



A Message from Fr. Paul Goo

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is difficult to believe that it has already been one year since the pandemic has hit us. This also means that our seminarians have undergone a full academic year during the pandemic. They have had a very good year despite the challenges, and the work of vocations is still going strong. In this edition, you will find the following updates:

- The diaconal formation of Deacon Raffaele Salvino
- The annual seminary retreat given by Fr. Larry Lynn
- The first-ever online seminary live-in
- Pastoral Week that will focus on 'Development and Parish Finance'
- Discipleship Immersion Experience

I hope you find these updates informative and encouraging. Your generous contribution has made them possible. Thank you for your continued support of the work of vocations in Vancouver. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.



In gratitude,
Fr. Paul Goo
Director of Vocations and Seminarians
Archdiocese of Vancouver





The Diaconal Formation of Deacon Raffaele Salvino

Deacon Raffaele has been going through the Diaconal Formation Program at St. Matthew's Parish in Surrey. Please keep him in your prayers that he may prepare himself well for priestly ministry. Below is a short reflection from Deacon Raffaele:

"In this unpredictable year of change, I have rediscovered the One who doesn't change. In a time of personal and societal upheaval, I have learned to lean ever more heavily upon Him whom the Psalmist called 'my rock and my fortress' (Ps. 18). And what better way to prepare for my priestly ministry? Regardless of the future to come, Our Lord remains unchanging; an anchor in the midst of storms: Stat crux dum volvitur orbis ('The Cross stands firm while the world turns')."



Also, check out this wonderful article he published on Behold Vancouver: **How the Spring Break I Never Wanted Changed My Life.**

The Annual Seminary Retreat Given by Fr. Larry Lynn

"The Crooked Line of God – A life in eight Chapters" – this was how I called the retreat that I gave to the major seminarians in January.

Asked by Father Matthew "to give them some practical advice", I decided to share my life story with them knowing there are aspects to my life that are completely off the normal track to the priesthood. After all, I heard God's call when I was sixty-two and was ordained about a month before my sixty-seventh birthday.

It has been said "God writes straight in crooked lines" and I am certainly a crooked line. And so are we all.

My message to the seminarians was that the guy you meet in these eight stages of my life, whether in good times or struggling, sinful times, you, as a priest, must make yourself present to this person. Your presence or lack thereof will be instrumental to their spiritual journey – perhaps even their salvation.



The First-Ever Online Seminary Live-In



The seminary live-in is an occasion where discerners get to spend a weekend at the seminary. Due to the pandemic, there was no live-in this past year. The seminarians at Seminary of Christ the King decided to do something about that.

On March 6, they invited young men to “(Seminary of Christ the) King's Gambit,” the first-ever online live-in at SCK! This event was an opportunity for young men to meet other guys (age 17-35) searching for God’s will. They began with an ice-breaker, a talk by Fr. Matthew Gerlich, Rector, on vocation discernment, seminarians’ vocation stories, a tour of the seminary and campus, Q&A with seminarians, and a community Evening Prayer. Check out the entertaining promo video they created!



Pastoral Week that will focus on 'Development and Parish Finance'

Did you know that one of the areas that the newly ordained priests find most challenging is administration and finance?* From April 20 to 25, the senior seminarians will go through a special week of training on 'Development and Parish Finance'. A team of priests and lay experts from the Archdiocese will cover topics such as budgeting, balance sheets, insurance & risk, offertory, donor care, capital projects, fundraising, and relevant policies. The week will conclude on Good Shepherd Sunday on April 25. The seminarians will be sent out to various parishes to give a testimony and to promote the special Second Collection for the work of vocations.

* Cf. National Association of Catholic Theological Schools, “Satisfaction and Challenges among Recently Ordained Priests”, pp. 34-38.

Discipleship Immersion Experience

From February 1 to March 5, the four men in the Spirituality Year worked at the new Men's Shelter for their Discipleship Immersion Experience. This was an exercise in trusting the providential care of God as they served Him by ministering to the guests at the shelter. In doing so they experienced the charity and kindness that comes from loving thy neighbor and shared in Christ's mission of making Him known to all.



Albert Remoroza

My journey at the Catholic Charities Men's Shelter and The Door Is Open has been a challenging yet fruitful experience. Through faith, hope, and love, I got to be an example of Jesus Christ through the corporal works of mercy. And being a light to those who are in the darkest of times has turned my sorrow into joy.

Noah Clendenin

I was really impacted by encountering the men in an extreme state of suffering and hopelessness. There was one man whom I had to call 911 for and help. He was very sick. When I was talking to him, he told me about how he wanted to die. I was filled with pity for him. I was shocked because I had never seen a person in such a sad state, and I have been really impacted by that moment.

Aubrey Driedger

While at the Men's shelter, we sought to live out the Church's prayer for vocations by 'spending our entire lives to make Christ known and loved by all.' We had the privilege of entering into the darkness of our Vancouver community as a beacon of hope and love, sharing the Gospel of Christ by our joy and simplicity.

Gabriel Canizares

Working at the Catholic Charities Men's Shelter showed me the heart of St. Teresa of Calcutta's words that "we can do no great things, only small things with great love." I learned we must love the best we can, and then trust and know that God loves these men more than we ever could—and He will take care of them.

In April, they will enter a week of Ignatian exercises as they continue to be attentive to God's voice. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.