

Guidelines for those who are considering Holy Orders.

“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.” (1 Tim. 3:1)

For those who believe that God is calling them to ordained ministry in the Diocese of San Joaquin, after coming before the Lord to seek His direction, the aspirant should follow the path below based on the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America and the requirements of the Diocese of San Joaquin:

1. Initial consultation with Sponsoring Priest in charge of the aspirant’s Church (Rector or Vicar) or Clergy-in-Charge. If recommended to move forward to the Interview with the Bishop, the following will occur:
 - a. With your Rector / Vicar or Clergy-in-Charge, write up your Spiritual Autobiography.
 - b. A **“Live Scan”** fingerprint process will be performed, if not already done specifically for ministry. Live Scan information and forms should be on diocesan website.
 - c. Complete the Aspirant Application
2. Initial Discernment Assessment will be conducted by the Rector / Vicar or Clergy-in-Charge of the congregation. He/She will assist the aspirant in the following:
 - a. Discerning the order to which the person feels called.
 - b. Discern the grounds for the desire for admission to Holy Orders, together with personal circumstances as may bear on the person’s qualifications or course of preparation.
 - c. Ensuring that the aspirant is a confirmed adult, male communicant in good standing for the Order of Priesthood or confirmed adult in good standing for the Order of Deacon.
3. A Letter of Recommendation from the Sponsoring Priest or Clergy-in-Charge shall report the evidence or support of a call to Holy Orders. This summary letter of recommendation will be sent to The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees, along with the Spiritual Autobiography and Application to Postulancy.
4. An appointment to meet with the Bishop and/or Canon to the Ordinary should then be scheduled through the Diocesan Administrator. The aspirant should be prepared to discuss his or her spiritual journey and spiritual autobiography with the Bishop and/or the Canon to the Ordinary.
5. After an Interview with the Bishop and with the Bishop’s subsequent permission, the aspirant will then meet with a Parish Ordained Ministry Discernment Team (POMDT) assembled by the Sponsoring Priest, according to the POMDT guidelines.
6. With the POMDT’s approval and recommendation, the aspirant will proceed to meet with the Commission on the Ordained Ministry (COM). The COM will do the following:
 - a. Review the application and Spiritual Autobiography.
 - b. Prepare an evaluation of the applicant’s qualifications to pursue a course of preparation for Holy Orders.
 - c. Assist in the preparation of the Educational Plan/Course of Study.
 - d. Assign a shepherd to assist aspirant through the process.
7. Ongoing communication with the Canon to the Ordinary to finalize all other requirements upon a positive recommendation from COM:
 - a. Psychological Examination
 - b. Oxford Background Check
 - c. Spiritual Direction
 - d. Ember Day Letters to the Bishop
8. Canonical Examinations cumulative after approved Educational Plan/Course of Study.
9. Ordination will occur upon successful completion of all requirements.
10. Placement in appropriate pastoral setting, along with continued coaching and support.