

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

STUDENT & TEACHER POLICIES

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING • PO BOX 3310 • MISSION, BC • V2V 4J5 • PHONE: 604-826-8715 • FAX: 604-826-8725

Seminarian Commitments

Dear Candidate,

June 17, 2011

The following is a brief presentation of the commitments we expect from each high-school seminarian. Please take the following requirements seriously and begin to prepare for seminary life right now. If you don't feel that you can live up to the commitments expected by seminary life, perhaps you are not ready to come to the seminary at the present time.

The mission of the high-school seminary is to provide a stable environment and atmosphere where young men can grow in the life that Jesus Christ is calling them to live. By growing within the community of the seminary, seminarians are aided in their discernment of their vocations.

You may not be sure if Jesus is calling you to the priesthood or to the religious life so we cannot expect of you a commitment to be such. We do expect a faithful respect, serious effort, and openness towards such vocations.

We expect that you are committed to grow: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

We expect that you are committed to and believe yourself able to grow within the seminary community and under the direction of its faculty, superiors, and directives.

We expect a firm commitment towards Jesus Christ and His Church and behavior patterns in agreement with seminary life.

Candidates for the seminary must regularly attend Mass and receive the Sacraments of Communion and Confession while away from the Seminary premises. Sunday participation at Mass and daily Rosary and part of the Office is a bare minimum, if possible weekday Mass should be attended.

You should be willing to be different for Christ. You should ask yourself, "Do I want to be a Seminarian?" If your answer is yes, are you willing to be and to be seen as different as you learn to follow Jesus as a seminarian or is fitting in with the rest of the world, being thought of as 'cool' more important to you? If the latter, it is likely that you are not ready for seminary life.

If you do want to come to the seminary you are already choosing something different from most other young men. This should extend to other areas of your life as well.

Since the seminary is a place where you come to grow in your ability to communicate with God through silence and prayer, electronic entertainment equipment such as ipods, ipads, and the like are not permitted.

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The use of hair gel or spray or dye is not allowed. If your hair style demands such cosmetics we suggest you get a hair cut -- we'll give you one if you want!

Sports and Dress clothes containing large external logos or brand names, as well as any kind of platform shoes are not permissible in the seminary.

COMMITMENTS IN THE AREA OF CHASTITY:

As young men committed to discerning God's call to the priesthood or to the religious life, the seminarian must, in his thoughts, words, and behavior express a commitment to sexual purity.

Foul language, slang expressions, and jokes related to sex have no place in the life of any Christian and doubly for the seminarian.

As one discerning a priestly or religious vocation you should not be dating, or relating to girls in such a way that would indicate a priority in developing such relationships.

As a seminarian your behavior within and without the seminary should express your commitment to seeking your vocation. The content of movies, television programs and magazines that you use for entertainment should be in accord with the truths of your Faith. Your example to others in this regard is very important. People know you are going to the seminary and expect that your behavior will express your Christian Faith.

We don't expect that you a saint and it is important that you don't think that everyone coming to the seminary is a saint - you are coming to grow, to grow into, by God's grace, a saint! And we will, by the grace of God, grow together. The seminary is a kind of family, every family has its tensions because each child is unique with his strengths and weaknesses. It takes time to learn how to work with and accept our own and other people's weaknesses and gifts.

Of highest importance to you is the prayerful realization that if you discern you are called to come to the seminary and you want to respond to that call then know that the journey you are entering upon by coming to the seminary has to do with your whole life. Whether you are called to the priesthood or to the religious life is not the most important thing: though that is part of what you are coming to discern. In the Seminary we receive the Eucharist, spend hours in prayer, live in community, are taught and guided by religious every day. We try to live the way, the truth, and the life of which Jesus is King. To enter on this way at the seminary is a great opportunity for any young man – but carries with a great responsibility. Nothing gives greater purpose, peace and joy than following Jesus with all our heart, mind, and strength. To grow in holiness, to willfully open oneself to such a relation with Jesus and to desire to do His will is the greatest good we can want and ever hope to fulfill. Do you want

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this? If you do, then welcome aboard. We've got a great journey ahead of us and a great crew travelling with us. But prepare yourself for a fight!

Please offer some special prayers for the coming year. We are all looking forward to a very fruitful and fun school year.

If you feel that you are able to comply with the commitments listed here, please put your thoughts in writing and **send me a short note on the matter.**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND PREPARE YOU WITH HIS LOVE.

In Christ's Love,

Father Peter Osb

Rector of High School Seminary

