

The 2019-2020 Playbook

A practical guide to promoting vocations
to the Diocesan Priesthood

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood

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VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
HEED THE CALL

HELPFUL WEBSITES

FOR VOCATION PROMOTION

We invite you to browse the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood website, Heedthecall.org, for a variety of resources for discernment and vocation awareness, videos, seminarian vocation stories, and links to our programs/events.

In addition to our website, below is a list of websites that offer additional vocation resources:

- ***St Charles Seminary:*** www.scs.edu
This website gives information about St. Charles Borromeo Seminary that includes priestly and diaconal formation as well as theological studies for all.
- ***The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:*** www.usccb.org/vocations
This website provides resources in English and Spanish to promote priestly and religious vocations for educators, leaders and parents alike.
- ***The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors:*** www.ncdvd.org
This organization provides resources used to promote diocesan priestly vocations.
- ***Vianney Vocations:*** www.vianneyvocations.com
This website is an excellent source for materials and support in developing activities to promote vocations for everyone in the family and community.
- ***Vocation Boom:*** www.vocationboom.com
This website provides resources aimed at building a culture that is open to the priesthood.
- ***Vocation Ministry:*** www.vocationministry.com
This website provides multiple resources for parishes, families, and schools to promote vocations and to help the man who is discerning his vocational call.
- ***Invisible Monastery:*** www.invisiblemonastery.com
This website is dedicated to praying for vocations and offers multiple prayers and resources.

Please stay connected to the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood through our social media sites. By liking our pages and sharing our posts, you are helping to promote a culture of vocations.

The following links will lead you directly to our social media pages:

www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest

www.instagram.com/phillypriest

www.instagram.com/qvphilly

www.twitter.com/philly_priest

www.twitter.com/qvphilly

Dear Promoters of Priestly Vocations,

May our Lord increase in us our faith and hope so we can be sure that we “have the strength for everything through Him who empowers” us. God be praised - there are currently over 80 seminarians studying for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We are grateful to God for the success that he has granted us and continue to pray for continued success in fostering and encouraging vocations to the priesthood, so that there are enough priests to satisfy the future pastoral ministry needs in the Archdiocese.

Evangelize:

It is very important that our young people know how to pray. Many young people do not know how to pray and need the assistance and guidance of others. Over the last decade, the CARA studies (see Appendix I for this year’s report), have reinforced that the majority of vocations are cultivated by some combination of Eucharistic Adoration and Praying the Rosary.

A starting point for anyone who is working with a young man whom they think may have a vocation is to sit down with him periodically and teach him how to pray the Rosary and how to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Be a source for them to share consolations and a help to them during spiritual dryness. They will need someone to keep them motivated.

Spiritual Direction:

Once prayer has been engaged as a regular part of the young man’s life, you can ask him what are the movements that he is experiencing in prayer. The goal is to help him understand how God is speaking to him. Help him to see long-term movements of what God is saying to him. “I keep coming back to the idea of being a priest or a missionary or a doctor of whatever.” Try to help him not get caught up in highs and lows of the day but focus on what God is doing over weeks or months or even years.

Discernment:

If the young man starts to manifest a persistent pattern of the call to the priesthood, that can be a sign of it being a call from God. He may not even like the idea. At that point he needs to be encouraged to actively discern. The rest of the Playbook provides an array of opportunities for the young man to discern. There would be a primacy of trying to get him to a Come and See Weekend.

This Playbook is designed to be used as a practical guide of concrete actions that can be taken to foster vocations. I challenge you to use the full extent of your influence in your parishes, schools, and communities to encourage participation in our programs.

I thank all of you for the good work that goes in fostering vocations!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy
Vocation Director



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ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

2019-2020 VOCATION OFFICE PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Registration Information

We encourage our Archdiocesan Priests, Deacons, School Ministers, Youth Ministers and other parish representatives to bring men and/or refer them to come to our vocation programs and events. We do request groups and individuals register for all our programs and events so that the appropriate commendations can be made. A contact person is listed for each event so please call or email the relevant person for each event. Online registration is generally also available for our larger events. When reservations for a particular event require payment, registration forms and check (made payable to “*Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood*”) should be mailed to:

Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Rd.
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Registration fees are non-refundable but may be transferable to a future event if the office is notified early enough.

