

**Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,**

I hope that this letter finds you well during these unusual and challenging circumstances. Typically a printed newsletter is mailed around this time each year to provide an update on Vocations in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Due to the outbreak, we at the Vocations and Seminarians Office have decided that it would be most appropriate to provide an update by email.



Seminary of Christ the King sent our Philosophy and Theology students home in March and resorted to online learning. The Spirituality Year seminarians were allowed to continue on site, and they completed their year at the Nazareth House last week. I have met with the seminarians everyday online to say the Evening Prayer together. I have also organized weekly Pastoral Formation Conferences, inviting guest speakers to cover such topics as how to face new pastoral challenges (Fr. James Hughes & Fr. Felix Min), how to build and run an online ministry (Fr. Justin Huang), and how to pastorally help people cope with crisis and uncertainty (Fr. Bryan Duggan). I am now looking into creative ways to provide formation and ministry opportunities to the seminarians in the summer months.

Seminarians, too, have come up with creative ways to reach out to the lay faithful as well. For example, Deacon Richard Conlin has helped with the spiritual formation of the [‘Virtual Parish’](#) community of young adults. Some seminarians have decided to bolster their intercessory role by soliciting prayer intentions from the lay faithful. You will find more details in the articles below.

A few other highlights:

- May 3rd is Good Shepard Sunday, and I am launching a campaign to affirm the goodness of the priesthood. Please check out the video on the [Catholic Vancouver YouTube channel](#) on May 3rd, as well as the next edition of the B.C. Catholic.
- This is also the day of our Diocesan Second Collection for the Works of Vocations. Our goal this year is to raise \$200,000. Thanks to a generous individual donor, all donations received up to and including May 10th will be matched dollar for dollar in support of Vocations in Vancouver.
- An online Q&A with various priests from our Archdiocese will be taking place on May 1st. We would love to have you join us!

I hope you find this email informative and encouraging. Thank you for your generous support of Vocations in Vancouver. Please allow me to assure you that we are journeying with you in these days. Know of our prayers for you and your family.

In gratitude,

Fr. Paul Goo  
Director of Vocations  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

## A word from our Seminarians to You

We want to pray for **your** intentions.

As Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, we have been blessed to receive the gift of your prayers and offerings on our discernment journey, especially during Lent. Now, in this Easter season, we wish to express our gratitude by praying for your personal intentions. Simply click the button below to submit your prayer request, and know that each evening when we gather virtually to pray the Evening Prayer, we are specifically praying for your intentions.

[Click here to submit your prayer intentions](#)

## Good Shepherd Sunday Special Q&A - Your Questions, Their Answers

Vocations Vancouver Presents:  
**Good Shepherd Sunday Special**  
7-8pm Friday May 1st  
**Live Q&A:  
Your Questions,  
Their Answers**  
<https://rebrand.ly/VancouverPriestsLive>  
send your questions to [vocations@rcav.org](mailto:vocations@rcav.org)

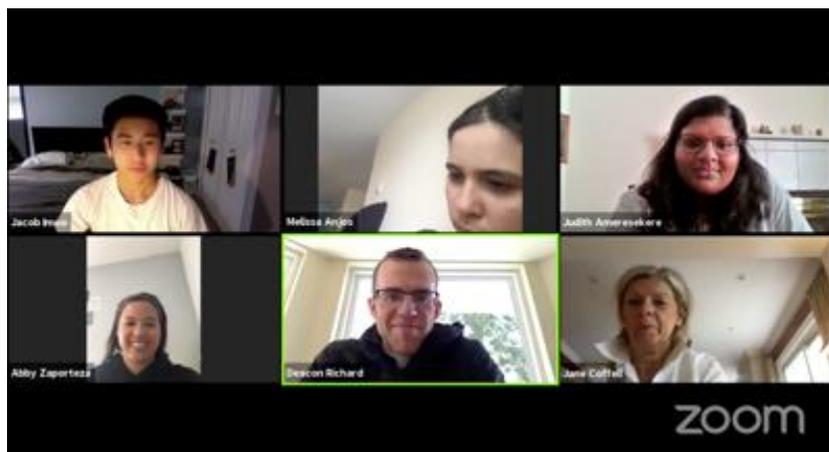
FR JAMES HUGHES   FR JUSTIN HUANG   FR PAUL GOO   FR MARK MCGUCKIN   FR GIOVANNI SCHIESARI

Bring your questions and concerns to some of the Vancouver priests who want to hear you out on the occasion of the Good Shepherd Sunday (May 3)!

