



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

ST. JOHN VIANNEY FUND

FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

FALL 2020
NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM FR. PAUL GOO

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we come near the end of the turbulent year, the following words of Scripture may give us some consolation: "The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us" (1 Kgs 8:57). The Lord surely has continued to bless the work of vocations in our Archdiocese. I am glad to share with you the following updates in this newsletter:

- Archbishop Michael Miller will ordain Deacon Richard Conlin a priest.
- Archbishop Michael ordained Raffaele Salvino a deacon.
- Four senior seminarians took the next step in their formation. Archbishop Michael instituted Patrick Le and William Mancao as Lectors and admitted Medard Kamanzi and Solomon Nguyen as Candidates for Holy Orders.
- All seven senior seminarians were able to have pastoral internship in the summer despite the challenges of the pandemic. Some of them have shown a great deal of creativity and innovation in their approach to pastoral ministry.
- They also participated in weekly formation meetings in the summer with sessions given by various leaders in the Archdiocese.
- Four young men have decided to discern the diocesan priesthood further by entering the Spirituality Year,

bringing the total number of seminarians this year to 21. Three men from Redemptoris Mater Seminary finished their English studies and began their intellectual formation at Seminary of Christ the King. There were six other young men and women in Vancouver who have joined various religious orders.

- The monthly Discerners' gatherings continued online. The camaraderie was not lacking, as some seminarians as well as Fr. Hien Nguyen, Director of the Spirituality Year, could join the meeting easily with a click of a button.
- The first iteration of 'Come Follow Me', the pilot formation/discernment program for young Filipino men, completed successfully under the direction of Deacon Greg Barcelon and Tito Goco.

I hope you find this email informative and encouraging. Thank you for your generous support of Vocations in Vancouver. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and for more vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. We are a vocation-producing diocese!



In gratitude,

Fr. Paul Goo
Director of Vocations
and Seminarians
Archdiocese of Vancouver

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF
DEACON RICHARD CONLIN



Archbishop Michael has called Deacon Richard to the Holy Order of the Priesthood. The Ordination will be held at 7 p.m. PST on Friday, December 11, 2020 at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Ordination will be accessible to the general public via livestream only.

Since his Diaconal Ordination last December, Deacon Richard has been assisting Fr. Bruce-John Hamilton at Corpus Christi Parish. He has successfully completed the Diaconal Formation Program facilitated by Fr. Paul Goo, preparing for the priesthood in the following areas: Evangelization, Sacraments and Sacramentals, Homiletics, Rule of Life, Parish Administration, Spiritual Life, Relational Ministry, and Interpersonal Well-Being.

Deacon Richard has demonstrated exemplary zeal for souls. Running the Virtual Summer Camp for altar servers, conducting interviews with priests, and playing video games with the youth, are some of the new forms of ministry that he has pioneered in collaboration with Seminarians Alexis Boquiren and Kuan Tsai.

There will be a 9-day novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe leading up to the Ordination. We invite you to participate in the novena to pray that Deacon Richard may imitate Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep and that the Archdiocese of Vancouver may be united by this moment of hope during these challenging times.

For more information, please visit rcav.org/ordination.

DIACONAL ORDINATION OF
RAFFAELE SALVINO



From *The B.C. Catholic*, October 29, 2020: Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB celebrated the first ordination in the Lower Mainland since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, calling the occasion a “ray of light amidst the pandemic.”

Raffaele Salvino was ordained a deacon at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver Oct. 23, taking him one step closer to the priesthood. The small congregation celebrating with him included his parents, three brothers, grandmother, a few friends, and priests who have accompanied him on his spiritual journey.

“We feel blessed. We are so happy and joyful and filled with hope,” said mother Louise Salvino. Salvino’s father, Luigi, said despite trying times during the pandemic, “I see many lights, and I see this as one of them.”

Deacon Salvino, who grew up in Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, said he was invited to participate actively in the church community from a young age, but didn’t consider the priesthood until his university years. He described his change of heart in a testimony printed in the booklet at his ordination. (*Read the full article on bccatholic.ca.*)

Check out Deacon Raffaele’s interview on the Proclaim podcast at weareproclaim.com.

NEW SEMINARIANS IN FORMATION

Four men whom Fr. Paul accompanied last year have entered the Spirituality Year in September. We would like to introduce them to you.



Aubrey Driedger grew up in Manitoba as a son of a Christian pastor. He obtained a BA in Religion with Major in Biblical Theology from Summit Pacific College (an affiliate of Trinity Western University) and pursued a Master’s degree in Church History and Doctrinal Theology at Regent College, where he encountered Roman Catholicism. He came into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2014 and is currently a parishioner at Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish in Aldergrove. He enjoys the theatre, fine drawings, writing, baking bread, and learning about wine.