Event Cancellation

If St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is **CLOSED** due to inclement weather, the scheduled Vocation Office program(s) for that day and/or evening is automatically cancelled. Notification of this closure will be posted on the Seminary website (www.scs.edu), the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood website (HeedTheCall.org) and on social media.

Vocation Awareness Week 2019

November 3-9



National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW), initiated in 1976, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

Pope Francis, in his message for the 2018 World Day of Vocations, emphasized that it is at the loving initiative of God, and by His personal encounter with each of us, that one is called. “Even amid these troubled times, the mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God continually comes to encounter us. He is God-with-us, who walks along the often dusty paths of our lives. He knows our anxious longing for love and he calls us to joy. In the diversity and the uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to listen, discern and live this word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness.”

During this National Vocation Awareness Week, we ask you to pray to Our Lord, asking for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. Pray that they may be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith communities, and respond generously to God’s gift of a vocation.

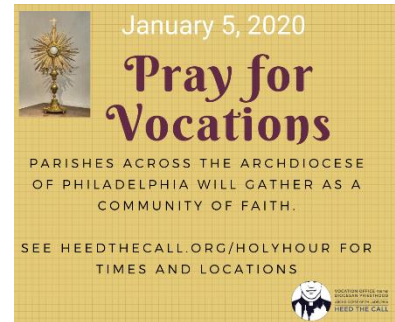
In addition, the Vocation Office has scheduled several Vocation Awareness Events during, and in the weeks surrounding, Vocation Awareness Week for schools, families, parishes and communities. These events will be posted to our website at HeedTheCall.org.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Holy Hours for Vocations

Prayer during a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a time for each of us to gather in front of Jesus truly present in the Eucharist to ask Him to bless His church with many holy vocations.

We invite all the faithful to gather on **Sunday, January 5, 2020**, at a Holy Hour for Vocations that will be held at various parishes in the Archdiocese. The importance of having these opportunities for prayer cannot be overstated. The support and encouragement of fellow Catholics is tremendously important in helping men listen for God's call. By publicly and prayerfully embracing that support, our communities' prayers will encourage men who are discerning and help foster their vocation.



Exact times and locations for the Holy Hours on January 5, 2020 will be available on our website at HeedTheCall.org.

All parishes, however, are invited and encouraged to host a Holy Hour for Vocations during the calendar year. If you would like more information on how to host a Holy Hour for Vocations, or invite Fr. DeLacy to preside at a Holy Hour at your parish, contact *Sue Matour* at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On **Sunday, May 3, 2020**, the universal Catholic Church will celebrate the 57th World Day of Prayer. On this day, the Church throughout the world prays intentionally for vocations. To prepare for this special day of prayer, we invite clergy, seminarians, religious, discerners, and all the lay faithful to join the Philadelphia seminarians in praying a Novena for Vocation. This Novena will be held between April 25 and May 3, 2020 and video reflections and prayers will be available on our website at HeedTheCall.org.



For more information on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, visit worlddayofprayerforvocations.com or contact *Sue Matour* at 610-667-5778.

VOCATION AWARENESS

Vocation Awareness Day

Home school families and students and staff of the Regina Academies and Martin Saints Classical High School are invited to visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for **Vocation Awareness Day** on **Thursday, November 7, 2019**. The day begins at 9:00 AM and will end approximately at 1:30 PM. Come and celebrate vocations at the Seminary with some of the Philadelphia Seminarians, Fr. DeLacy, and the staff of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood.



Girls and boys in all grades are invited to join us! For more information, or to register your family or school for this event, please contact *Susan Matour* at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org no later than **October 28, 2019**.

Solemn Evening Prayer and Close of Forty Hours



All are invited to join the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Community for the Close of Forty Hours which includes Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Procession and a Reception.

This event will be held on **Sunday, November 3, 2019** at **7:00 PM** in **St. Martin's Chapel**.

For more information, contact the Vocation Office at (610) 667-5778 or Fr. DeLacy at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.

Meet the Seminarian Webinars

Celebrate Vocations by having your students interact virtually with the Philadelphia Seminarians! Learn about the life of a Seminarian, his vocation story and ask questions.

