

MEMO

TO: Priests/Parish Ministers

FROM: Father Al Grasher, Vocation Director

DATE: November, 1991

General Guidelines at the parish level for responding to inquiries regarding potential candidates interested in the priesthood for the Diocese of Spokane:

1. When someone approaches you indicating some interest in the priesthood, arrange to meet with him and listen to his interests and discernment.
2. Possible action before contacting the Vocation Director:
 - a. Suggest that the person become involved in some ministry at the parish. (i.e., Lector, Eucharistic Minister, visiting the shut-ins, religious education, prayer group, etc.).
 - b. Invite them to contact the rector of Bishop White Seminary for a visit at the seminary or for Open House information.
3. If the person is considering entering the seminary, have him contact the Vocation Director or if the situation warrants, you may make the first contact of the Vocation Director, providing basic information such as name, age, school, address, telephone number, and a brief description of the person and his involvement in the parish. Referral should not ordinarily be made of a person younger than a junior in high school. The vocation Director will guide the candidate along the process of acceptance as a seminarian. But it is strongly encouraged that you continue to meet and help the person in the discernment process.

For your information:

1. Once a year - Bishop White Seminary Open House (Fall)
2. National Vocation Awareness Week (28th Sunday in Ordinary time (October).
3. World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4th Sunday of Easter)
4. There is the opportunity to have someone spend a day at Bishop White Seminary to experience the life of the seminarians. Please make arrangements through the Rector of the seminary.

The process of acceptance of a seminarian for the Diocese of Spokane:

- A. An initial interview with the Vocation Director where the process is explained.
- B. A questionnaire is given to the person to be filled out. This includes family, education, employment, religious and autobiographical information.
- C. Interview by the Priestly Formation Council, letters of recommendation, as well as Church documents are gathered.
- D. The Priestly Formation Council recommends to the Bishop for acceptance of the candidate.
- E. The Bishop makes the final decision of acceptance of the candidate to become a seminarian for the diocese.