

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT QUESTIONS FOR SPONSORING PRIEST

Spiritual:

- What are the inquirer's current ministries?
- What other ministries might be suggested by the inquirer's gifts?
- How clearly does the inquirer articulate his/her faith?
- How does the inquirer's spirituality manifest itself to you?
- How does the inquirer differentiate between ministries of the laity and ordained?
- How well does the inquirer articulate his/her call to ministry?
- Could the inquirer serve the church more effectively as a lay person or as an ordained person?

Intellectual:

- What is the inquirer's academic background?
- Does the inquirer have the skills and abilities to do the canonically required study and preparation?
- How does the inquirer reflect upon and grow from personal experience?
- Is the inquirer curious and does he/she demonstrate a desire to learn?
- Is there an ability to integrate theological concepts and transfer them to practical use?

Emotional:

- How does the inquirer cope with stress?
- How does the inquirer deal with conflict, anger, or guilt?
- Is the inquirer's emotional maturity commensurate with his/her chronological age?
- How does the inquirer understand his/her sexuality? Is he/she comfortable with his/her own sexual identity?
- Are their traumas in the inquirer's history? Do they continue to affect him/her?
- If the discernment process does not lead to ordination, is he/she mature enough to accept this outcome and continue to engage in ministry as a lay person?

Physical:

- Can the inquirer handle the physical demands of ministry?
- Does the inquirer take good care of his/her physical needs?

Personal/Financial:

What are the inquirer's family responsibilities?
Is the inquirer's family supportive of his/her ministry?
How many times has the inquirer been married? If divorced, what were the circumstances? What is the nature of the inquirer's relationship with any children from a previous marriage?
Is the inquirer able to relocate in order to serve where the church may need him/her to serve?
How will the inquirer finance his/her seminary/diaconate education?
Does the inquirer have any significant financial obligations that would interfere with his/her ministry?

Leadership:

Evaluated against the Core Values and Competencies, what are the inquirer's leadership strengths? Weaknesses?
Can the inquirer motivate others?
How effectively does the inquirer communicate orally? In writing?
In what ways has the inquirer demonstrated effective leadership?
How does the inquirer deal with authority?
How does the inquirer interact in a team leadership situation?