The Vocation Office will be hosting **Meet the Seminarian Webinars** for students in Grades 5 through 8 enrolled in a Catholic Grade School or a Parish Religious Education Program!

Classes are invited to gather online for an opportunity to interact with the seminarians, listen to a presentation and pose questions. The presentations will be approximately 45 minutes in length.



PREP Programs (Grades 5-8):

6:45 PM - Monday, November 18, 2019 or Tuesday, November 19, 2019
(choose one time)

Catholic Grade Schools (Grades 5-8):

Thursday, November 21, 2019: Grades 5/6 (9:30 AM) and Grades 7/8 (1:00 PM)

Additional information, including technical requirements and a registration link, are provided at heedthecall.org/webinar. Classes are asked to register no later than **November 11, 2019**. Questions? Please contact *Sue Matour* at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

Biking for Vocations

Biking for Vocations, an initiative inspired by seminarians from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, brings vocation awareness to another level throughout the Archdiocese. Seminarians will crisscross the Archdiocese on their bicycles over 5 days in August 2020 (August 6-10), raising awareness that God is still calling men to the priesthood. Through parish visits, Holy Hours, Liturgies, and fellowship, these seminarians support the Vocation Office in building a culture of vocations throughout the Archdiocese.

The 2019 kick off of Biking for Vocations was a phenomenal event, with seminarians visiting 9 suburban parishes over 5 days, and getting to know and pray with many throughout the Archdiocese. To view photos and videos from the 2019 pilgrimage, please visit heedthecall.org/bikingforvocations.

Check back in early 2020 for the locations and route for the 2020 Pilgrimage! Thank you for praying for these men! For more information about this initiative, please contact *Sue Matour* at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.



Vocation Outreach

Quo Vadis Days

"Quo Vadis" means "Where are you going?". Each summer, the Vocation Office offers a Quo Vadis camp for high school-aged young men (incoming freshmen to graduated seniors), who desire to grow in faithful discipleship and personal holiness. The goal of Quo Vadis is to provide young men the opportunity to discover their own vocation invitation from our Lord, whatever that might be.



Now in its 12th year, Quo Vadis Days are a 4-day, 3-night camp held at Black Rock Retreat Center run by the Vocation Director, Archdiocesan Priests & Deacons, invited speakers and the Philadelphia Seminarians.

Camp highlights include: Dynamic talks, small group discussions, Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, a ropes course, swimming, basketball, soccer, Gaga ball and more.

The high school men attending this retreat will have a life changing encounter with Christ while having the time of their life. Approximately 100 campers attend this camp each year, and the Vocation Office will continue to offer this program to impact young men from many diverse ethnic backgrounds throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Monday, June 29 - Thursday, July 2, 2020
Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville PA

Please invite high school-aged young men to attend this retreat!

Flyers, promotional materials and registration forms will be available at heedthecall.org/quovadis by **January 1, 2020**. For more information, please contact Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org or 610-667-5778.

Check out our Quo Vadis Promotional Video!
[Quo Vadis Promo](#)



Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program

at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

The Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program (PCSP) is a residential, college-accredited summer program, offering young men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia a robust introduction to the great intellectual and spiritual heritage of the Church.

In discussion-based seminars, led by seminary and university professors, participants will study the great texts that have formed our cultural and intellectual inheritance – all in pursuit of emerging as well-formed Catholic men with a rich and integrated understanding of Catholic thought and life.



Combining rigorous study with a robust participation in the prayer life of the Church – as well as weekend cultural excursions – the PCSP brings young Catholic men into conversation with the riches of the Catholic tradition, inviting them to come to understand and live their faith more profoundly.

Now in its third year, PCSP will be held **July 6-16, 2020 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary**. This year's theme is 'City of God, City of Man'. *More information can be found on their website at PhiladelphiaCatholicScholars.org or by contacting Sue Matour at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.*

Going Deeper



Initiated in 2018, the Going Deeper Camp is a unique opportunity for incoming juniors to graduated high school seniors to delve deeper into their faith. Through a series of service opportunities, teens will live out Christ's command to love and serve others.

This camp provides attendees with four days of activities, talks, corporal and/or spiritual works of mercy, daily Mass and prayer, great food and fellowship as well as an excursion into Philadelphia.

