

Take the Discernment “Test”

After spending time in prayer and reflection, asking the Lord what His will is for you, it can sometimes be helpful to “gauge” where you are in regards to your readiness for the seminary. While this is certainly not an exhaustive list, nor meant to be the final word on the matter, perhaps these questions might help you in that “gauging” process.

On each of the twenty questions below, rate yourself on a scale from 0-5. A rating of 0 means you do not possess the stated sign at all. A 5 indicates that this sign is very evident in your life. The highest possible score is 100, so the closer you are to that number, the more prepared you may be for the seminary. Be completely honest with your answers. If you would like to follow up this discernment exercise by having a discussion with your Vocation Director, please visit the Who Do I Talk To page to find his contact information. He would be more than happy to help you discern the meaning of your answers.

_____ 1. I love Jesus Christ and I have a thirst to bring Jesus and His teaching to the world.

_____ 2. I am endeavoring to be a believing, practicing Catholic.

_____ 3. I am trying to live a life of prayer and I desire a life of prayer.

_____ 4. I am trying to serve others and I desire a life of service to others.

_____ 5. I feel a desire to be a priest, though it is sometimes stronger than at other times.

_____ 6. Others tell me that I should be a priest or that I would make a good priest.

_____ 7. Prayerful reading of Scripture leads me to believe I might be called to be a priest.

_____ 8. I am endeavoring to live virtuously.

_____ 9. I like to be around people and I have sufficient social skills to engage others.

_____ 10. I have enough intelligence to complete graduate-level coursework.

_____ 11. I think I have the physical, emotional, & psychological stability to become a priest.

_____ 12. I am joyful and I have a good sense of humor.

_____ 13. I think that I have a “priest’s heart,” a heart with kindness and compassion for others.

_____ 14. I believe that I have the self-mastery to be a man of prayer and leadership.

_____ 15. Generally speaking, I have demonstrated stability in my life.

_____ 16. People who know me would say I am a Christian gentleman.

_____ 17. I have had events happen in my life that seem to be pointing towards the priesthood.

_____ 18. I am usually able to accept both success and failure without losing hope.

_____ 19. I believe that I have a healthy psycho-sexual development and orientation.

_____ 20. I am trying to be truly open to the will of God for my life.

* This discernment instrument is drawn from *To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood* by Fr. Brett Brannen.