



A Message from the Vocation Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After four years of serving in the vocations office, I am reminded that "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... a time to tear down and a time to build... He has made everything beautiful in its time." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)

As you may already know, Archbishop Michael has appointed me as pastor of Christ the Redeemer Parish, effective July 13, 2023. In my stead, a team of four priests will carry on the work of vocations. Fr. James Hughes as the next Vocation Director will oversee the vocations office and work with seminaries and seminarians. Fr. Mark McGuckin will be the Assistant Director and, together with Fr. Juan Lucca and Fr. Raffaele Salvino as Vocation Promoters, will accompany discerners and foster the culture of vocations throughout the Archdiocese.

I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us with this dynamic team of holy priests! I am grateful to Archbishop Michael for all the support he has given me during my tenure. I am grateful to our seminarians and discerners whom I have had the privilege to accompany. I would like to thank the staff - both present and past - of the vocations office for their tireless work behind the scenes. Last but not least, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all the donors and supporters who have made the important work of vocations possible in the Archdiocese.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam! For the greater glory of God!

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Goo





Priestly ordination – July 1, 2023, at 12 noon

We are delighted to announce the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Patrick Le and Deacon Medard Kamanzi! After years of faithful discernment, these men will be ordained through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop Michael Miller, on July 1, 2023, at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

We invite you to join us in prayer and in the joyous celebration of Patrick's and Medard's commitment to Jesus. May they courageously follow, through God's grace, Christ's example of selfless service to all.

The celebration will commence at 12 noon and is free for everyone to attend. For those unable to attend in person, please visit the Cathedral's website for a livestream.

Patrick and Medard will serve as assistant pastors at St. Matthew's Parish and St. Francis de Sales Parish, respectively.



JUNE 21, 2023

ORDINANDI DINNER

*featuring Deacon Patrick Le
and Deacon Medard Kamanzi*

ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

Doors open at 5 p.m. Limited seating.

Register on <https://bit.ly/3F6n1f3>



Ordinandi dinner – June 21, 2023, at 5 pm

The Vocations and Seminarians Office cordially invites you to the 5th Ordinandi Dinner!

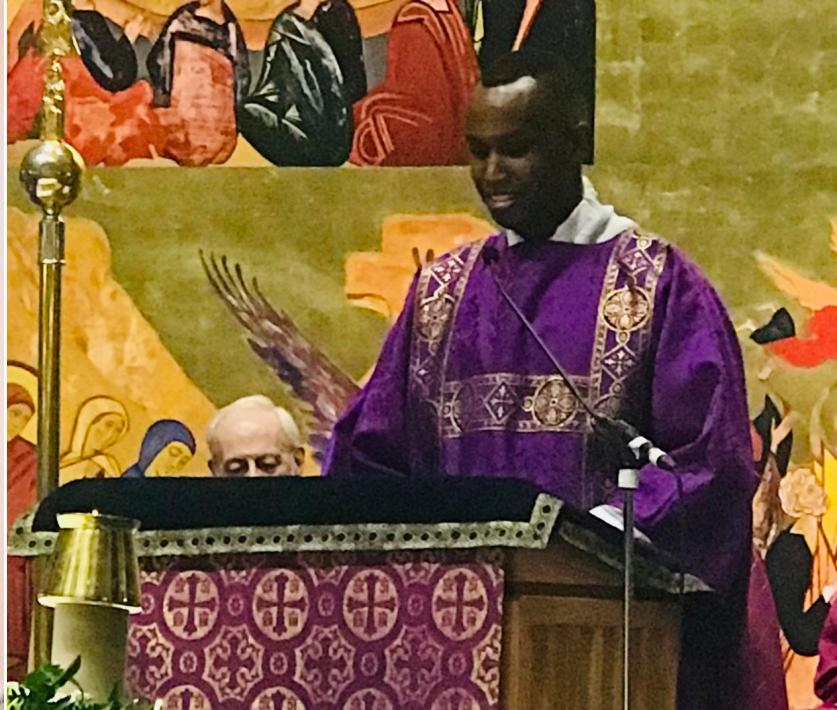
This event aims to bring together the faithful with their shepherds and soon-to-be shepherds and to celebrate God's providential care for his flock. This year's dinner will shine the spotlight on Deacons Patrick and Medard, providing a chance to get to know them.

Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Italian Cultural Centre located at 3075 Slocan Street in Vancouver. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., and dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited.

The ticket prices for this event have been kept to a minimum, as this is not a fundraising event. Tickets are available for purchase by scanning the QR Code.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at vocations@rcav.org or by calling 604-683-0281 extension 50428. We hope to see you there!





First Homilies – New Deacons Preach at their first Masses

The Christian message [is] not only “informative” but “performative”. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing.
(Spe Salvi, 2)

The first homilies of newly ordained deacons are usually an occasion of both excitement and trepidation. Deacons Patrick and Medard rose to the occasion shortly after their diaconal ordination on December 9, 2022. Here are excerpts from their first homilies on the Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete* “Rejoice” Sunday):

Deacon Patrick at St. Matthew’s Parish:

Our Lord posed this question to the crowds, “What did you come out into the wilderness to look at?” And I pose the same question to you today: What did you come to see? Why did you come to church? ... You came to see miracles and prophecy. Our hearts were made to see Christ, the Son of God, and to live. To have God enter into our lives, and to work wonders for us.

