

However, the walk must be done by the person — no one can do it for them; and it is not easy. But at the end of the journey, it's been worth it all! Hopefully, the same will be said about your time with this programme.

Remember, it's **never too late** to join - if the Camino has already started, you are still welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

If you have any questions about the Camino, or priesthood in general, please contact the Vocations Office.

Next Step?

Contact the office for Diocesan Vocations (*see below*) and enroll on the mailing list for the Camino.



You will be sent an information pack about priesthood in the Archdiocese of Armagh, and an initial meeting setup between yourself and **Fr. Paddy Rushe, the Diocesan Vocations Director**.

Fr. Paddy is happy to continue to meet with you individually, but if you are seriously considering application for the Archdiocese, attendance at the Camino meetings would be beneficial.

Hoping that this little guide has been helpful to you, and assuring you of a prayerful remembrance as you continue to discern God's Call in your life.

Fr. Paddy

THE TIMETABLE

Please note: Days and Times Change

1. Saturday **26th September** @ 2pm
NB Priesthood Sunday, 27th September, Ballapousta, Ardee
2. Friday **23rd October** @ 7.30pm
3. Sunday **22nd November** @ 3pm
Cardinal Brady may be in Attendance
4. Friday **18th December** @ 7.30pm
5. Saturday **23rd January 2010** @ 12noon
6. Sunday **21st February 2010** @ 5pm
Bishop Clifford may be in Attendance
7. Friday **26th March 2010** @ 7.30pm
8. Saturday **24th April 2010** @ 6pm
Vocation Vigil on eve of Vocations Sunday (25th April), venue tbc
9. Sunday **23rd May 2010** @ 6pm
10. Friday **18th June 2010** @ 7.30pm

Meetings will be in the Synod Hall, Armagh Cathedral, unless otherwise stated.

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"The Camino"

A programme to assist those who are considering a vocation to the priesthood

September 2009 - June 2010



"Annus Sacerdotalis"

19th June 2009 – 11th June 2010



"Men of truth,
...of love,
...of God"

Papal Homily,
Christus Mass, April 9, 2009

A Year for Priests

I've thought about priesthood, now what do I do...?

Altar your life.

Discover the Priesthood.

Once you have made the decision to look at priesthood as a viable option, the next step of the journey can be equally as difficult, albeit for different reasons, as you struggle to find answers to your questions, and wonder if anyone else is feeling this way.

Since 2003, the Archdiocese of Armagh has had in place a programme of accompaniment for those considering Diocesan Priesthood. The goal is to help men discern more fully what's involved in answering the call to priesthood.

In a relaxed and informal environment, the programme seeks to combine information with experience, as it introduces relevant topics to aid discernment in the prospective candidates; It also enables them to get to know one another, and realize that many people share similar feelings at times like these.

So What's Entailed?

The meetings occur once a month, and last for approximately 3 hours; **1 hour of prayer; 1 hour for discussion; & 1 hour for 'fellowship'** (*ie a small meal or something*); The meetings will be held in Armagh (*please see timetable*) to ease the pressure of traveling.

The meetings are open to everyone, but particularly those men who have made a decision to look more seriously at a vocation to priesthood. Members of the Diocesan Vocations Commission may also attend, and on occasion, lead the meeting.

The following topics are explored; **The Christian Calling** (*Baptism*); **Grace; Prayer; Obedience; Sexuality; The Christian Virtues, especially courage** (*Confirmation*); **Discernment; & Service** (*The Eucharist*).

What do I need to do?

Simply be there! The programme is not too demanding, perhaps some light reading or to prepare a

piece of scripture for discussion. There is no cost, and best efforts will be made to facilitate men with transport should that be necessary. There are no exams or tests. Participants may be invited to evaluate a particular meeting or content, but that will be done anonymously.

Ok, I've done the meetings, does that mean I am ready, or have, to be a priest?

Not at all! This is merely a step along the way. Some people participate and then decide that priesthood is not for them. Others decide they would like to apply, but there is a full application process which must be followed, after which they may be refused. No matter what happens, most of those who have participated in the little programme have benefited from it, and from the meeting of other men considering this step in life.

What's a Camino?

Oh, nearly forgot that... Camino is a Spanish word describing a "little way/walk". It's connected to the ancient pilgrimage across Europe to the resting place of the great St. James – In Compostella, Spain. Many thousands of pilgrims do this walk every year, and on it they learn a little about themselves, and about those whom they meet along the way.

SOME MEN ARE CALLED TO NOURISH THE BODY.

SOME MEN ARE CALLED TO NOURISH THE SOUL.

ANSWER THE CALL OF THE LORD

To find out more about **PRIESTHOOD** in the Archdiocese of Armagh please contact: **FR. PATRICK J. RUSHE**
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