

CANDIDATES FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

Contact with Director of Vocations

Men who are interested in the priestly formation program for the Diocese of Spokane should contact the Director of Vocations. If a candidate has manifested that interest to his pastor or other Church personnel, it would be helpful for that person to make contact with the Director of Vocations as well.

The Vocation Director will establish regular meetings with the interested candidate to explore his interest, answer his questions, and guide his discernment. If and when the Director judges the candidate ready to make application, he will then facilitate that process.

As a general rule, candidates must have some familiarity and connection with the Diocese of Spokane (family, education, ministry, employment, etc.).

Application Process

With the assistance of the Director of Vocations, a candidate for the priestly formation program of the Diocese of Spokane engages in the following process:

1. Completion of the confidential Seminarian Application form.
2. Submission of sacramental documents, academic records and two passport size photos.
3. Completion of a detailed autobiography.
4. Submission of two short essays on priesthood and celibacy.
5. Completed Washington State Patrol background check.
6. Interviews with two members of the Priestly Formation Council who then submit written report and recommendations.
7. Physical examination.
8. Psychological evaluation by consulting psychologist. Written report is submitted with specific recommendations.

The Director of Vocations will collect and evaluate all of the information listed above. Following this review, the Director will make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding the applicant's acceptance into the seminary program. The Bishop makes the final decision.

If the applicant is accepted as a candidate for priestly formation, a formal letter of acceptance is sent to him by the Bishop. Upon receipt of the letter, the candidate will then contact the Office of the Bishop to set up a meeting with the Bishop. This informal meeting is intended to give the Bishop an opportunity to visit with the new seminarian and begin to establish a relationship with him.

Approved: May 1, 2001