



POSTULANCY PROCESS

For a Person Discerning a Call to become a Priest (Seminary Trained)

Beginning of discernment:

- Enter into conversation with their priest to share their sense of call to the priesthood and to seek the guidance of the priest.
- If the priest is satisfied that that individual has the gifts, experience and character suitable for consideration for ordained ministry the priest will gather four laypersons (usually the wardens and two others) to meet with the individual to further consider the individual's suitability. In particular, the gifts and characteristics the individual possesses which make him/her suited for the ordained ministry should be considered as well as any limitations or concerns of which they are aware which might hinder the individual in the exercise of ordained ministry.

Applicant:

- Meet with Director of Human Resources, preferably before entering Seminary, to discuss the call to ministry and the Diocesan Postulancy Process
- Provide the following documentation by either August 31st or February 28th
 - Resume
 - Application for Sponsorship
 - Letter of Support from Parish Leadership
 - Sponsoring Priest's Applicant Assessment Form (Priest may send this directly to Director of Human Resources)
 - Copy of Driver's License
 - Copy of Baptism Certificate
 - Copy of Confirmation Certificate
 - Police Records Check through Xpresscheck less than three years old
 - A picture (an informal snapshot is fine)
- Before applying, the applicant must have at least one year's active participation in the life of a parish in the diocese.
- Applicant meets with the Intake Committee who makes a determination as to whether or not the applicant should proceed to the next step.
- Upon recommendation by the Intake Committee, the applicant has an interview with the bishop who decides whether or not the applicant is to be admitted to the postulancy process.

Postulant:

- The postulant is assigned an Examining Chaplain. The chaplain helps guide the postulant through the process and reports the postulant's progress to the Postulancy Board. It is the postulant's responsibility to ensure that he/she is in regular contact with their chaplain. A postulant should schedule no less than four (4) formal meetings (in person or by video conferencing) with their chaplain annually.
- During the time of postulancy, a postulant is required to:
 - Successfully complete a Master of Divinity Degree.
 - Attend an ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) Conference. You will usually receive one to two months notice of the conference which will allow adequate time for you to complete the necessary paperwork for it.
 - Undergo a vocational assessment through the Southdown Institute to be arranged by the diocesan office.
 - Successfully complete a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Basic Unit and provide copies of the supervisor's and self-assessments.
 - Complete a Parish Internship Placement (usually during the summer between second and third year)
 - Attend the Fall Postulancy event which is held annually on a Friday to Saturday in September or early October.
 - Meet regularly with a spiritual director.
 - Provide copies of 2nd and 3rd year evaluations from your seminary as they become available.

Ordinand:

- Usually in final year of Seminary (February meeting of Postulancy Board)
- Confirmation, Reception, or status as a Communicant in the Anglican Communion for at least three years prior to being considered
- The postulancy process is a minimum of two (2) years from the date of acceptance into the process but is more commonly three or more years.
- There is an expectation of successful completion of all other requirements, including CPE, PIP, ACPO, and a recommendation from Seminary and the Postulancy Board
- A valid driver's licence is generally a requirement for successful performance of the role of a parish priest.

- Meet with the Diocesan Bishop to discuss where you see your call leading you – part time, full time, stipendiary or non-stipendiary, honorary, rector, rural, urban, suburban, etc.
- Being raised to ordinand status does not guarantee ordination which is always the prerogative of the Diocesan Bishop.

Deacon:

- The diocesan Bishop has sole discretion whether and when to ordain an Ordinand to the Transitional Diaconate
- Attend pre- and post-ordination training and retreats to address vocational and practical matters around priestly ministry, canons, constitution, practices, policies, and procedures
- Continue to meet with Examining Chaplain
- Attend Bishop's Clergy Conference, Annual Meeting of Synod, and participate in Deanery Clericus and Deanery Council
- Attend diocesan events (synod services, ordinations, inductions, etc.) If unable to attend a particular occasion, a conversation with the Territorial Archdeacon would be helpful.
- Postulancy Board may recommend ordination to the priesthood. Ordination as a deacon does not guarantee ordination to the priesthood.

Priest:

- At an appropriate time, the Diocesan Bishop will decide whether and when to ordain to the priesthood
- Assigned a mentor for a two year period
- Continue to attend Post-Ordination Training program