Gabriel Canizares was born in Brunei but grew up in Vancouver. He completed a Bachelor of Science at SFU. He has been involved in Catholic Christian Outreach, Youth for Christ, Singles For Christ, and Good Shepherd Street Ministry. He has been working as Clinical Research Coordinator at BC Cancer - Hereditary Cancer Program. His home parish is Precious Blood.



Noah Clendenin is a recent graduate of Holy Cross Regional High School. His home parish is Good Shepherd Parish in South Surrey, where he actively served as a lector and a leader of the Junior Youth Group. Before the pandemic, he worked as a swim guard and taught a ‘triathlon’ class for kids. His favourite subject is History, and he enjoys listening to Bishop Barron’s podcast.



Albert Remoroza was born in the Philippines, grew up in Singapore until 14, and graduated from North Delta Secondary. Most recently, he finished 1st year of Computing Studies at Douglas College. He has served as a Chapter Head and a worship leader in Youth for Christ - Greater Vancouver Area. His home parish is Immaculate Conception Delta.

Furthermore, three men from Redemptoris Mater Seminary finished their English studies and enrolled in the Arts and Philosophy program at Seminary of Christ the King. They are **Pedro Jacob Reyes de Sena**, **Gustavo Ezequiel Medina-Sarabia**, and **Juan Gabriel Zúñiga-Rivas**.

SEMINARIANS IN
THE SUMMER

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the seminarians persevered with their formation. They finished the academic year through online learning thanks to the accommodation of Seminary of Christ the King.

All seven senior seminarians were placed in parishes for pastoral internship from May to August as follows: Raffaele Salvino at St. Matthew’s Parish, Jerome Robles at St. Joseph’s Parish in Langley, William Mancao at Holy Trinity Parish, Agustin Figueroa at All Saints Parish, Patrick Le at St. Patrick’s Parish in Vancouver, Medard Kamanzi and Solomon Nguyen at St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

The weekly Pastoral Formation Conferences continued throughout the summer until August, covering a wide range of topics such as the history of Catholic education, domestic abuse services, NET Ministries, Catholic mental health resources, leadership development, and Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese.

Visit rcav.org/VocationsVideos and check out the creative videos some of our seminarians made to introduce themselves to the parishioners, especially to the youth and young adults: Medard Kamanzi, Solomon Nguyen, and Kuan Tsai.

“I have personally experienced God at work in the midst of these challenging times. I have had the privilege of accompanying young adults through their spiritual difficulties, preaching the Gospel on Zoom, and leading guided Lectio Divina sessions on Facebook live. Time and time again, I am amazed at how God is actively at work in the lives of these young adults, raising up the next generation of saints.”

DEACON RICHARD CONLIN

ACCOMPANYING DISCERNERS

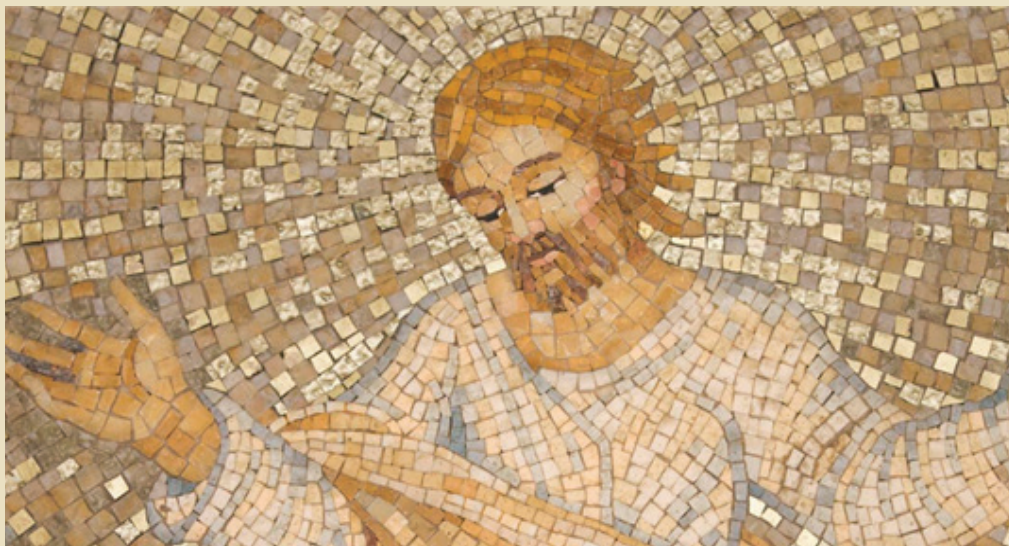


Did you know that there is a discernment/formation group for young Filipino men in our Archdiocese? Deacon Greg Barcelon and Tito Goco have successfully accompanied the first cohort of four men this past year. The young men were invited to commit themselves to discerning God's will for their lives over the course of seven months. Supported by their families and the committed leaders of the RCAF Filipino Ministry, they grew together as mature Christians. As a result, one of them, Albert Remoroza, has decided to enter seminary. Deacon Greg and Tito are planning to run the program again this coming year with a larger group of young men.

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