to leave time for God in the middle of all of our busy-ness.

We pray today for those who have been called to religious life. May God continue to provide them the tools to guide us in our faith journey. We are grateful for ShareLife and their support of St. Augustine’s Seminary. May we continue to encourage those who would like to work with the church, now and always.

*Our Father...(or other appropriate prayer)*