Based out of the Spiritual Year Retreat House in Conshohocken, this camp will be held from **July 26-30, 2020**. Going Deeper is designed for the young man who wishes to be challenged by putting his faith into action. Please note that participation in this camp may or may not fulfill required service hours. Registration information and materials will be available on Heedthecall.org/goingdeeper in early 2020. Please contact Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org or 610-667-5778 for more information.

Summer Camp Reunion 2019

All high school men that attended Quo Vadis, Philadelphia Catholic Scholars and/or Going Deeper during the summer of 2019 are invited to gather for community and fellowship at a ***Vocation Office Summer Camp 2019 Reunion***.



This event will be held on **Sunday, October 20, 2019** from **9:00 AM - 3:00 PM** at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Campers are invited to join the Seminary Community for Morning

Prayer and Mass as well as activities and lunch.

If you know a high school man who attended one of these programs, please ask him to *register by contacting Sue Matour no later than **October 14, 2019** at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org*.

Seminarian Visits / Junior Retreats

Each year, the Vocation Office in conjunction with the Philadelphia Seminarians, coordinates school visits for students in 7th & 8th grade, as well as Junior and Senior classes.

At the school visits, seminarians give vocation presentations and hold question & answer sessions. The Vocation Office and seminarians also facilitate Junior Retreats for the Catholic High Schools, partnering with the vocation directresses of various religious communities in the Archdiocese to facilitate these



retreats. This affords an opportunity for the junior classes to hear the general concept of vocations and then explore the possibility of having a particular call to the priesthood or religious life. The students are encouraged to open their hearts to whatever vocation the Lord has planned for them and they have an opportunity to enter into prayer about their vocations.

For grade school visits, seminarians are available for morning and/or afternoon classroom visits or assemblies, dependent upon availability. Junior Retreats are held on Thursdays and are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Schools can request a half-day or full-day retreat. *If you have not already scheduled a school visit or Junior Retreat and would like to do so, please Sue Matour at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.*

Basketball Outreach

The Seminarian Basketball Outreach Program is available to come and play your CYO high school players and/or your CYO coaches! These games are always a lot of fun not only for those who play, but for the entire community. Invite families



and parishioners of all ages to come watch! During game intermission, the seminarians present a dynamic program where they share their vocation stories and some general information about growing in a relationship with Christ.

The seminarians are available on select weekends from November to March. *To schedule an event for your parish or region, please contact Seminarian Coordinator, Shane Flanagan, at smflanagan@scs.edu or Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org.* \

Tuesdays @ Overbrook

The Vocation Office hosts weekday visits for high school men to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. We encourage high school ministers as well as priests, deacons, youth ministers and Parish Vocation Coordinators (PVCs) to gather a group of high school men to visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. These visits, traditionally called “Tuesdays at Overbrook”, typically include:

- Tour of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Activities
- Evening Prayer with the Seminary Community
- Dinner in the Refectory (*i.e. Cafeteria*)
- Vocation talks and discussion led by current Seminarians

2020 Dates (Events begin at 4:00PM and end by 8:00PM)

January 28, 2020

February 25, 2020

March 31, 2020

These events are scheduled on Tuesdays and numerous groups can visit on a given night. To reserve your space, please Sue Matour (smatour@archphila.org) or Fr. DeLacy (fr.sdelacy@achphila.org).

Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.)

Returning again after a brief hiatus, the Brothers of Borromeo Vocation Camp (B.B.V.C.) is a one-day event for boys in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Young men from across the Archdiocese are invited to gather for a day of fun, food and formation with the Philadelphian Seminarians. The day includes great music, food, sports, games, powerful prayer, and Mass.

This event will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on ***Saturday, April 4, 2020***. This is a great opportunity for junior high young men to visit the seminary! The cost for this event is \$25.00 and includes lunch, activities, and a memento of the day.



Please consider inviting the middle school boys in your parish and/or school to this event. Registration material will be available at Heedthecall.org/BBVC in early 2020. For more information, *please* contact Sue Matour at smatour@archphila.org or 610-667-5778.

Hispanic Family Day



Members of the Hispanic Community are invited to gather for an afternoon at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for Mass, activities, food and fellowship. Following Mass and lunch, participants have the opportunity to tour the Seminary, hear vocation stories from

seminarians, and participate in a friendly soccer game.

