

## The Process

1. **Initial Contact:**
  - Through the recommendation of a faithful priest, religious or lay person, and/or
  - By letter, e-mail or phone call of inquiry, and/or
  - By active participation in a discernment event.
2. **Formal Interview:** Once contact is established, a formal interview is scheduled with the Director of Vocations where the following topics, among others, are discussed.
  - Personal health and well-being.
  - Family and employment history.
  - Religious and educational background.
  - Vocation discernment up to that point.
3. **Discernment:** The Inquirer is invited to a more structured process of discernment including spiritual direction and regular meetings with the Vocations Director. He is encouraged to participate in all discernment activities in the Archdiocese.
4. **Formal Application:** At an appropriate time, the discerner may request or be invited to begin the formal application process. This includes his sacramental and academic records, a physical exam, a psychological exam, a detailed autobiography and other necessary items.
5. **Application Review:** After the candidate submits all the information and necessary paperwork, The application is reviewed by the Archbishop, the Director of Vocations and the Director of Seminarians.
6. **Acceptance/Non-Acceptance:** If a decision is made for Acceptance, the candidate is notified and begins the process of seminary formation for the priesthood under the direction of the Director of Seminarians.

## Miscellaneous

Individual circumstances may adjust or vary the sequence of events outlined above. The general necessary time frame to compile and complete all required application material is between two to four months. Applicants normally receive word of acceptance or non-acceptance within two months of submitting a completed application, but generally no later than the first week of July.

The application process is intended to encourage the candidate to realize that his vocation does not simply enjoy a personal dimension but rather flows from the Church and toward ministry within the Church. Through personal interaction with the Archbishop, pastors, other priests, Office of Vocation personnel and fellow seminarians, the new seminarian will experience more fully the knowledge that he has a specific identity as a candidate for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Anchorage.

# What to Look for in a Vocation Prospect

## Is the Man:

- baptized and confirmed
- practicing Roman Catholic
- exhibit a desire to serve God and His people as a priest here in the Archdiocese of Anchorage
- between the ages of 17-55. (*Rare exceptions are considered on a case by case basis regarding this upper age limit.*)

## Does he have:

- Faith in, and love for Christ and His Church.
- Good moral character.
- A high school diploma with favorable academic abilities.
- Emotional balance and maturity.
- Good physical health.
- Psychological readiness and capacity to pursue a sustaining, life-long commitment.
- A deepening habit of prayer and a balanced devotional life.
- Maturity to recognize, and willingness to respond to, the needs of others.
- A developing spirit of detachment that helps him be in the world, but not of the world.
- Freedom to enter this state in life.

## Other necessary things:

- He must not have personal financial liability, i.e. car or personal loans, credit card(s), etc. verses personal assets that exceeds \$3,000; nor have total outstanding college and/or graduate school student loan debt that exceeds \$40,000.
- He must have some familiarity with the Archdiocese of Anchorage and the people with whom the candidate feels called to serve here as a future priest, i.e. by living (past or present), working or studying within the Archdiocese on a self-sustaining basis for at least one continuous year.
- Not suffer from a disordered sexual orientation, i.e. not consider oneself to be homosexual.
- If the candidate has previously been dismissed from another priestly formation program or from an institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life, he must wait at least two years prior to being considered for the priestly formation program in the Archdiocese of Anchorage.
- If the candidate is a recent convert to the faith or has recently returned to the regular practice of the faith, he must wait at least two years prior to acceptance into the priestly formation program in the Archdiocese of Anchorage.