The event will be live streamed at:  
<https://rebrand.ly/vancouverpriestslive>  
Send your questions to [vocations@rcav.org](mailto:vocations@rcav.org).  
There will be a chance to ask questions live as well.

Panel: Fr. James Hughes, Fr. Justin Huang, Fr. Mark McGuckin, Fr. Giovanni Schiesari, Fr. Paul Goo.

## Creatively Facing New Pastoral Challenges



**Written by: Deacon Richard Conlin, 4th year Theology**

As a transitional deacon in my last semester at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, B.C, Canada, I have personally experienced God at work in the midst of these challenging times. In particular, the Virtual Parish, a recently founded online young adult community, is one such example. Led in large part by Fr. Paul Goo, I have had the privilege of accompanying young adults through their spiritual difficulties, preaching the Gospel on Zoom, and leading guided [\*Lectio Divina\*](#) sessions on Facebook live. Time and time again, I am amazed at how God is actively at work in the lives of these young adults, raising up the next generation of saints that will one day look back on this Covid-19 pandemic as a momentary evil that brought about the lasting good of holiness.

The great story of Christianity is that God brought the greatest good, the salvation of mankind, out of the greatest evil, the death of Jesus Christ. This great event is not just a historical fact but a present reality that continues to have an infallible impact in our lives today.

## The pandemic of God's love: Spirituality Year 2019-2020

**Written by: Fr. Hien Nguyen, Director of Spirituality Year**

Here we are, April 22, 2020, the last day of the Spirituality Year through the pandemic and all, and we have survived to share the tale. It has been a year of hard work and it has been a year of God's work!

It has been hard because that is what formation is all about: "no pain, no gain", as they say. The candidates arrived with their luggage and "baggage" and began the work of unpacking their lives with their formators, community, and the Lord. The Spirituality Year seminarians

learned to leave their comfort zones behind in order to achieve true growth. They faced their fears, struggles, tendencies, and hurts. They learned to trust, to detach, to be more vulnerable, to know the inner self and to let go of self.

If you asked the Spirituality Year seminarians how the year has gone, all of them would say: “It was a tough year with many ups and downs.”

The “downs” part was the breaking down of their dilapidated self and the building up of a new self, configured to the heart of Jesus. In breaking down the old and digging up “dirt” to build a new foundation, they faced many hurts and triggers. Switches were being flipped, and buttons were being pushed. Yet, they slowly learned to build relationships and to grow as gifts to others.



The “ups” were the pouring of concrete foundation of missionary community as disciples of Christ. The four pillars of spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral formation are resurrected and integrated. Roofed with the recognition of the unconditional love of the Father, these young men lived with joy, openness, transparency, and humility. They truly have worked hard to build a more beautiful self-tabernacle architected by the Lord and directed by the Holy Spirit. It has truly been a year of God’s work.

Pandemic? What pandemic? The only pandemic that we have experienced at the Nazareth House was the little inconvenience of washing food containers, the uncertainties of school closure, and the isolation from the monastic community before joining them for the Triduum. Truly the only pandemic that we have experienced was God’s abundant love for us.

## Reflections on Seminary Closure

**Written by: Luis Duenas, 1st year Arts**

Ever since the closure of the Seminary of Christ the King due to the COVID19 pandemic, we seminarians had to finish our studies online. For myself, the transition wasn't too bad. Many of my teachers were extremely accommodating and flexible with assignments and due dates, for which I am extremely grateful. It's not easy having to move out of a seminary and move back in at home all within less than 24 hours. I think the biggest challenge for me is dealing with the distractions of life at home. I have no access to a library so it's really easy to get sidetracked and mess around with my siblings and pet dog while trying to work on an assignment. Overall, I'm managing all my courses fairly well despite having to deal with distractions and I've learned that taking a break with your family every once in a while is a good thing.

## \$200,000 Matching gift for Vocations Second Collection



May 3rd is Good Shepherd Sunday, and this is the day also of our Diocesan Second Collection for the Works of Vocations.

This year, our goal is to raise \$200,000, and thanks to a generous individual donor, all donations received up to and including May 10th will be matched dollar for dollar in support of Vocations in Vancouver. This is an incredible opportunity to provide a large boost to the work of Vocations in our Archdiocese.

If you would like to make a donation towards the Works of Vocation Second Collection, please click below.

[Click here to give to the Vocations Second Collection](#)



[Archdiocese of Vancouver](#)

[4885 St. John Paul II Way, Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3](#)