This event will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on **Sunday, March 8, 2020; Mass will begin at 12:00 PM.** To register for this event, contact the Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820.



Cassock Classic Ultimate Tournament



Young adult groups and college/university ministries are invited to participate in a one-day Ultimate Tournament organized by the seminarians and held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. This annual event is a great opportunity for young adults (male & female) to mingle with their peers throughout the Archdiocese and beyond.

The day includes the opportunity for prayer and fellowship, beginning with Mass in historic St. Martin's Chapel and ending with Evening Prayer. Young adults and seminarians gather together as a community to participate in a frisbee tournament, enjoy lunch, listen to a faith formation talk and compete for Awards.

**The 2020 Cassock Classic will be held:
Saturday, April 25, 2020, from 8:00AM - 5:00PM**

Competitive and non-competitive players welcome

*Registration material will be available at heedthecall.org/cassockclassic January 2020. Please be sure to register your team no later than **April 8, 2020** to ensure that your T-shirts can be ordered in time.*

Questions? Contact Sue Matour at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.



Forged by the Fire

Forged by the Fire provides men the opportunity to gather for evangelization, discipleship and fellowship. Forged by the Fire consists of a series of three weekend retreats held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

The group is geared towards faithful Catholic men aged 20 to 45. Regardless of a man's particular vocation, he can only fulfill it by being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Attendance at all three weekend retreats, held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, is required.

For more information on the next series of retreat weekends, or if you know of a faith-filled, young adult man who would like to grow in holiness and is looking for an opportunity to deepen his faith, *please contact Fr. DeLacy at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org or 610-667-5778.*



Discernment Opportunities

Newly Ordained Mass and Luncheon



Photo credit, Sarah Webb

High School Campus Ministers from throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are invited and encouraged to bring young men who might be considering a call to the priesthood to Mass and a Luncheon with the 2019 Newly Ordained Priests! A long-standing tradition in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this luncheon provides students an opportunity to meet and interact with the newly ordained priests. The Mass and Luncheon will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul on **Thursday, October 24, 2019.**

To register or for more information, please contact *Sue Matour* at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org no later than **Oct. 16, 2019.**

Hispanic Come & See Weekend



The Vocation Office Hispanic Task Force is sponsoring a Come & See Weekend for high school and adult Hispanic men from **Friday, December 6 - Sunday December 8, 2019.**

This weekend is a great opportunity for men who are considering a vocation to come to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for a weekend of great talks, games, Eucharistic Adoration, reflections on the priesthood and vocation stories from

seminarians, as well as Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminary community.

Please invite Hispanic men – high school age and above - to consider a call to the priesthood by attending this retreat. *For more information, or to register, please contact Office for Hispanic Catholics at 215-667-2820 by **November 27, 2019.***

Come & See Discernment Weekends

A Come & See Weekend is the perfect opportunity for high school men and above who are considering a vocation to come to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and to explore the possibility of their own call to the priesthood. This retreat is ideal for a man who is actively pursuing a call to the priesthood or one who is considering the possibility of a call to the priesthood.



The weekend begins on either Friday (for post High School attendees) or Saturday (for High School attendees) and concludes on Sunday. It includes Eucharistic Adoration, reflections on the priesthood and vocation stories from seminarians as well as Mass and praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminary community.

Please invite men to consider a call to the priesthood by attending one of these retreats. Registration is available online at heedthecall.org/comeandsee or by contacting Sue Matour at 610-667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org.

2019-2020 Weekends for High School Men*:

Sat., January 25 - Sun., January 26, 2020
Sat., February 22 - Sun., February 23, 2020
Sat., March 14 - Sun., March 15, 2020

**All high school students must have parental permission to attend the weekend*

Suggested Packing List:

- Clothes - Casual clothing for the weekend
- Suit, Dress Shirt & Tie for Mass
- Gym clothes for gym/outdoor sports
- Personal Toiletries
- Bible & Rosary
- To Save A Thousand Souls (*one will be provided if you do not own one*)

