

## Vocations and Seminarians in the Diocese of Whitehorse

*Frequently asked questions about the Bishop's letter\* on Yukon vocations.*

- The Bishop mentioned in his letter that there have been six priests ordained in the Yukon since the beginning of the diocese.  
**How many of those priests were local (raised in Yukon) vocations?**  
Only two of them: Fr. Jim Bleackley OMI and Fr. Dave Daws. The others were from other parts of Canada or other countries.
- **What is incardination?**  
On the day of ordination, the priest becomes part of the diocese where he is ordained. He has certain privileges and obligations to that diocese: both to the Bishop and the people. When a priest is incardinated in a diocese he makes a commitment to stay in that diocese for his lifetime.
- **Why do we need priests who are incardinated in our diocese?**  
If a priest belongs to the diocese he will likely stay in the Yukon long term, which guarantees a certain cultural integration, stability and continuity of pastoral care in parishes and missions.
- **Where are we going to find vocations?**  
In our families. The family is the domestic Church where the vocation is nurtured through love, prayer and Christian witness. And while we wait for local vocations, the Bishop of Whitehorse must ask the rector and Bishop of the seminaries for vocations. They will then invite some seminarians to study for the diocese of Whitehorse.
- **Can the seminarians that decide to study for the diocese of Whitehorse change their mind?**  
Yes. Some seminarians might find that either the priesthood isn't for them or that they don't feel called to minister in the North.
- **How soon are we going to have our own ordained priests in the Yukon?**  
If we find a local young man who wants to become a priest, he will need about 8-9 years of studies and formation before he is ordained. However, if we find a seminarian who is close to finishing his studies in theology, it will be 3-4 years until his ordination and incardination.
- The Bishop mentioned particular seminarians who are members of the Neocatechumenal Way.  
**What is that?**  
*“The Neocatechumenal Way, an international parish-based charism, which was strongly supported by both Saint Paul VI and Saint John Paul II, and was officially approved by Pope Benedict XVI, in 2008. This charism sees diocesan incardination as the most natural means to open the doors of the priestly ministry to those who are called by God. Given the missionary nature of Redemptoris Mater Seminaries, therefore, candidates from these seminaries should be able to adapt well to serving in the reality of the North.”*

*If you have more questions please contact Bishop Vila at the Chancery,  
or Fr. Slawek: [sacredheart@klondiker.com](mailto:sacredheart@klondiker.com), ph 867 667 2437.*

(\* ) The Bishop's letter is available on the diocesan website.