

Tips for the
Growth and Nurture
of Candidates for Ministry



For the Pastor and Diaconal Minister

- Encourage your congregation to participate in the **It's Your Call** Sunday emphasis.
- Watch for candidates who show potential for ministry (refer to candidate's profile).
- Pray with and for those who are considering ministry asking God for discernment.
- Model a joyful appreciation of your call to ministry and speak positively about your vocation.
- Maintain contact with the "sons and daughters" of your congregation who enter seminary.
- Provide opportunities for potential candidates to test their call (worship leadership, visitation, job shadowing, music, teaching Sunday School, council or committee work).
- Invite "daughters and sons" of the congregation to preach and lead worship when they are home.
- Encourage the congregation to financially support seminarians and the seminary.
- Talk about the vocation of ministry with your confirmation classes and youth group.
- Talk about the vocation of ministry with your own family.
- Use sermon illustrations that refer to the call to ministry. Share the details of your own sense of call.



For the Congregation

- Encourage individuals in whom you see gifts for ministry to consider going to seminary. Refer to the bulletin insert "Candidate's profile" for a list of some of those gifts.
- Regularly pray for the seminary and for candidates for ministry.
- Maintain a positive view of ministry. Remember that the way you discuss and support your pastor or diaconal minister may have implications for recruitment.
- Participate in the **It's Your Call** Sunday emphasis.
- Establish a committee to support members of your congregation who become candidates for ministry. This might include financial support, prayer support, regular contacts, cards on birthdays and holidays, continuing to send the parish newsletter and so on.
- Establish an endowment fund to provide support to seminarians or put seminarian support as a regular line in your budget.





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