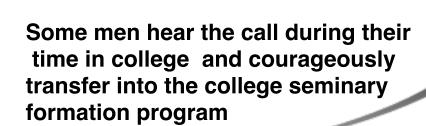
The Path to Priesthood

For the Roman Catholic Diocesan Priesthood



High School Graduate

Candidate for Priesthood is admitted to Seminary Formation upon completion of High School





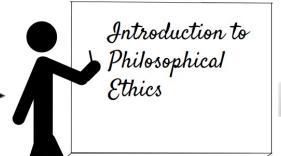
Candidates for priesthood complete undergraduate studies in philosophy in preparation for intensive theology studies in Major Seminary. Men live in community guided by a structured life of prayer and work. Brotherhood, spiritual direction, and formation advising are integral to seminary life. Summers are quite flexible and often spent working, traveling, leading youth camps, or shadowing parish priests.



Undergraduate **Studies**



Many men are admitted to the seminary after graduating college, oftentimes without degrees in theology and philosophy. Although, engineering, business, pre-med, politics and others are common. Even men with advanced degrees are called to enter formation in this stage.



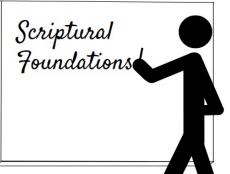
Pre-Theology (2 yr. program)

Prior to coursework of major seminary, new men spend two years diving into philosophy and introductory courses. Additionally, new seminarians are introduced and acclimated to the liturgical, academic, and social life at the seminary.

Ecclesiology (

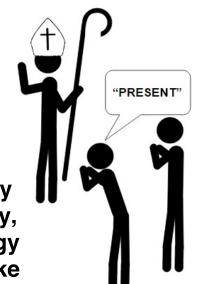
Preaching

rnd Liturgy



1st Theology Studies

Having completed studies in philosophy during pre-theology or college seminary, seminarians begin foundational theology work. Courses may include subjects like scripture, church history, moral theology, languages, or many others.



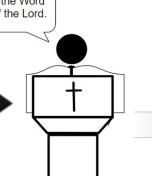
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Declaration of Candidacy

Upon admission into major theology seminarians publicly express their intention to prepare for reception of Holy Orders in the presence of a Bishop.



Rising 1st Theologians partake in a nine week-long intensive spiritual formation program aimed towards deepening a relationship and encounter with Christ. Located at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.



Institution of Lector

During 1st Theology Seminarians are conferred with the ministry of Lector by a bishop, thus receiving the responsibility of liturgical proclamation of the Word of the Lord.



As the need for bilingual priests grows, many seminarians are sent abroad for language training. Seminarians are immersed in an unfamiliar culture to develop language and cultural necessary for priesthood.

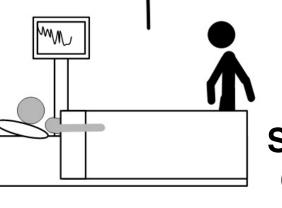
2nd Theology Studies

Seminarians return to school for their second year of major theology course work. Possible classes may include: Christology, Trinity and **Creation, Spirituality, or Liturgy**



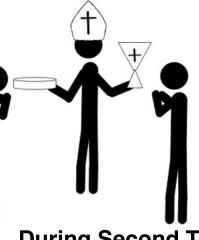
3rd Theology Studies

For the last time as a lay-man, seminarians return to school for their third year of course work. They continue to delve into the mysteries and Traditions of the Catholic faith.



Summer Before 3rd Theology: Clinical Pastoral Experience

Between Second and Third Theology, Seminarians spend the summer in a Pastoral Assignment often at a Hospital. They work to learn pastoral care for the sick and the dying. It is a very challenging and highly rewarding experience for men studying for priesthood.



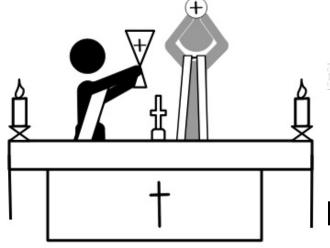
Institution of Acolyte

During Second Theology, Seminarians are Instituted to the ministry of Acolyte. They are given the duty and responsibility of protecting the dignity of the Blessed Sacrament. Once Instituted they may purify vessels and expose the Eucharist for adoration in the absence of a priest or deacon.



Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate

Having completed three years of formation in a major seminary, men are ordained transitional deacons. They make vows of Obedience to their Bishop and Chastity and promise a life of priestly simplicity and prayer. They are on the final steps on the Path to Priesthood.

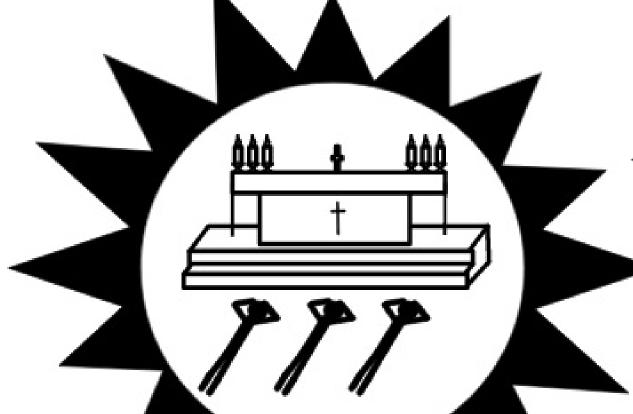


Diaconal Summer: Parish Assignment

Having been ordained to serve, deaconseminarians immerse themselves into their parish assignments, fully participating in the life of the church's liturgy and ministry.



For the fourth and final time, seminarians return to their studies. They have become ordained leaders in the community:, serving formally as leaders of liturgy, social events and student assembly.



Ordination to Priesthood

It is the final step to a life of service, a culmination of the years of hard work. As the Bishop lays his hands upon the man and anoints his palms with the sacred oil, the seminarian's soul is changed forever, marked with an indelible seal. "You are a priest forever." Finally he can begin the work that God has called him to.

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Graduation from Major Seminary

After all the work done over the past four years, seminarians are awarded degrees. They typically earn a Master of Divinity (M.Div) or Master of Arts in Theology (MA). Although some will go on for further studies, every one will put the education to good use preaching the Gospel to all they meet.

