

This article was originally printed in the January 2012 issue of New Earth, the newspaper for the Diocese of Fargo.

Shooting Shepherds take trophy; attain back-to-back wins

Katie Bowar

About 300 fans gathered in the Shanley High School gymnasium on Dec. 22 to watch the Collar Classic and cheer for their favorite players. Others throughout the diocese listened to Father Paul Duchschere as he announced the game on Real Presence Radio.

The annual Collar Classic basketball game pits the seminarians against area priests. While the game itself is at the center of attention, the two most important aspects of the game are the camaraderie it fosters between area Catholics and the awareness it brings to vocations.

"As is usual, the Collar Classic is far more than just a basketball game to this diocese. It is but a prelude to the future cooperation that these men being called to the priesthood will one day experience in the ministry itself," said Father Duchschere. "This basketball game may end with a final buzzer, but its effects will be with us for years to come," he said.

The Shooting Shepherds entered half time with a 10-point lead. The seminarians answered back as John Miller went on to score 26 points for the Seminarian Cardinals, 15 of which came from three-pointers. However, the priests kept at it and retained their trophy with a 61-57 win over the seminarians.

In the 18 games that have been played, the priests have won 10, the seminarians have won seven, and one game ended in a tie.