

# Priesthood in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

**Do you think you are being called? Take this vocation anonymous test to find out.**

*(The Vocations anonymous test is re-printed with permission from Vocations Anonymous: A Handbook for Adults Discerning Priesthood and Religious Life by Sister Kathleen Bryant, RSC, 1996, published by NCCV, 1603 S. Michigan Avenue, # 400, Chicago, IL 60616, 1-800-671-NCCV. Please contact them for copies of the handbook.)*

**Answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions:**

**Does the idea of becoming a priest keep coming back time and time again even though you thought you had moved on in your life and forgotten about it?**

**Do you feel called to give more, to be more?**

**Does your relationship with God sustain you, enliven you, invigorate you in such a way that you want to share the Good News with others?**

**Do you find your weekly ministry more life-giving and energizing than your 40-60 hour work week?**

**Do you long for "MORE"?**

**Do you have a sneaking suspicion that you are on the brink of a major life decision?**

**Are you afraid to tell friends and family that you are thinking about a church vocation?**

**Does the idea of becoming a priest or religious excite you and at the same time frighten you because you feel "unworthy"?**

***If you answered "yes" to two or more questions, proceed with caution through the following sections.***

**What does a diocesan priest do?**

A diocesan priest brings the Good News of Christ to the people of God in a particular diocese in conjunction with the local bishop. Serving in parish ministry, the diocesan priest is involved in the day-to-day lives of people. A priest in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is assigned by the Bishop to serve somewhere within the 94,000 square miles of eastern Montana.

**What are the qualifications of a diocesan priest?**

A single Catholic man who is emotionally and physically healthy. He must have a capacity

and a willingness to love and serve Christ's people as a celibate priest. There has to be an openness to learn and to grow intellectually, spiritually and psychologically. He must be blessed with the desire and a willingness to embrace the challenge of the Catholic Church of the twenty-first century with joy, hope and enthusiasm.

### **How long does it take to become a diocesan priest?**

Before a man becomes a diocesan priest he must complete four years of college and four years of theological studies. Some philosophy and religious studies pre-requisites are required on the undergraduate level before beginning the four year program of theological and pastoral formation.

### **What if I want help in discerning?**

READING MATERIALS are available from the Vocation Office. These can help one in discerning a possible vocation. Ask the Vocation Director for these materials. Many seminaries provide "LIVE-IN" experiences to help the potential candidate reflect more deeply on the call to ministry as a priest. A candidate may want to attend one of these; the Vocation Director has more information.

### **If I want to apply?**

An initial meeting should be arranged with the Vocation Director whereby the potential applicant will be asked to share his background and thoughts leading him to consider priesthood. A letter of recommendation from pastor/pastoral administrator should be secured by the prospective candidate and shared with the Vocation Director at the time of the meeting.

### **For more information contact:**

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