



We need a culture of holiness in the home and in the workplace.

Father Raffaele Salvino

Ask any young man in seminary to describe the important figures along his path of priestly discernment. Inevitably he will mention someone who is not his own parish priest: his parents, an encouraging friend in university, a particular saint, his youth group leader, a supportive boss—the list goes on. No one becomes a saint in a vacuum. A varied assemblage of people will figure in small or significant roles in an individual's journey to priestly discernment. "It takes a village," as the proverb goes. Vocational discernment is a non-linear, collaborative effort of the living Church to bring a young man from the anointing of his head at baptism to the anointing of his hands at ordination.

There is no doubt that we live in a generation that is becoming less and less religious. Mass attendance is low, vocations appear to be sparse, even the daily familiarities of our parishes seem to be on the verge of upheaval. Despite all that seems to be happening in the world, Our Lord Jesus Christ continues to call young men forth from all corners of the fray, forming them into the likeness of His own Sacred Heart. Our beloved Archdiocese is no exception.



Readings and Relics

Our world has a dire need of God and requires visible signs of His work.

FATHER JAMES HUGHES

To those who have played a role in assisting seminarians and the work of priestly discernment through oft-hidden prayer, financial assistance, or words of encouragement, thank you! You have contributed to the apostolic fervour that increasingly defines the people of the Archdiocese, who our young seminarians one day hope to serve.

To those who seek to play a role in the priestly discernment of the next generation of priests “after God’s own heart” (1 Sam 13:14), let this be your invitation to follow that call. It’s easier than you think! Discernment is not a matter of procuring resources and scaling results; rather, it is far more dependent on creating a culture of discernment in the home, the parish, and the Archdiocese. This culture is built on holiness in the home and in the workplace, on a high regard for the Church and her priests, and on true devotion and “outdoing one another in showing generosity” (Rom 12:10). Our world has a dire need of God and requires visible signs of His work. This is a community that will, by the Grace of God, produce a rich vocational return, “thirty, sixty, hundredfold” (Mk 4:20).

We are proud to have 20 men studying for Vancouver this fall.



Vocations Pilgrimage for the Feast of the Holy Rosary

Building a Culture of Vocations

Here are a few simple but powerful actions one can easily undertake to begin creating a “culture of vocations” in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.



1

Pray daily for seminarians by name

Pray that each man may discern God’s will in his life, be it the priesthood or otherwise. Our new Vocations Cards feature the names of all our seminarians.

2

Pray with your family often

An atmosphere of prayer in the home—even if it’s messy or distracted—goes a *long* way in helping children hear the voice of God.

3

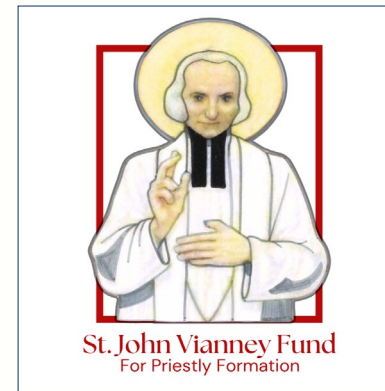
Speak of priestly and religious vocations in your home

Talk in a manner that lets your children know this is a valid, legitimate, vocational option that has Mom’s and Dad’s enthusiasm behind it, if it be God’s will.

4

Thank a seminarian for having the courage to seek God’s will

Remember, a successful discernment is to learn God’s direction for his life. Sometimes that means entering the seminary, and sometimes leaving the seminary. Both take courage.



5

Get to know your parish priest

Invite him for coffee and ask him what he needs for the parish. You may possess a powerful idea or skillset that can kickstart a culture of vocations in your parish, or you may gain insight on how to pray for your pastor. Either instance contributes towards a unified, healthy, parish.

6

Promote the biannual ‘Come and See’ weekends

At our local seminary in Mission. Speak to your priest for ideas for collaboration. Often the driving distance alone can discourage a prospective discerner without a car from ever visiting the seminary.

7

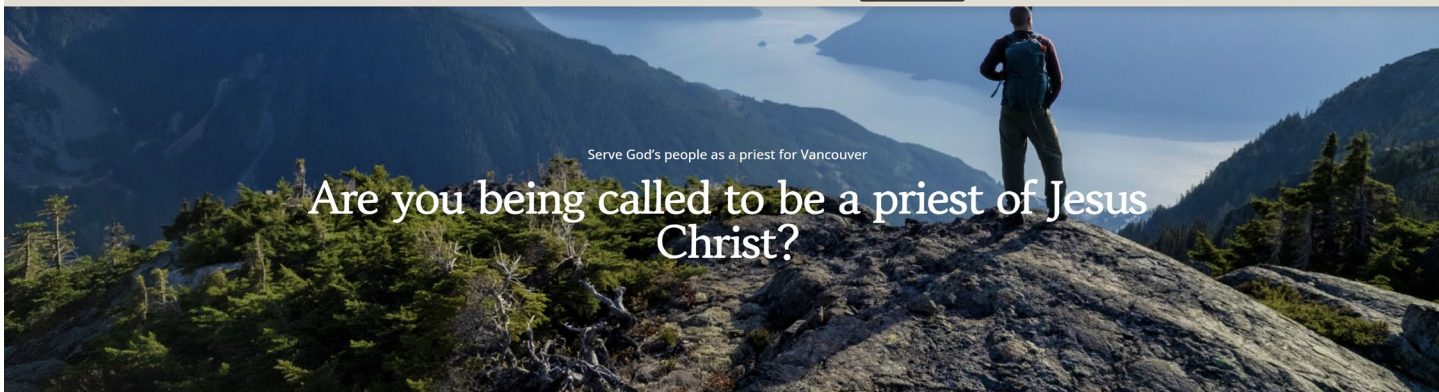
Visit Seminary of Christ the King

Join the Benedictine monks for Sunday Mass. Your witness may encourage someone. Staffed by the Benedictine Monks, many men have been moved to consider their vocation simply by witnessing the simplicity, peace, and beauty of the monastic life.

8

Visit our website, vocationsvancouver.ca

Stay up to date on Vancouver vocations. Another great resource is vocationministry.com, a ministry started by Rhonda Gruenewald, a lay woman who wanted to create a culture of vocations in her own parish.



Serve God's people as a priest for Vancouver

Are you being called to be a priest of Jesus Christ?



A priest brings Jesus to people and people to Jesus. For this reason, a man who is taking the steps toward the ministerial priesthood must have a deep concern for God's people.

The priest is driven to help people grow in holiness, teach them the truths of the faith, and minister to them during the trials and joys of life. The vocation of priesthood is about leading others to heaven.

Prayerful self-examination paves the road of priestly discernment.

[Take the Discernment Survey](#)

Check out the new **Vocations Vancouver** website

vocationsvancouver.ca

The new website will be a key resource for young men discerning the priesthood, connecting them with priests and other resources as they consider God's call for their lives.

It is also a great way for the faithful of the Archdiocese to stay connected to their seminarians and foster a culture of vocations.



VOCATIONS OFFICE

Vocations Office team, from left to right:
Father Mark McGuckin, Father James Hughes, Sister Jeanne D'Arc Paquette, Father Raffaele Salvino, Father Juan de Lucca