

Great thoughts from great people...

The disciple simply burns his boats and goes ahead. He is called out... The old life is left behind, and completely surrendered. The disciple is dragged out of his relative security into a life of absolute insecurity... out of the realm of the finite...into the realm of infinite possibilities.

- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

A Priest...

To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures;
To be a member of each family, yet belonging to none;
To share all suffering;
To penetrate all secrets;
To heal all wounds;
to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers;
To return from God to men to bring pardon and hope;
To have a heart of fire for Charity, and a heart of bronze for Chastity
To teach and to pardon, console and bless always.
My God, what a life;
and it is yours,
O priest of Jesus Christ.

- **Lacordaire**

Joy is a net of love by which we catch the souls.

- **Blessed Mother Teresa**

I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he had said to thousands before me: 'Come, follow me!' There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest.

- **Blessed Pope John Paul II**



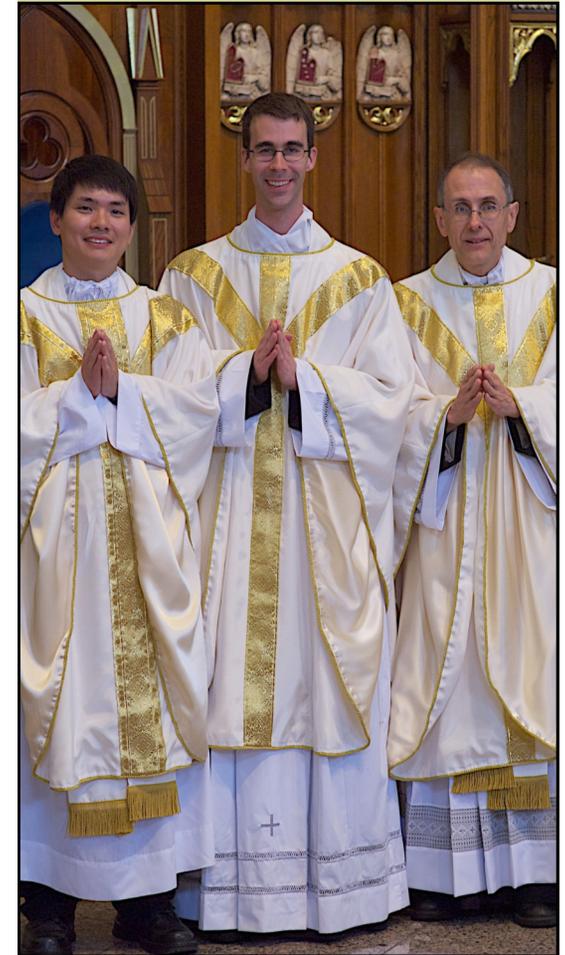
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Be a Priest for Vancouver



The Call to the priesthood... Can you hear it?

THE CALL

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send?'" Is 6.8

Are you ready to answer this call as Isaiah did?

"Here I am, Lord, send me." Is 6.8

What is expected of a man who answers this call?

WHAT IS A PRIEST?

The priesthood is different from any other vocation. Through the Church, the priest serves God and His people. He is thoroughly human with strengths and weaknesses but his identity and direction come from giving all of himself to act as another Christ in the service of Christ's Church. The priest gathers the people of God together for the Eucharist which makes them one with Christ and with one another.

The priest's ministry through the Holy Spirit brings people joy, strength and hope. He must be a man of prayer so that Jesus can be his strength and courage in the face

of misunderstandings, difficulties and conflicts. He must live the truth in charity and help others to do so.

THE RESPONSE

What is the difference between a diocesan priest and a religious priest?

A diocesan priest for Vancouver serves the Church within the well-defined area of our Archdiocese. He usually serves the people as a parish priest. A religious priest, on the other hand, is a member of a community which goes beyond the geographical limits of a diocese. He seeks to live within this community of men for mutual support and accomplishment of some particular work.

What are the qualifications?

Certain basic elements are necessary. These include faith, physical and mental health, moral virtue, willingness to serve, together with at least the necessary academic abilities.

What are the age requirements?

A man can begin seminary training from high school, college or university or later. The Archdiocese also has both high school and university programs at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission.

How long does one stay in seminary?

In general it takes four years of theological studies after a suitable study of liberal arts or the equivalent.

What does the seminary training cost?

The cost of the seminary is comparable to that of a university education. Limited finances will not prevent any suitable candidate from entering or staying in the seminary. Special financial arrangements can be made.

If a man is considering the priesthood but is not ready to make a definite commitment, are there programs to foster his interest?

Yes, the Archdiocese has programs such as retreats and monthly meetings for prospective seminarians. Contact Father Joseph Phuong Nguyen at the Vocations Office for more information at:

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or

vocations@rcav.org.