2019-2020 Weekends for Post-High School Men:**

Fri., January 17 - Sun., January 19, 2020
Fri., February 28 - Sun., March 1, 2020
Fri., April 24 - Sun., April 26, 2020

***If a man has graduated high school but is under 18 years old, they should plan to attend the high school weekend*

What is Provided:

- All Meals
- Single Room
- Sheets, pillow, blanket
- Towel, soap

Ordination Overnights

Each year, discerners are invited to join the Vocation Office for the Ordinations. For the Transitional Diaconate Ordination, high school discerners stay overnight at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and attend the Ordination Mass in St. Martin's Chapel. Similarly, our post-high school discerners can stay overnight at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary the night before the Priestly Ordination and then carpool to the Cathedral for the Priestly Ordination Mass.



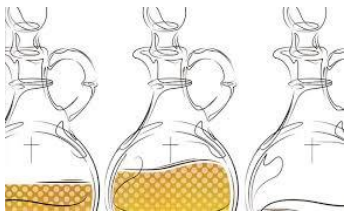
Please invite men to consider joining us for these ordinations. *Discerners should contact Sue Matour at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org at least one week before the designated weekend.* If you have a discerners that's unable to stay overnight but would like to attend either of the Ordination Masses, please contact Sue Matour.

2018-2019 Ordination Overnights:

Transitional Diaconate Ordination: Fri., May 8 - Sat., May 9, 2020 (High School Discerners)

Priest Ordination: Fri., May 15 - Sat., May 16, 2020 (Post-High School Discerners)

See the Come & See Weekend Details for a Suggested Overnight Packing List



Holy Thursday Chrism Mass & Devotions

**Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:30 AM
10:00 AM Chrism Mass**

Men who are discerning a call to the priesthood are invited to attend the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. Join Fr. DeLacy and guests at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center (222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia) prior to the Mass for Brunch & Devotions. *You will have reserved seating for the Mass!*

*We ask that discerners register no later than **April 3, 2020** by contacting Sue Matour at (610) 667-5778 or smatour@archphila.org*



Young Adult Discernment Groups

Men who are discerning their vocation are invited to join Fr. DeLacy at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia (1723 Race Street, Philadelphia) on the first Sunday of each month following the 6:30 PM Mass. During these evenings, men are invited to gather in fellowship, study, prayer and discovery of whether God is calling them to the priesthood.

Dates for the 2019-2020 Academic year are provided below:

August 4, 2019	January 5, 2020
September 1, 2019	February 2, 2020
October 6, 2019	March 1, 2020
November 3, 2019 (<i>Seminary</i>)	April 5, 2020
December 1, 2019	May 3, 2020
	June 7, 2020

For more information on these Discernment Group gatherings, please contact Fr. Stephen DeLacy at 610-667-5778.

St. Andrew Dinner

Named after St. Andrew and in the spirit of evangelization and calling others to follow Christ, St. Andrew Dinners are evenings for men (high school and beyond) who are open to the possibility of the seminary and priesthood. At these dinners, men are invited to gather for prayer, dinner, and casual conversations about the priesthood and vocations with seminarians and priests of the Archdiocese.

For more information about a Saint Andrew's Dinner in your area, *contact Fr. DeLacy or Sue Matour at 610-667-5778 or fr.sdelacy@archphila.org or smatour@archphila.org.*

Cara Report

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC**

***The Class of 2019:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood***

**A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**



March 2019

**Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.
Thu. T. Do., L.H.C.**

A Selection of the Findings with Commentary
[Click Here for the C.A.R.A. Report in its entirety!](#)

Appendix 1:

Selected Findings and Commentary from CARA Report

Finding:

Age: On average, responding ordinands first considered priesthood when they were 16 years old. Responding ordinands were scheduled for ordination 17 years later (at the age of 33).

Commentary:

When to engage in Vocations: When someone is 16 years old they could be a sophomore and/or junior in high school. Previous studies have shown that the junior year of high school is a critical time when young people are considering what to do with the rest of their lives. It would be ideal if as part of every parish's youth ministry there was focus on helping high school juniors discerning God's will.

Do we respond immediately when God Calls?: The response time seems very long. In vocation work you often hear of a high school man expressing that God is calling him to the priesthood and in many cases parents, priests, youth ministers, and/or high school teachers, etc. say you are better off getting a college degree before entering the seminary. There could be a variety of motivations why people suggest this course of action. By way of exception this could be the prudent advice, but in general, it seems to be a failure to focus on what God wants.

