

DISCERNMENT

Awareness

Time in a man's life when he feels a nudge or prompting that the priesthood is a possibility; typically involves discussions with his pastor or school chaplain.

Journey

Formal time of in-residence discernment focused on Scripture, catechism, apostolic work and human formation in preparation for acceptance to the seminary.

Becoming a Priest

SEMINARY EDUCATION & FORMATION

College/ Pre-Theology

Living in seminary, the man earns a degree in philosophy.

Theology

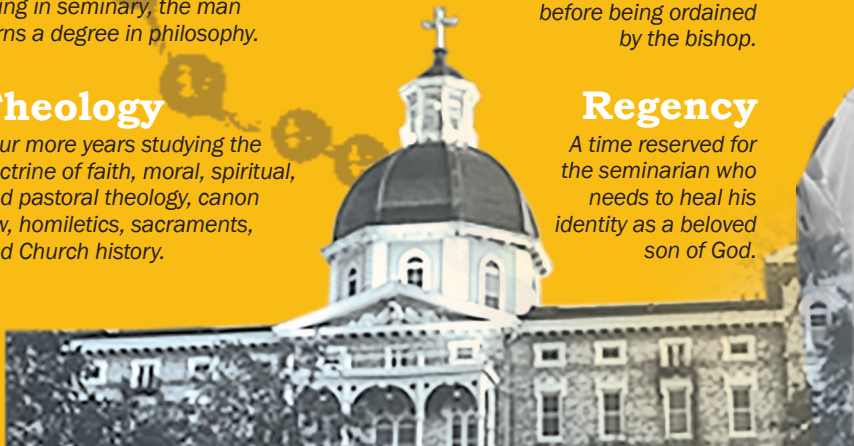
Four more years studying the doctrine of faith, moral, spiritual, and pastoral theology, canon law, homiletics, sacraments, and Church history.

Diaconate Ordination

Candidates are formally chosen and make their promise of celibacy and obedience before being ordained by the bishop.

Regency

A time reserved for the seminarian who needs to heal his identity as a beloved son of God.



PRIESTLY SERVICE

Priestly Ordination

Deacons are ordained and enter into their priestly ministry through the laying on of hands by the bishop. Their promise of obedience to the bishop and the kiss of peace from him at the end of the ordination liturgy mean that the bishop considers them his co-workers, his sons, his brothers and his friends, and that they in return owe him love and obedience.

Associate Pastor

For a period of two or three years, the newly ordained priest serves two assignments. This allows time for personal adjustment and to hone his leadership skills.

Pastor

Given charge of the congregation of the parish entrusted to him, the pastor is in sacramental service of his people's everyday lives.



Pray for Our Priests

To learn more visit: diolc.org/priesthood