



# FORMED

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY  
& THE PATH TO PRIESTHOOD

A DOCUMENTARY CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS OF THE NOTRE DAME  
SEMINARY IN NEW ORLEANS



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In 2023, Notre Dame Seminary celebrates its 100th anniversary! In recognition of the importance of strong spiritual formation of Catholic priests throughout the history of New Orleans, the executive producers of *Shepherd in the City: John Paul II's Visit to New Orleans*, *Catholics in the Crescent City: The First 300 Years*, *Glory Days: The Catholic League of New Orleans* and the Gabriel Award-winning films *A Legacy of Love: Henriette Delille and the Sisters of the Holy Family* and *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Gifts: The Road to Sainthood* are pleased to commemorate the centennial of the founding of the Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans with their next documentary film.

*Formed: Notre Dame Seminary and the Path to Priesthood* will bring the Graduate School of Theology's 100-year history to life through rare archival photographs and footage. Some of the many bishops and archbishops, thousands of priests, deacons and lay people who attended or have taught at the seminary, including the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, the city's only native New Orleanian NDS alumnus ever to become Archbishop of New Orleans will explain the most important functions and benefits of the seminary, and reflect on how Notre Dame Seminary has changed their lives and formed them in faith.

Navigating growing pains through the Great Depression, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement, and Vatican II, the Seminary has adapted and changed with the times. We'll experience the excitement of one of the Seminary's highest honors and Archbishop Philip M. Hannan's most treasured memories, when Pope John Paul II visited New Orleans and stayed at the Archbishop's Residence at Notre Dame for two days in 1987.

Most importantly, the film will recount the blessings that the majestic Beaux-Arts style Seminary has brought to the city, the Archdiocese and the Church over the past century, and the expansion of its campus and curriculum, which now includes theology degrees for lay people. The documentary will illustrate how, through the intercession of its Patroness, Our Lady, and the assurance of its motto, *Deus Providebit* (God will provide), Notre Dame Seminary will continue to thrive in difficult times and serve future generations into the next century and beyond.



*"Our world and our church have changed over the last century, but in that same 100 years Notre Dame Seminary has fulfilled the dream of Archbishop Shaw providing an extraordinary place for priestly formation. The seminary holds a special place in my heart as it was my humble honor and privilege to serve on the faculty and then as rector for nearly two decades. Now the second largest seminary in the United States serving dioceses across the Gulf South and beyond, Notre Dame Seminary continues its legacy of forming men into priests of Jesus Christ to serve the church into the future."*

*—Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond,  
Archbishop of New Orleans*

*Formed: Notre Dame Seminary and the Path to Priesthood* will premiere on WLAE-TV (New Orleans Public Television) in September, 2023 to coincide with the opening celebrations of the seminary's centennial.





**Executive Producers Ron Yager and Jim Dotson** are the power team responsible for dozens of award-winning films for WLAE. Their individual and collaborative careers include extensive experience and expertise producing entertaining and informative content for television audiences.

Ron and Jim have been twice-honored with coveted national Gabriel Awards in 2016 & 2017 for their Catholic documentaries, *Ordinary People*, *Extraordinary Gifts: The Road to Sainthood* and *A Legacy of Love: Henriette Delille and the Sisters of the Holy Family*. Other popular releases, including some of their Telly and Press Club of New Orleans award-winners are: *Shepherd in the City: John Paul II's Visit to New Orleans*, *Glory Days: The Catholic League of New Orleans*, *Parts*

*I, II and III*, *Catholics in the Crescent City: The First 300 Years, Parts I, II and III*, *Praying for a Miracle: The Catholic Church and the Battle of New Orleans*, and *University of Holy Cross: A Century of Teaching the Mind and Heart*.

Three of their Telly award-winning films: *Fats Domino – Walkin' Back to New Orleans*, and *Leah Chase: The Queen of Creole Cuisine*, and the additional Emmy award-winning *A Tribute to Toussaint* have enjoyed national distribution through American Public Television. Their double Emmy-award, Telly & Press Club of New Orleans award-winning film *Irma Thomas: The Soul Queen of New Orleans*, is currently available to public television stations nationwide via NETA (National Educational Telecommunications Association).

Other highly acclaimed releases include *Battlegrounds: The Lost Community of Fazendeville*, *Fitz! The Life and Political Legacy of Jimmy Fitzmorris*, *Community Coffee: Cheers to 100 Years* and their multi-Emmy Award-winning travel series *Go Coast: Louisiana* which celebrates Louisiana music, food and culture and runs locally on WLAE and statewide on LPB. Jim and Ron invite you to be a supporting partner in this film commemorating 100 years of history of Notre Dame Seminary.

**Producer Janet Gross** is an award-winning television journalist, writer and producer. She has spent her career talking to people, learning about them and telling their stories. In addition to covering TV news in several states, she's hosted television and radio talk shows in New Orleans and has written and/or narrated many documentaries for WLAE-TV including *Catholics in the Crescent City: The First 300 Years, Parts I, II and III*, *Praying for a Miracle: The Catholic Church and the Battle of New Orleans*, and both of WLAE's Gabriel award-winning films, *A Legacy of Love: Henriette Delille and the Sisters of the Holy Family*, and *Ordinary People: Extraordinary Gifts: The Road to Sainthood*.





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FRIEND  
\$500

1 Premiere party ticket.

For more information,  
please contact:

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