Implicit in the first commandment of "having no other gods" is that our God needs to be the first priority. Does that not mean that if the call is being manifested by God, then the response should occur as close as possible to the time the man receives the call? Since Philadelphia has always been committed to a college seminary program and with our ongoing conversation with Neumann University reinforcing that commitment, it seems that if the call to the priesthood manifests when the man is in high school, he should go to college seminary. I don't think it is a good idea to teach our young people to procrastinate responding to God's call.

Finding:

Education: Between 38 and 47 percent of all responding ordinands attended a Catholic school for at least some part of their schooling. Six in ten responding ordinands (61 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish for six years, on average.

Education: More than half of responding ordinands (55 percent) report that they completed college or university undergraduate degree before entering the seminary.

Finding:

Work: Two in three responding ordinands (68 percent) reported full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. One in ten of those responding ordinands worked in education.

Finding:

Vocational Discernment: Three in four responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic Adoration (75 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary, a similar proportion (72 percent) prayed the rosary, half (47 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, and two in five (38 percent) participated in high school retreats. About three in ten attended Lectio Divina (36 percent) and/or participated in college retreats (30 percent).

Commentary: If we want to see an increase in vocations, we should ensure that our ministries emphasize Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, Retreats, and Lectio Divina as much as possible.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in various activities before entering the seminary, more than half of all responding ordinands participated in a parish youth group (53 percent). About three in ten responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (30 percent).

Commentary: Parishes can assist in fostering vocations by providing dynamic youth ministry, providing information on campus ministry to graduating high school seniors, and encouraging boys to participate in the Boy Scouts, by completing their religious recognitions through the Catholic Committee on Scouting, and becoming Eagle Scouts.

Vocational Discernment: In regard to participation in parish ministries, more than three-fourths of responding ordinands (78 percent) served as altar servers before entering the seminary. More than half (53 percent) served as lectors and about four in ten served as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (44 percent) or as catechists (38 percent). About a third served in campus ministry or youth ministry (33 percent) or as a confirmation sponsor/godfather (30 percent).

Commentary: The more we can encourage young men to be altar servers in middle school, the more we will see an increase in vocations. A recommendation is to have a plan to keep men serving at the altar while in high school, by transitioning them to be lectors, serve as the master of ceremonies, or only allowing high school servers to use the thurible. Another option is to have a “ceremony crew” of high school men be the ceremony crew for special occasions.

Vocational Discernment: Half of responding ordinands (52 percent) reported participating in “Come and See” weekends at the seminary or the religious institute/society.

Commentary: A Come and See Weekend is a unique opportunity for men to visit the seminary and experience the life of a seminarian. Please see the Come and See Weekend dates we offer beginning on page 19. The more people we have inviting men to a Come and See Weekend, the more vocations we will have.

Vocational Discernment: Nine in ten responding ordinands (92 percent) reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently, the parish priest, a friend, or another parishioner). On average, four individuals encouraged their vocation.

Commentary: Vocations are fostered by invitation. Everyone can foster vocations effectively, while the parish priest is the most effective at fostering vocations. Most current

Philadelphia seminarian report that they were encouraged to pursue the priesthood by the parish priest, friend or another parishioner.

Vocational Discernment: Less than half of responding ordinands (45 percent) indicate that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a friend/classmate or a family member (other than parents).

Commentary: There is a belief that parents are often the greatest discouragers of a vocation, but responding ordinands in recent years indicated that this was not the case. However, these results reveal that if someone is considering the priesthood, there needs to be very intentional support by parish and school communities because the man will definitely experience discouragement during his discernment process.

To see the report in its entirety please visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/class-of-2019/upload/Ordination-Class-of-2019-FINAL.pdf>

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Father, in your plan for our salvation
you provide shepherds for your people.
Fill your Church in the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
with the Spirit of courage and love.
Raise up from our families future priests:
worthy ministers for your altars,
generous and ardent servants of the Gospel.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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HEED THE CALL

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Man is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life even in its temporal phase.

(Pope John Paul II)

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