

# A Pastor's Guide

*Recognizing priestly potential  
and walking with young men  
discerning the priesthood*



ARCHDIOCESE  
of NEWARK  
OFFICE OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

## What is a pastor's role in accompanying young men in their discernment of a priestly vocation?

It is not often that men come forward and openly discuss their desire to be a priest. They often dismiss and avoid it out of fear or uncertainty. But did you know they are more likely to consider the priesthood when encouraged to do so by their pastor? Pastors can be the first people to recognize and sow the seeds of a priestly vocation.

It all starts when a pastor notices qualities and habits in a man that lend themselves to the priesthood.



## Do you know this man?

He has a(n):

- Love of Jesus Christ and His Church
- Desire to serve others, especially those in need
- Genuine interest in/love for the faith, the Eucharist, and the Sacraments
- Reverence and prayerfulness
- Ability to relate to others naturally
- Healthy self-image
- Generosity of spirit
- Openness to learning and being formed

He also:

- Has genuine interest in the Mass
- Deeply enjoys serving at the altar
- Participates in parish life in an intentional and committed way
- Volunteers his time and enjoys being at the parish
- Consistently comes to Mass while home on breaks
- Often asks you questions about his faith

If a pastor were to regularly check in with such a man every few weeks about his life and discipleship (ie, 30 minutes over coffee), that man would know he was a priority in his pastor's demanding schedule. It could have a tremendous impact.

## The Director of Priestly Vocations is here to help pastors, priests, and discerners

Pastors and priests are encouraged to collaborate with the Director of Priestly Vocations to guide a man in his discernment. Together, they can determine next steps, such as ways to discern well, the aspirancy program, and the application process for Immaculate Conception Seminary.

This ongoing relationship between the pastor and vocation director not only serves the pastor in assisting him in accompanying the young man, but also informs the vocations office of a potential aspirant for whom they can both pray and prepare.





## Vocation Events for Men of All Ages Include:

### For Elementary and Middle Schoolers

Camp Hope (Grades 3-8)

Annual Cardinal Joseph Tobin Award for Priestly Vocations 7th Grade Essay & Video Contest

### For High Schoolers and Young Men

Cathedral Altar Server Corps

Quo Vadis Summer Camp

Come and See Evenings at St. Andrew's Hall for ages 14-21

### For College Students and Young Men

College Retreat/Identity Weekend

Come and See Evenings at Immaculate Conception Seminary for ages 22-35

Over the past several years, more than 90% of those ordained stated they were encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone close to them; almost 70% were influenced by their pastor or parish priest.

*(USCCB: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood 2012-2022)*

## Questions? Need more info? Want to see what else we're up to?

Visit our website, follow us on social media, or email us for more information and resources and to hear more about upcoming events.

Prefer to speak with a human being? Call us anytime at (973) 313-6190.

