



- ▲ The seminarians visited St. Mark's/Corpus Christi College as part of the Pastoral Week to learn about the formation of Catholic educators. Read more on Page 3.

A Message from Fr. Paul Goo

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The work in vocations has been challenging. The overall number of priests and seminarians has been decreasing for the last few years not only in Vancouver but also in most parts of the world.

In the Gospel reading for Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus says: "My sheep hear my voice. ... I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

Jesus will not desert his flock. He will send us good shepherds so that no one will snatch his flock out of his hand.

When I reflect on my own vocation, I am struck by the realization that the Lord called even someone like me who was so blind and oblivious to all that he had been doing in this world for his flock.

Most of the young men that I am accompanying in their journey of discernment came from unexpected places. They are usually not the most active young adults in the parishes and in the Archdiocese. Rather, they had been hidden and

had an experience of hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd who gently invited them to consider the priesthood. And they were sincere enough to open themselves up to God and to give God a chance.

It is humbling to know that it almost does not matter what I do to promote priesthood; God does the heavy lifting. This gives me a lot of hope, too, especially when things become challenging.

Please pray for our seminarians and discerners and give generously toward the work of vocations in our Archdiocese. Please also consider inviting young men you know to visit our website. Your simple invitation might give us a priest one day.

vocationsvancouver.ca



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

Meet our new seminarians – Omar and Andres!

We would like to introduce two seminarians for Redemptoris Mater Seminary who arrived in recent months:



Omar Ortiz is originally from Lima, Peru, and has lived in Canada since 2008. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering. While pursuing a career in Marketing in Toronto, he came to realize that "God is a higher being who can make impossible things possible." He joined the seminary in October 2021 and is discovering God's plan for his life one day at a time.



Andres Medina grew up in Costa Rica. He joined the Neocatechumenal Way when he was 13. He started to discern a calling to the priesthood at 17. He briefly studied hydrological engineering in university before deciding to enter the seminary. He persevered in his pursuit during lockdown and arrived in Vancouver in January of 2022. He is currently studying English at Corpus Christi College.

Diocesan clergy teaching in the seminary

This past year, the faculty at Seminary of Christ the King added three new members from the presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Vancouver: Fr. Davide Lanzani (Dogmatic Theology), Fr. Paul Goo (Catechetics), and Fr. Bryan Duggan (Pastoral Counselling). It brought the total number of diocesan priests involved in the education of our seminarians to five, including Fr. Nick Meisl (Sacred Scripture) and Fr. Alessandro Lovato (Pastoral Liturgy). Together they accounted for about half of the faculty, providing diocesan presence and collaboration in the seminary.



The V-Team

Fr. Paul has envisioned a team-based approach to the work in vocations. Moving away from a 'commando' style of having a single priest do the work of promotion, accompaniment, and formation, he has enlisted the help of other diocesan clergy. To this end, *Vocation Promoters* will engage in various promotional activities in the Archdiocese, and *Vocation Companions* will provide individual accompaniment to discerners.

Archbishop Michael has appointed Fr. Nick Meisl and Fr. Raffaele Salvino as Vocation Promoters, and Fr. Mark McGuckin, Fr. Lucio Choi, Fr. Giovanni Schiesari, and Fr. Richard Conlin as Vocation Companions. Fr. Paul will collaborate with them, along with Fr. Davide Lanzani, Fr. Bryan Duggan, and Fr. Martin Brain who have been involved in formation of seminarians.



Learning hands-on to “smell like the sheep”

This year, the annual pastoral formation program, Pastoral Week, focused on Catechesis - the education of faith and formation. Nine seminarians spent six days in February, learning about various areas of catechetical ministry in the Archdiocese. They covered:

- Catechesis for migrants
- Catechesis in the context of parish renewal
- Catechesis for children
- Diocesan catechetical office
- Catechesis for married couples and families
- Formation of Catholic educators
- Catechesis for the deaf community
- Catechesis for children and adults with Special Needs
- Other topics such as bereavement ministry and healthy eating

We would like to express our gratitude to all the communities and the session leaders who welcomed us and shared their passion for ministry with us!



▲ The missionary disciples of St. Patrick's Parish in Maple Ridge shared their story of parish renewal (left). For the first time in Vancouver, the seminarians visited the Catholic Deaf Community at St. Francis de Sales Parish (right).



▲ The seminarians learned about Marriage & Family and Catechesis & Evangelization (left). Fr. Richard Zanotti shared his passion for migrant ministry (centre). The seminarians met with the students, dedicated staff and volunteers at Vanspec (right).

Discernment group updates

Thanks to the lifting of the COVID restrictions, six men participated in the Seminary Live-In in March. Some of the participants went just for the day, while others stayed overnight for a fuller experience of life in the seminary.

The discerners have continued to meet monthly at St. Matthew's Parish for accompaniment, fraternal support, and education on their unique spiritual journey.



Summer pastoral internship and rectory living

This summer, four senior seminarians will be interning in various places of ministry, while one will be on mission abroad. Two junior seminarians will gain the experience of living in a rectory while working at a summer job elsewhere. The assignments are as follows:

Pastoral Internship:

- Jerome Robles – Our Lady of the Assumption Parish
- William Mancao – mission abroad
- Patrick Le – St. Paul's Hospital (Clinical Pastoral Education); Holy Name of Jesus Parish (residence)

- Medard Kamanzi – Corpus Christi Parish
- Paul Vo – St. Paul's Parish (Richmond)

Rectory Living:

- Luis Duenas – Immaculate Conception Parish (Delta)
- Albert Remoroza – Canadian Martyrs Parish