



Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this note finds you well.

Our vibrant summer youth program, Totus Tuus (Latin for “totally yours”), is in full swing throughout the archdiocese. Parishes host our trained missionaries who share their love of the faith with youth in grades 1-6 during the day and those in grades 7-12 in the evening. This year’s curriculum focuses on the Sacraments and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. The missionaries we hire are actively seeking God’s will for their lives, and receive four weeks of training prior to entering parishes.

Summer is also a time of creative planning in the Office of

Vocations as we prepare our discernment programs for the upcoming year. These programs are designed especially for those open to discovering God’s fulfilling dream for their lives.

As always, we stand ready to walk with you in this path of discernment and offer our prayers for your journey.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Chris Lemieux
Director, Office of Vocations
Archdiocese of Toronto

WHY BE A PRIEST?

“The faithful expect only one thing from priests: that they be specialists in promoting the encounter between man and God. The priest is not asked to be an expert in economics, construction or politics. He is expected to be an expert in the spiritual life.”

— Pope Benedict XVI



A critical mission.

Priests have a critical mission: to bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people. They are spiritual fathers to thousands of souls, accompanying them through all of life’s moments. Priests are living witnesses of Christ in the world—men of strong character who stand out in our secular culture as spiritual heroes.

Like all vocations, the priesthood is a total gift of oneself.

All Christians are called to a life of loving, freely given sacrifice. While those living out a family vocation sacrifice themselves for each other and their children, a good priest sacrifices himself for all the people of God.

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WHY BE A PRIEST?

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The sacramental life passes through a priest's hands.

In his gift of self, the priest stands in the place of Christ: initiating souls through Baptism to life in Christ, sealing them to Him in Confirmation, absolving their sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, feeding them with His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, and anointing them in times of grave illness. Vocationally speaking, a priest may witness souls in the Sacrament of Marriage, and if the priest is a bishop, he may ordain men into the priesthood through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The sacramental life passes through a priest's hands. A priest plays a critical role in the Body of Christ!



A priest employs a sacred power.

When a priest makes the sacraments present, he employs a sacred power from God—in Latin, *sacra potestas*.

A priest acts *in persona Christi*.

Priests act *in persona Christi capitis*, which means “in the person of Christ, head of the Church.” That’s why the priest speaks in the first person at Mass, “This is my body, given up for you.” As St. Pope John Paul II wrote:

“The priest offers his humanity to Christ, so that Christ may use him as an instrument of salvation, making him into another Christ.”

A priest's soul changes forever.

At ordination, a man's soul undergoes an ontological change—a change of being—which indelibly marks his soul forever. Once a priest, always a priest.

The priesthood is a calling.

Christ asks of some men the sacrifice of their lives in following him as his more intimate companions. From all eternity, certain men are called to the priesthood. It is a call inscribed in their nature and because of

this, is a call that will bring them fulfillment.

Could God be calling you to be a priest?

God made you for a unique purpose. Even before you were born, he knew your vocation, your mission in life. And if you are a faithful Catholic man, God may be calling you to give yourself to Him and to all the people of God through priesthood.

The Office of Vocations is here to help. 

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019

An Evening at the Seminary | 4:45pm

Have you ever thought about becoming a priest? Spending an evening at the seminary offers discerners a glimpse into the place where priestly formation begins. The evening includes Holy Mass in the beautiful seminary chapel, dinner, a talk by the Director of Vocations Fr. Chris Lemieux, and a tour of the seminary.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

Hiking Retreat | 10am-4pm

This fall, spend a day with Fr. Chris and other Catholic men in God's great outdoors as we explore where the Lord might be leading us. This retreat for men 18+ includes Holy Mass, a talk, and socializing with other men discerning their vocations. Register on our website: <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca/programs>.