

PRIESTLY FORMATION PERSONNEL

Director of Vocations

“The first responsibility for the pastoral work of promoting priestly vocations lies with the bishop, who is called to be the first to exercise this responsibility even though he can and must call upon many others to cooperate with him” (PDV 41). In the Diocese of Spokane, the Bishop delegates these duties to the Director of Vocations who is primarily responsible for the recruiting, mentoring, and screening of qualified candidates for priestly formation (PPF 508).

Director of Seminarians

The Director of Seminarians is charged by the Bishop to act as his liaison to the various seminaries in which students are enrolled. A spirit of mutual respect, trust, and collaboration should mark this relationship for the good of the candidates and the benefit of the Church (PPF 509). The Director of Seminarians maintains regular contact with the seminarians of the diocese in order to facilitate and support their formation process. In the Diocese of Spokane, the Director of Seminarians also serves as the Rector of Bishop White Seminary.

Rector of Bishop White Seminary

The Rector of Bishop White Seminary serves as the chief administrative officer and principal agent responsible for the implementation of the seminary program (PPF 461). He is the pastor of the seminary community who is to keep the spiritual and personal welfare of both faculty and students a central concern (PPF 462). The Rector is responsible to the Bishop and should consult with him in matters of major concern. He is also to give thoughtful consideration to the counsel provided by members of the Priestly Formation Council with whom he should meet on a regular basis.

Priestly Formation Council

All those who are baptized are called to collaborate in Christ’s mission. Clergy and laypeople are therefore called to cooperate with one another in all dimensions of the Church’s life and mission (PPF 22). This includes priestly formation. The Priestly Formation Council (PFC) of the Diocese of Spokane is one way this collaboration manifests itself in our local Church. The PFC is an advisory body with six principal areas of responsibility:

1. To act as a consultative body to the Bishop regarding policies and procedures relative to the priestly formation program for the Diocese of Spokane.
2. To address issues and offer recommendations regarding matters raised by the Director of Seminarians, Vocation Director and/or Rector of Bishop White Seminary.
3. To render assistance in the screening of applicants to the formation program.
4. To review on a regular basis the progress of all seminarians studying for the Diocese of Spokane.
5. Council members do not have direct access to a student’s file or psychological report and any information regarding a particular seminarian is shared at the discretion of the Bishop and/or the Director of Seminarians.

6. To consult with other Bishops or Vocation Directors in the region whose students are enrolled at Bishop White Seminary.
7. To offer personal support and encouragement to all seminarians.

The PFC consists of the Bishop, Director of Seminarians, Vocation Director, Rector of Bishop White Seminary (ex officio members), a permanent deacon, two laypeople, a Jesuit priest, two women religious and a diocesan priest. Members are appointed by the bishop and serve a three-year term.

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