When I was in Grade 7, He showed Himself to me in the miracle I saw at Our Lady of Ta Pao ... I can tell you that He knows the depths of your heart even before you open your mouth to ask Him something. ... So, my siblings in Christ, let not your hearts grow old! Let us walk with hope.

Deacon Medard at Blessed Sacrament Parish:

Like John the Baptist in the Gospel today, who sent his disciples to check the identity of Jesus, we often do not know who Jesus Christ is. Jesus reveals who he is to John the Baptist. Jesus can heal our spiritual blindness, leprosy, and deafness. He has the power to give us a lively interior life. This is the identity of Jesus: Jesus is a saviour who comes to save and liberate us.

I met Jesus on a pilgrimage in Kibeho, where I first realized God was not indifferent to my life and suffering. ... If you have not yet had a personal encounter with Christ, ask him sincerely to manifest himself in your life so that you can experience his healing and transforming power.

Seminarians raised money for Catholic charities

On March 11, the seminarians at the Seminary of Christ the King (SCK) collaborated with those at St. Joseph Seminary in running the Ad Gentes (“to the nations”) Fundraiser. It was a fantastic evening of trivia questions (and answer-stealing) and homemade churros. Their goal was to raise \$8000 for various Catholic charities, and they raised over \$14,000!

There were four teams competing. The more money a team raised, the more “lifelines” they received during the trivia (e.g. call a friend, Google search, etc.). The jovial promo video made by SCK seminarians is available on the Vocations Vancouver Facebook page. Thanks so much to everyone who donated and participated in this successful event!



Spirituality Year - apostolic experience



In February, the three seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary shared the following apostolic experiences:

Michael Roy at L'Arche in Calgary): “It was an experience that helped me grow in humility and step outside my comfort zone. Living alongside people with disabilities, I was struck by the fact that I never felt the need to act differently or impress them, something I often feel when meeting new people. The members of L'Arche accepted me as I was and were just happy with my presence in their community. I can say confidently that L'Arche was much more of a home than a job for me.”

John Krump at L'Arche in Calgary: “My home had three assistants and four people with intellectual disabilities (or ‘core members’) all living together. Most of my time was spent just doing everyday things with the core members, like watching TV, colouring, going for walks, talking with them, or cooking together. It was amazing to be part of their lives for a month, sharing in these everyday moments and experiencing the joy they found in it all.”

Luis Esquivel at the Marian Centre in Regina: “As a main apostolate, the Marian Center has a soup kitchen, where they provide 60-120 meals every day. I joined their way of life, washing dishes, serving meals, occasionally chopping vegetables, and praying with the community. I was very inspired by the community’s faithfulness to prayer and commitment to working for others. It also led me to focus more on increasing my personal relationship with God.”



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

Week of Eucharistic Adoration *for Priestly Vocations*

MAY 2 - MAY 6, 2023



*"To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures;
To be a member of each family, yet belonging to none;
To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets;
To heal all wounds;
To go from men to God and offer Him their prayers;
To return from God to men to bring pardon and hope;
To have a heart of fire for Charity, and a heart of bronze for Chastity;
To teach and to pardon, console and bless always.
My God, what a life; and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ."*

HENRI LACORDAIRE

The New Vocations Team

(effective July 13, 2023)



HUGHES, Rev. James
Director



MCGUCKIN, Rev. Mark
Assistant Director



LUCCA, Rev. Juan
Vocations Promoter



SALVINO, Rev. Raffaele
Vocations Promoter

Seminarian updates

We congratulate Paul Vo on his admission to Candidacy to Holy Orders! The Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Michael, took place on Sunday, November 13, 2022. It was a joyful occasion celebrated among the regular parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish.



Meet our new seminarian - Josue Baltodano

Josue grew up in Costa Rica and joined the Neocatechumenal Way when he was 15. He began seminarian

formation with the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Vancouver in 2014. In 2018, he returned home for some time of reflection and has now returned to the seminary, ready and motivated to pursue God's plan for his life.

Seminary 'Come and See'

Despite the snowstorm on February 25, five men made it through the weather and attended the Seminary Live-in at the Seminary of Christ the King. Some participants were able to stay for the night, while others attended for the day. St. Joseph Seminary hosted their annual Come and See, and this year 26 men from across Western Canada came to learn about seminary life. They met members of the community, prayed with the seminarians, and took another step in their discernment of the priesthood.

The Vocations Office is launching a new initiative to help discerners in their discernment journey. Our 'Parish Come and See' program will allow discerners to shadow a parish priest for a day, giving them a chance to witness what a day in the life of a priest would look like.

If you (or anyone you know) are interested in learning more about becoming a discerner or seminary life in our Archdiocese, please take some time to fill out our discernment survey!



Under the leadership of Archbishop J. Michael Miller, the St. John Vianney Fund was established in 2015 at the annual Archbishop's Dinner. The fund has since raised over \$1 million to form holy, intelligent, competent, and pastorally-engaged men who strive to continue the work of Christ in their vocation as a priest in the Archdiocese.

We would like to thank all donors for their generous support. Please consider becoming a donor if you are not one yet. A donation of \$25/day will cover the education cost of a seminarian.

[SUPPORT.RCAV.ORG/SJVF](https://support.rcav.org/sjvf)