

## Applying as a Candidate for Seminary for the Diocese of Lubbock

Men often have questions about the application process to the diocese and to the seminary. Here is some information regarding this process.

- It is important to note that a man first applies to the diocese. If he is accepted by the bishop as a seminarian, he then works with the diocese in applying to a seminary.
- It is also helpful to note that discernment is a mutual encounter. It is both the man discerning whether he is being called to the vocation of the priesthood for the Diocese of Lubbock and also the vocation director discerning whether the man is a good fit for the diocese.
- The practice of the Diocese of Lubbock is that men outside the diocese must have some form of contact with the diocese in order to apply for the diocese (*must have lived in the diocese at one point, have family within the diocese or know a priest, religious or permanent deacon within the diocese who can attest to the man's sincerity and worthiness*). The diocese believes that it is important for a man to have a connection to the local church in which he might be called to serve as a priest.
- **At the request of the bishop, applications from international candidates are not being accepted at this time.**

After some time working with the vocation director, a man might express an interest in formally applying to the diocese. At this point the following process begins:

- Interview- The man will meet with the vocation director for an interview in order to provide basic information.
- Diocesan Application- The man will fill out an application to be kept in the Office for Vocations and Seminarian Education.
- Background Check- In compliance with the USCCB's norms established in "Protecting God's Children," a thorough background check (criminal and financial) on the man will be conducted.
- Virtus Training- If the man has not had this training required by "Protecting God's Children," it will be required of him at this point.
- Two essays- The man will write two essays. One essay will be an autobiography in which the man lays out his life story and faith journey. The other essay will be a reflection on priesthood. The man is asked to reflect on how he views the priesthood, what he sees as the blessings and struggles of this vocation, why he feels a call to discern this vocation and priests who have been an influence on him and why.
- Letter of recommendation- The man will be asked to provide a letter of recommendation from a priest who can attest that he is active in his faith.

- Once the application, essays and letter of recommendation are received, they are reviewed by the bishop, vocation director and Admissions and Scrutinies Team.
- The bishop and Admissions and Scrutinies Team will meet with the man.
- Following the meeting, if the bishop and team give permission, the man will undergo a psychological evaluation and medical physical. The Office for Vocations and Seminarian Education will cover this cost.
- The bishop, vocation director and Admissions and Scrutinies Team will review the results of the psychological evaluation. The vocation director will go over the results with the man.
- With all this information, the bishop, the vocation director and Admissions and Scrutinies team will make a decision on whether to accept the man as a seminarian for the Diocese of Lubbock.
- If accepted, the man will then work with the vocation director and assistant of the vocation office in applying to a seminary. The bishop, vocation director and Admissions and Scrutinies Team will determine which seminary the man will attend.
- Due to the complexity of the application to a seminary and the timeline that the seminary itself works with, Mid-May is the deadline for applying to the diocese for the possibility of entering the seminary in the fall.
- The diocese covers the full costs of seminarians in theology and pre-theology. The diocese asks college seminarians to make use of scholarships and grants available. Then the diocese will help cover any costs that are needed.
- Men who were previously seminarians for another diocese or within a religious community will need to provide a letter of reference from their previous seminary, diocese or religious community stating that the man left in good standing.
- The Diocese of Lubbock does not have a specific age limit for candidates applying. We look at each applicant on an individual basis but in all things we strive to be good stewards of the resources of the diocese. Years of possible service is a factor the diocese considers in accepting a man as a seminarian or not.